

Media Release

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Kangaroo Island Council moves forward

Thursday 4 July, 2019: The SA Ombudsman, under ICAC, has today released two reports concerning certain issues involving the Kangaroo Island Council's previous Chief Executive Officer, its former Mayor, and its former CEO Performance Panel.

The Ombudsman also encouraged the current Council to undertake its own report into the issues, as a matter of procedure. In response, Council commissioned Adelaide firm BRM Holdich to conduct an independent investigation to verify the Ombudsman's report and recommendations.

Kangaroo Island Council Mayor Michael Pengilly said, "the findings in the BRM Holdich report align with the Ombudsman's findings. This report has also been made public today.

"Dealing with these issues has been difficult for all concerned but we can't ignore these findings and must address them in the appropriate manner. Council will take every possible step to comply with all of the Ombudsman's recommendations," he said.

The recommendations include: taking steps to recover payments made to the previous Chief Executive Officer which were additional to his salary; to review the approval process for Chief Executive Officers' leave so that it is transparent and leave is regularly reported to council; to ensure the council's Chief Executive Officer maintains a current Employment Agreement which incorporates any or all amendments agreed to by council; and appointing an independent organization to conduct performance reviews of the Chief Executive Officer position.

Financial payments to be recovered are in the order of \$57,000.

"By actioning the Ombudsman's recommendations we will build a more robust governance foundation for Council to conduct its business. We are lucky to have a strong and cohesive Council and I am pleased that we can now move on and focus our efforts on shaping a positive future for the Island," said Mr Pengilly.

The reports are available in the Kangaroo Island Council July 9 Agenda on the Kangaroo Island Council website www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/councilmeetings.

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