



## Nomination for Opportunity

### Location of KI Lodges



Picture: AUSTRALIAN WALKING COMPANY

The aim of the Kangaroo Island Lodges is to provide nature-based tourism ventures but in order that the chicken that lays the golden egg is not killed in the process, the venture must support the viability of nature so it can continue to be enjoyed into the future without damage.

The environment needs to be treated with a professional understanding of its dynamics. The public should express its preferences for outcomes but the mechanics to achieve them must of necessity be guided by a clear understanding of their effects. If they are determined to be detrimental, the evidence should be presented to the public so it can review its desires on that basis.

Development which addresses new requirements is possible in principle but, whether private or public, the outcome must not undermine the natural processes that create the basic value. The Native Vegetation Council is the recommended advisory body, together with the Friends of Parks groups, but all have expressed concerns and, regrettably, the community is divided.

Eco-tourism is to be encouraged but the current proposal for sleeping pods shows no evidence of a plan to sustain the ecosystems which are the ultimate focus of the venture, nor of the impact of the infrastructure (roads, carparks, services, etc.) needed to support it.

The precautionary principle must be observed for such developments but it appears to be absent in this case.

The opportunity is for the lodges to be built in an area where the natural environment and its benefits into the future are not undermined.