



Copper Coast Council

Submission to the  
Senate Select Committee Inquiry

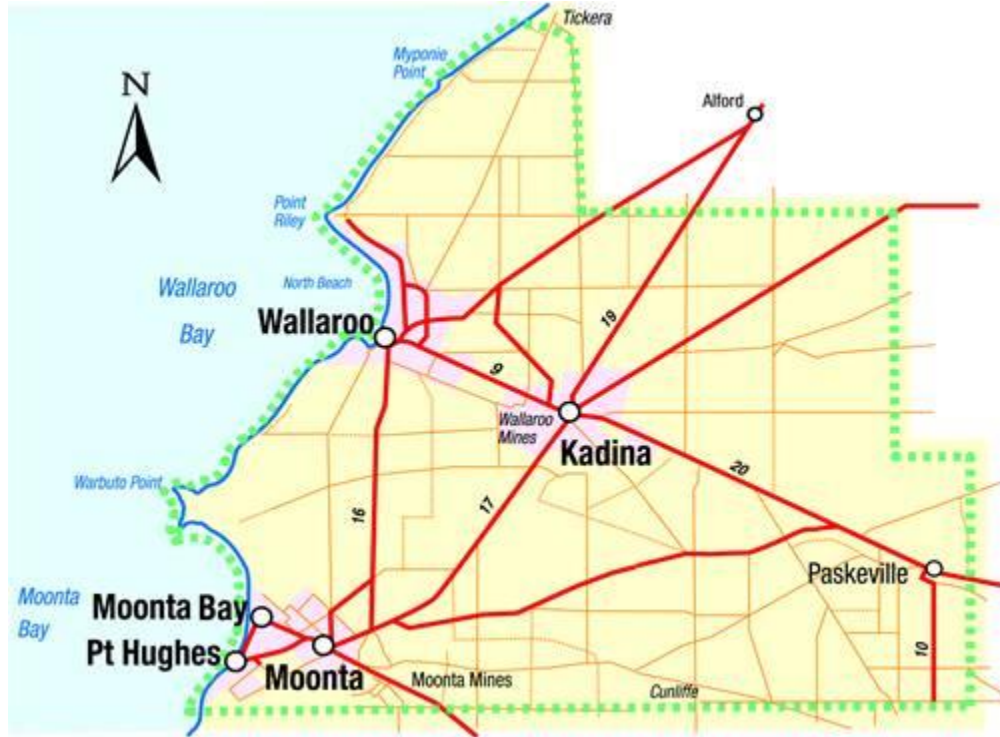
“Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas”

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

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## Introduction

The Copper Coast Council is situated approximately 1.5 hours from Adelaide and consists of the towns of Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo and Paskeville. The region of the Yorke Peninsula is rich in history, thriving coastal developments, tourism, fishing, agriculture and Kadina is a regional centre. The Copper Coast is famous for being a premier tourist destination for South Australia. Indeed, its many attractions and accommodation make the Copper Coast an ideal tourist destination for both local and international visitors.



The Copper Coast Council has noted the Senate Select Committee's Terms of Reference for the Inquiry into Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.

## Terms of Reference

### a. new industries and employment opportunities that can be created in the regions;

There are a number of new industries and employment opportunities that could be created in the regions. One of these is the provision of tertiary hub facilities and programs in regional areas. The Federal Government's regional tertiary hub program assists with this at present. This has the benefit of not only creating employment, but also upskilling and training the regional population.

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There are a number of social, economical and community benefits that result from the provision of tertiary hub facilities.

Another new industry and employment opportunity could be value adding on the primary industry sector. Often in regional and rural areas there is the production of primary goods – cattle, sheep, pigs, grain etc. However, there could be more value adding of such product produced to enable export. Assistance could be provided to stakeholders, primary producers, Councils and others from Regional Development Australia in continuing to assist with such opportunities.

Another industry and employment opportunity is renewal energy. Other regional and rural areas have the space, without much population to be able to establish renewable energy – solar, battery storage and windfarms. Such locations need though to be close to electricity transformers – but there is significant capacity for this to continue to occur. Large renewable energy projects can assist significantly in creating new jobs and boosting existing businesses within regions.

Other industry and employment opportunities include Health and Human Services in regional and rural areas and other State and Federal Government services that could be decentralised and provide a better nexus with the regional and rural areas.

**b. the number of existing jobs in regional areas in clean energy technology and ecological services and their future significance;**

Clean energy technology can continue to be established in regional and rural areas providing employment opportunities and significantly boosting existing business. Evidence would indicate that major renewable energy projects, particularly in the construction phase can have a significant economic benefit to the region. Existing businesses, accommodation, trades, transport and many others will benefit as a result. It is considered that there needs to be a better collaborative effort between the developer, energy regulator, Regional Development Australia, State Government and Councils to assist in having such renewable energy projects established.

**e. measures to guide the transition into new industries and employment, including:**

Employment

The Copper Coast Council has significant population growth. Regional areas with population growth could have a 20 year growth plan which links the provision of infrastructure (all infrastructure – hard and soft), with Federal, State, Local Governments and the Community. Such 20 year growth plan could have population triggers for capital facilities and service provision increases once certain population levels have been obtained. This would mean additional Health, Police, Human Services and Council Services, once such population triggers are reached.

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It is considered that there is not a need for a new public authority to manage such transition. However, there is a need for meaningful community consultation for such a plan involving State, Federal, Business – Industry, Council and the Community.

Whilst there is a role for vocational education providers, including TAFE, there is also a role for tertiary hub facilities to enable university degrees. Therefore, there would be a whole suite of reskilling and retraining from vocational education to university. The provision of such reskilling and retraining could be done through video conference/Zoom/Skype better than what it is at the present time. Tailored skills development and professional development could be undertaken online using these mediums.

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