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Title:

Press release: 'Green Triangle' planning

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"GREEN TRIANGLE" PLANNING.

Local communities in the South East would be fully involved in planning the "Green Triangle" growth area, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said in Mount Gambier today.

Mr. Dunstan is visiting the city for discussions with local government leaders on development in the region.

The Premier is also visiting Portland in Western Victoria for talks on its possible involvement in such development.

He and the Victorian Opposition Leader, Mr. Holding, are speaking at a public meeting in Portland tonight.

Mr. Dunstan said a working party set up by the State Government had now reported on the development of the "Green Triangle" - the area containing Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte and Penola.

A formal approach had been made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance in further in-depth planning studies.

Mr. Dunstan said the preliminary study had established the undoubted economic growth potential of the region.

"It showed that the area has a satisfactory physical resource base; that it is capable of development with minimal adverse environmental effects and that it should be possible to capitalise on underused resources such as transport links".

The Premier said, in addition, the region could provide new opportunities for a variety of life styles. There was an obvious possible link between the South East and Western Victoria in integrated development as a regional growth centre.

"The existing close economic and social ties between the two areas make it a classic instance of the irrelevance of a formal State boundary.

"I believe there would be great advantages to the South East in considering future development on this basis.

"This is why I am interested in suggestions to involve Portland in planning and in co-operation with Victoria.

"Such an operation could be of direct benefit to South Australia and it is on this basis that I am interested in pursuing the idea", Mr. Dunstan said.

The Premier said that, if development of the "Green Triangle" was to enhance the wellbeing of present residents, they should be involved at the earliest stage in the planning procedures for a growth centre.

The working party had sought information and advice from a wide range of people and organisations in the South East.

"In future planning we intend that this should be further developed.

"We want - and will establish machinery to achieve - the broadest possible degree of public participation in planning for this region", he said.

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