

# SA Election Questionnaire responses

Question	Liberals	Summary	ALP	Summary	Greens	Summary	Family First	Summary
<p><b>Will you commit to maintain funding for the Environment portfolio at 2013/14 levels, with a plan to double the share for the Environment in the state budget over the forward estimates?</b></p>	<p>The Weatherill Labor Government has already budgeted for significant budget cuts of tens of millions of dollars in the forward estimates from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) budget. However, the Weatherill Labor Government will not provide the detail of these budget cuts. Therefore it is simply not possible for the Liberal Party to give funding guarantees until the extent of the Weatherill Labor Government budget cuts have been revealed.</p>	No ✘	<p>The Labor Government is committed to protecting our State's environment and leaving a positive environmental legacy for future generations. We have no intention of ignoring the environment if re-elected. The Environment portfolio has had to find savings similar to all Departments due to the economic challenges the State has faced through decreasing revenues. In contrast, the Liberal Party would make deeper and more damaging cuts, undermining existing services including those performed by agencies within the Environment portfolio. We have no intention to seek any further efficiencies from the Environment portfolio beyond those clearly identified in previous budgets. In addition to the existing budget for the Environment portfolio, a re-elected Labor Government will provide additional targeted funding for a number of initiatives and programmes. This will include: Support for expansion of our parks and reserves, Support to upgrade national parks facilities, Support for increased Marine parks monitoring and compliance, New funding for the establishment of Adaptive Futures SA, the next phase of Zero Waste SA, which will have a focus on sustainable industries and green employment opportunities, Support for establishment of an artificial reef to provide new habitat for fish species, Support for establishment of Nature Play SA, to help young people grow up with an appreciation and connection to nature and the outdoors.</p>	No ✘	<p>The Greens are disappointed and concerned by the fall in State Government spending on the Environment over the last several years. The Greens are committed to maintaining funding for the Environmental portfolio at 2013/14 levels, and are strongly committed reversing the decline by doubling the funding shared for the Environment portfolio in the state budget over the forward estimates. The Greens have a long history of advocating for increased spending in the Environment portfolio and have been publicly outspoken against funding cuts. From his very first year in State Parliament, Mark Parnell MLC has been raising the issue of funding cuts for the Environment</p>	Yes to both ✓	<p>Yes, however we do not support doubling the budget over forward estimates, as Labor has us in such a terrible budget position that this can not be afforded at this time.</p>	<p>Yes to maintaining, No to doubling ✘</p>
<p><b>Will you invest in our land and marine parks and reserves by funding additional rangers to improve park monitoring, management and response measures?</b></p>	<p>Note answer to Question 1. The Liberal Party believes in the balance between ensuring the long-term preservation of our landscapes and providing the access and experience to these natural jewels. The Liberal Party recognises the significant benefit South Australia's parks play in improving our health and wellbeing and we are committed to the continual protection and management of our National Parks. When we left office in 2002, there were 300 rangers. Labor has decimated park ranger numbers and has failed to implement its promised park ranger graduate program. The Liberal Party first promoted the creation of marine parks over a decade ago, and we continue to support marine parks based on a threat determined process. Current indications of the marine parks budget is that only 6% of the \$2m budget is for compliance. A Marshall Liberal Government will prioritise on-ground compliance and protection efforts rather than wasting millions of dollars on advertising, as is occurring under the current administration. We also believe that voluntary effort through local communities has been poorly managed by the current administration, and therefore encouraging the volunteer sector would enhance park monitoring, stewardship and compliance. NOTE: The Liberals have subsequently announced they will fund 12 new park ranger positions.</p>	Small increase to rangers ✓?	<p>The State Labor Government recognises the importance of our Parks and Reserves, both terrestrial and marine. The Government has already reviewed the way these precious ecological and recreational assets are managed. Eighty-eight Park Rangers are employed across the State, which includes the additional twenty Park Ranger positions created in 2006. The State's Rangers are supported in the management of our parks by 52 seasonal fire crew staff, 43 full time fire management staff, 35 construction and maintenance staff and other state funded staff such as regional ecologists. Labor will continue the Graduate Ranger Programme which has been in place since 2006. This Programme will have another intake in June of this year. In addition, the network of 19 marine parks is one of the most significant and important conservation programmes ever undertaken in our State. Labor is committed to ensuring additional funding for monitoring and compliance programmes. This will ensure the effective management of the newly implemented parks and provide baseline data which is essential to illustrate the future environmental and economic benefit that our marine park network will have.</p>	No ✘	<p>The Greens strongly believe that park rangers are essential to ensuring the health of our natural ecosystems, and are concerned that diminishing numbers of park rangers are putting our reserve system at risk. The Greens have always been committed to investing in our land and marine parks and reserves, and will support the funding of additional rangers. Mark Parnell has been vocal in support of investment and funding of our terrestrial and marine parks and reserves, both inside and outside of parliament</p>	Yes ✓	Yes	<p>Yes ✓</p>

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<b>Will you pursue the protection of the Simpson Desert region under the Wilderness Protection Act as a matter of urgency?</b>	Consistent with our stated position in 2010, the Liberal Party will refer the Simpson Desert to the Wilderness Advisory Committee for consideration as a wilderness protection area under the <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i> .	No ✘	The State Labor Government has a strong record of protecting areas of environmental significance across the State to ensure these precious ecological assets are preserved for future generations. The Simpson Desert is an area of great beauty and an important habitat for flora and fauna. Over 3.5 million hectares of the Desert within South Australia is already formally protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 as the Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Simpson Desert Regional Reserve. This Labor Government has been a strong advocate for the protection of the Lake Eyre Basin river systems from the proposals of the Queensland Government to break up sleeper water licences. There are a number of challenges in establishing a wilderness protection area in the Simpson Desert and it is important that a balanced solution is developed as it is also a highly prospective resource area. A re-elected Labor Government will convene a round table, consisting of representatives from the environment, resources and government sectors, to consider the report by the Wilderness Advisory Committee, and work towards the protection of the Simpson Desert and the sustainable use of our resources.	No ✘	The Greens have a long and proud history of campaigning for the formal protection of high-conservation value areas such as the Simpson Desert and Arkaroola. It was disappointing to see that despite pre-2010 election commitments from both major parties, the Simpson Desert is still to be formally protected under the <i>Wilderness Protection Act</i> while significant areas remain threatened by mining and petroleum developments. As such, the Greens will commit to and support any move to protect the Simpson Desert under the <i>Wilderness Protection Act</i> and recognise that it is a matter of urgency. Mark Parnell has advocated strongly for the protection of wilderness from mining, since his days as Campaign Co-ordinator for The Wilderness Society (1989 – 1992).	Yes ✓	Family First is not familiar with the details of this policy proposal and is happy to meet with stakeholders about the merits of this issue.	Non-committal response ?
<b>Will you advocate for the highest level of environmental protection for areas of high conservation value such as the Great Australian Bight and waters off Kangaroo Island?</b>	The Liberal Party will always advocate for strong protection of our environment. Any proposed project will be subject to the Commonwealth law, specifically the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000 which contain many safeguards and require the most exhaustive environmental assessment and public consultation.	No ✘	It is widely recognised that the Great Australian Bight and the waters off Kangaroo Island are areas of importance for many marine species, including Southern Right Whales and Blue Whales. The State Labor Government is committed to ensuring that these areas are appropriately protected into the future through a strong and robust regulatory system. The State Labor Government will continue to be a strong advocate for the protection and preservation of our precious marine environment.	No ✘	The Greens have always advocated for the protection of areas of high conservation value, and will continue to do so into the future. The Great Australian Bight and the waters off Kangaroo Island are unique natural habitats, and the Greens are determined to keep them safe from the serious threat posed by the proposed oil and gas exploration in the area. I refer you to the work of Greens Senator Penny Wight in this regard as well as Mark Parnell's advocacy at the State level over the last 4 years.	yes ✓	Family First is not familiar with the details and ramifications of this policy proposal and is happy to meet with stakeholders about the merits of this issue.	Non-committal response ?
<b>Are you committed to fully maintaining the Marine Parks program, including retaining all Sanctuary Zones in their current form? Will you commit to continuing the roll out of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting program?</b>	The Liberal Party first advocated the creation of marine parks over a decade ago. The Labor government's process in drafting zoning and implementing management plans is a case study in how to alienate regional South Australia – the very communities who potentially could have played the most important role in monitoring activities in the new parks. This should be compared to the Landcare experience of 30 years ago, which is a model in how conservation and regional interests can work towards common goals, when trust and open communication has been established. As evidenced by multiple witnesses to the Marine Parks Select Committee, the marine parks process has been the complete opposite. The zoning which is the most questionable is that which was determined after the stakeholder meetings in April 2012, of which participants were denied minutes (these were obtained following a Freedom of Information application). In relation to some of the final zones, months' worth of Local Advisory Group (LAG) stakeholder consensus advice was unilaterally overridden, without any attempt to re-engage the community. This is a clear breach of the very principles espoused by the Minister. It is the Liberal Party's intention if elected, to review the zoning and management plans, utilising robust scientific evidence to drive a threats based determination of zoning as per the COAG National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. Unlike Labor, we will genuinely consult with stakeholders and regional communities, without a preconceived outcome.	No ✘	The establishment of our network of 19 marine parks is one of the most significant and important conservation programmes ever undertaken in our State. Labor is proud of this achievement and is committed to preserving and protecting our marine park network. A re-elected Labor Government will provide additional funding to the marine parks programme to ensure the effective management of the newly implemented parks and provide baseline data which is essential to illustrate the future environmental and economic benefit that our marine park network will have. We note that the Liberal opposition has made clear that it will seek to remove the existing sanctuary zones and replace the representative sample-based approach, undermining the scientific basis of our marine parks.	yes ✓	The Greens support the full maintenance of the Marine Parks program, and concur that the establishment of a world-class, best practice network of marine parks is essential for SA's unique marine environment. As such the Greens believe that all Sanctuary Zones should be retained in their current form, and are committed to continuing the roll out of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting program. Mark Parnell has been a strong advocate for Marine Parks and Sanctuary Zones in State Parliament.	yes ✓	Family First does not support the current scope of the Marine Parks but supports Marine Parks in principle and at levels where they are supported by science, community and fair compensation to those affected	No ✘

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<b>Do you support replacing the coal fired power stations at Port Augusta with large scale solar thermal with storage?</b>	The State Liberals have taken real action to advance the large scale solar thermal plant project in Port Augusta. Local Liberal MP Dan van Holst Pellekaan established the Parliamentary Select Committee to look into the possibility of building a solar thermal plant at Port Augusta with the full support of the Liberal Party. This initiative prompted the development of the current feasibility study for solar thermal.	No commitment to replacing the coal plants <b>✗?</b>	Labor is supportive of any proposal which would see increased production of renewable energy in our State. To facilitate the production of solar thermal power in Port Augusta, the State Labor Government committed more than \$130,000 to support a \$2.3 million feasibility study and analysis of the viability of solar thermal generation at Port Augusta Power. The project will determine the best solar energy solutions to extend the life of the existing Port Augusta Power Stations and unlock an alternative to coal in the region. The State Labor Government's contribution is essential to ensuring the progress of this project and best-positioning Port Augusta to share in the benefits of future solar energy investment.	No commitment to replacing the coal plants <b>?</b>	The Greens recognise that South Australia has a fantastic opportunity to replace the ageing coal-fired power stations at Port Augusta with concentrated solar thermal technology. The Greens are determined to create a clean energy future which includes secure and affordable base-load electricity, and having solar thermal in Port Augusta would be an excellent development. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V34Crw9rK8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V34Crw9rK8</a> Port Augusta has been plagued by health problems in the local community which can be attributed to the polluting fossil fuel plants currently operating, which makes this particular challenge not just an environmental issue, but also a struggle for the health of the public. South Australia leads the nation in wind energy production, and the Greens believe that South Australia could also be a world leader in renewable energy.	Yes <b>✓</b>	Yes. Family First supports this policy and congratulates the Port Augusta community and advocates for their determination to get this project off the ground.	yes <b>✓</b>
<b>Will you commit to supporting a competitive price for solar thermal in Port Augusta by contributing approximately \$10 million a year to a Power Purchase Agreement?</b>	The State Liberals will await the result of the feasibility study before determining possible options for the future.	No <b>✗</b>	A re-elected Labor Government will continue to facilitate renewable energy investment in this state by providing quality information, having the most efficient and certain regulatory environment, selectively intervening to address market failures, leading by example and positioning South Australia to take advantage of National policy settings.	No <b>✗</b>	The Greens will support funding and pricing arrangements that ensure the success of a solar thermal plant in Port Augusta. Investing \$10 million a year to a Power Purchase Agreement is a small price to pay to secure the construction of the CST plant.	Yes <b>✓</b>	Yes	yes <b>✓</b>
<b>Will you cease issuing licenses to expand exploration and extraction of coal and unconventional gas?</b>	The State Liberals are serious about the protection of the environment and our water resources. We are very well aware of the importance of both the prime agricultural land in the South East and the water resources of the region. A State Liberal Government will never allow any activity which puts at risk the water table. The <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000</i> contains many safeguards and requires the most exhaustive environmental assessment and public consultation. If as a result of exploration, energy companies propose to extract the resource using unconventional methods they would be required to apply for approvals from the State Government in accordance with the Act and associated regulations. Given the level of concern in the South East regarding unconventional gas extraction the State Liberals will direct terms of reference to a Standing Committee of the Parliament for an inquiry into the sustainability of the energy resource sector in the South East including interoperability with primary production and the environment. The committee will hear evidence in Mount Gambier, Penola and other locations as required and will report within 12 months of the election. Public submissions will be sought and all stakeholders will have an opportunity to give evidence. The inquiry will investigate the science and all facts, claims and concerns from all parties about energy resource development in the South East particularly in respect of any suggested risk to the aquifer or to primary production. A Liberal government will be guided by the committee's findings	Non-committal response <b>?</b>	The State Labor Government is committed to the sustainable use of our natural resources while ensuring the protection of our environment. To do this, we have put in place a rigorous approval process for mining operations, including a thorough assessment of environmental impacts. The State Labor Government is committed to ensuring that sufficient science and safeguards are in place to prevent environment damage from all forms of mineral exploitation, including the exploration and extraction of coal and unconventional gas. The South Australian Government will continue to work to ensure that the approvals process in place is of the highest level and will continue to proceed on the basis of the best available science.	No <b>✗</b>	The Greens are committed to moving towards 100% renewable energy and to reducing our carbon emissions. We accept the evidence of the IPCC and others that if we are to keep global warming within 2 degrees Celsius, we must leave 80% of remaining fossil fuels in the ground. We want to de-carbonise our economy as quickly as possible, which means no expansion of the fossil fuel industry. Furthermore, the Greens are calling for a ban on the practice of fracking on South Australian farmland and are helping our farmers to fight for their rights, as currently farmers can't legally keep gas companies off their land.	Yes <b>✓</b>	This is not a decision for Family First, but next Government to make. We will support local moratoriums where supported by science and the wishes of the local community.	Non-committal response <b>?</b>

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Will you implement a state policy of no new fossil fuel power stations and a plan to phase out fossil fuel power plants?	The State Liberals support a national approach to renewable energy, consistent with the establishment of the National Electricity Market. Since the Howard government expanded the Renewable Energy Target, South Australia has become a national and global leader in renewable energy, with 31% of electricity in South Australia currently generated from renewable sources. Under this policy, the additional investment in fossil fuel power plants has been exceptionally weak. In addition, the declining demand profile of electricity means that market incentives for new energy generation are very limited. Given that the investment case for new fossil fuel power stations are limited in the current market environment and our strong preference for a harmonized national approach to renewable energy, the State Liberals do not intend to implement additional state-based policy initiatives to add further complexity to the National Electricity Market in this regard.	No ✘	The Labor Government's record speaks for itself. Since 2002, we have increased the percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources from 0.8% to 31.7% and have increased geothermal licences from 3 to 135. We have actively pursued renewable energy investment in our State and have put policies and mechanisms in place to support our stretch targets. The South Australian Government supports investment in renewable energy generation assets that are commercially viable, provide additional energy security to the State and do not adversely impact the network. Some of the existing mechanisms that are aimed at delivering increased renewable energy investment include the Commonwealth Government's Renewable Energy Target, which we strongly support, the State's Renewable Energy Plan, the State's 33% renewable energy target and the State's \$10 billion low carbon investment target. The Labor Government does not have plans for any new fossil fuel power station in this State, however a policy of no new non-renewable power stations may be too blunt as a policy approach as it would prevent possibilities such as a combined solar thermal/gas facility that could be part of a low carbon energy mix in the future.	No ✘	Yes. The Greens are committed to no new coal-fired power stations and no expansions to any existing fossil fuel power stations. We are also committed to assisting coal dependent communities to make the transition to other employment, such as in the renewable energy sector.	Yes ✓	Whilst Family First supports this in principle, a State Government contribution towards this aim will take a long time due to the need to recover from the parlous state financial position given to us by Labor	no ✘
What targets will you set for state greenhouse pollution reduction by 2020, 2030 and 2050, and for renewable electricity generation in South Australia by 2020?	At a State level, the Liberal Party has a strong record of supporting action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE). In 1998 the former Liberal Government launched South Australia's first Government Greenhouse Target Programme. Each Government agency was committed to improving the energy efficiency of its operations and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Wind farm developments were supported and the construction of the Osborne co-generation plant and the Pelican Point combined cycle power station significantly reduced the amount of carbon dioxide emitted during electricity production[1]. The Liberal Party has consistently supported a targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 60% by 2050. During the debate on the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Bill 2007, the Liberal Party supported amendments which increased our State's renewable energy target and sought verification from the CSIRO on the reporting of GHGE targets. However, Labor has failed to comply with the Act because it failed to provide a CSIRO "Section 7 report" for 2013, which would advise whether South Australia is on track to achieve its current target. Labor has also failed to conduct the required four yearly review of the Act. However, we believe to have effect emission reduction targets should be set at a national level. State regimes should form part of an agreed nationwide emissions strategy. The Commonwealth is presently reviewing the Renewable Energy Target (RET) and is developing new plans for action on climate change. The Liberal Party is committed to producing an energy White Paper. This policy process will take account of these new national policy developments once finalised. The State Liberals remain committed to clean energy and action on further reducing emissions as part of nationwide action.	60% emission reduction by 2050, non-committal re renewable target (No increase to current)	Labor is committed to action on climate change, and this has seen South Australia lead the nation in climate change adaptation and mitigation. As a result of this Government's policies, South Australian emissions were almost nine per cent lower in 2010/11 when compared with 1990 levels. And in spite of growth in the State's population and economy, the 2013 State of Environment Report has shown that South Australian emissions per person and per unit of gross state product have decreased. The State Government has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the state by at least 60% of 1990 levels by 2050 and increase the proportion of renewable electricity generated so it comprises at least 20% of electricity generated by 2014 (a target that has already been met and increased to 33% by 2020). Recently, the State Government added a further target for \$10 billion in low carbon investment by 2025. The State Government asked the Premier's Climate Change Council to lead a review of the State's climate change policies in light of changes at the Federal level. The Council has recently provided its vision, which sets out an exciting and ambitious way forward in South Australia. A re-elected Labor Government will work across Government to develop a comprehensive response to the review which will ensure that South Australia maintains its leadership on action on climate change.	60% emission reduction by 2050, 33% renewable energy by 2020 (No increase to current)	The Greens support an ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target of zero net carbon emissions by 2050 and a rapid transition to a clean energy economy driven by renewable energy. In SA, State greenhouse pollution reduction targets need to take into account all sectors of the economy and not just the electricity generation sector. This will include gas exports and emissions from transport & agriculture as well as carbon sequestration through revegetation. In terms of interim targets, 50 percent of stationary energy generated by renewable sources by 2020 and 80 percent by 2030 is certainly possible. Renewable energy generation could reach 100% within a few decades, particularly as emerging battery and other storage technologies improve.	Zero net carbon emissions by 2050, 50% renewable electricity generation by 2020 and 80% by 2030 (Significant increase to current targets)	Family first are satisfied with the current targets and achievements for South Australia, which have been ahead of national average. We note that we have been advocates for funding into investigating Wave Energy off the coastlines of Mount Gambier and the Eyre Peninsula.	Happy with current targets (60% emission reduction by 2050, 33% renewable energy by 2020)

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<b>Will you commit to maintaining Zero Waste at full operation and ensure revenue collected from the solid waste levy is spent on environmental programs?</b>	Note answer to question 1. For many years, Zero Waste SA has been lauded by Labor Ministers as the "jewel in the crown" of environment agencies for the leadership that it provides in the waste and recycling sector. The Liberal Party has also strongly supported the leadership role of Zero Waste SA. Yet in the 2012 Mid Year Budget Review, Labor decided to effectively de-fund it, in favour of a \$1 million grant to outsource its services. This is at a time when the solid waste levy has reached an all-time high of \$47/tonne (\$26.50 in regional areas), leading to an increase in illegal dumping activities. Funds continue to accumulate in the Waste to Resources Fund, which is now over \$40 million. Zero Waste SA is undertaking its own review of options for the future and we understand this review will be concluded in April. A Marshall Liberal Government will consider the results of that review before committing to any change in policy.	Non-committal response ?	Since its establishment in 2003, Zero Waste SA has made a substantial contribution to the change in culture of individuals and industry in South Australia. Zero Waste SA has directed more than \$70 million of waste levy funds into programmes and projects that have stimulated councils, businesses and the community to reduce, recover, reuse and recycle, thereby cutting the amount of waste going directly to landfill. This has been an essential factor in reducing our waste to landfill by 20% from 1,252,000 tonnes in 2002 to 1,004,350 tonnes in 2011. Labor wants to build on this success. In 2012, the State Labor Government announced we would be moving to the next stage of the State's development in waste management. We started a conversation with community, local government, industry and the environmental sector, about how we could build on the success of Zero Waste SA. To ensure that South Australia continues to lead the nation in waste management and sustainable use of water and energy, Labor will establish a new body, Adaptive Futures SA. Adaptive Futures SA will also encourage innovation and economic growth through the green economy. The Waste to Resources funds are hypothecated and protected by legislation. The Labor Government has no plans to change that arrangement. NOTE: The funding commitment is approximately half Zero Waste SA's current funding - an increase on previous commitments.	Not at full operation but some funding restored ?	The Greens are very supportive of Zero Waste and its operations, and have previously condemned the decision to close Zero Waste SA. Mark Parnell has raised the issue in Parliament calling on the funds raised from the Solid Waste Levy collected by local Councils to be used on the environment, and not diverted to general revenue. eg. <a href="http://markparnell.org.au/mr.php?m=907">http://markparnell.org.au/mr.php?m=907</a>	Yes ✓	We want solid waste levy used for environmental programs, not held back to the tune of \$40 million for the benefit of general government coffers and interest. We do not support the increases in the levy as they only have revenue benefit for Government, not direct spending benefit for the environment. Zero Waste's functions must be delivered by the body that can do so at the maximum cost-benefit to the taxpayer, economy and environment	No and yes ✓
<b>Will you commit to maintaining the current moratorium on Genetically Modified crops to at least 2019?</b>	The Liberal Party are committed to supporting a moratorium on GM. In government we will establish an expert panel comprising industry representation, scientific (incl agricultural, economic, environmental), SARDI representation, GPSA representation to monitor the economic benefits to SA farmers of remaining GM free.	Non-committal re whether moratorium will continue to 2019 ✓?	The Labor Government recognises the concern within the community about Genetically Modified (GM) food crops. In particular, Labor has recognised the risk of GM food crops to the State's conventional production systems and so has enforced a prohibition on their cultivation in South Australia. The <i>Premium food and wine from our clean environment</i> Strategic Priority of the South Australian Government aims to increase the productivity, sustainability and efficiency of our food systems as well as recognise the intrinsic value of our healthy natural environment. Labor recognises that Genetically Modified food crops could have a negative impact on the State's premium food and wine reputation around the world. Labor is committed to maintaining the moratorium on GM food crops at least until 1 September 2019.	Yes ✓	The Greens have consistently supported the continuation of the moratorium against Genetically Modified crop production and trials. Mark Parnell has spoken out on this issue over many years	Yes ✓	Yes	yes ✓
<b>Will you commit to funding the South Australian Environmental Defenders Office for three lawyers and one admin officer, to allow it to continue to operate, in light of the recent Commonwealth cuts?</b>	Note answer to question 1. The Liberal Party has been advised that the recurrent funds from the State Government have not been affected by Labor's Sustainable Budget Commission process, which means that funds do not have to be reallocated from elsewhere for this to continue. We have advised the EDO that in the current budgetary situation, the best way to demonstrate funding merit going forward would be to provide a business case for how their assistance in the ERD Court facilitates speedier resolution of cases and therefore court costs. We understand that the EDO is also pursuing other funding sources.	No ✗	Labor recognises the valuable work of the Environmental Defenders Office. We also recognise its funding has been cut, along with that of a wide range of community organisations by the Abbott Liberal Government. We will stand up to the Abbott Government and seek the reinstatement of funding. If unsuccessful, a re-elected Labor Government will explore the ability to provide funding to the EDO under s57A of the <i>Legal Practitioners Act 1981</i> . This will be in the context of a wider review into the distribution of the funds made available under sections 56 and 57A of the Act.	Non-committal response ?	Mark Parnell is one of the founders of the EDO (1992), was the first employed solicitor (1996 – 2006) and is a Life Member. Greens Senator Penny Wright was the first honorary co-ordinator of the EDO Advice Service (1992). We strongly support the continuation of funding and will push for the State Government to step in to fill the gap left by the Federal funding cuts. The Greens believe that strong environmental laws are of the utmost importance, and emphasise that they are only as good as the ability of the community to understand them and enforce them. We are committed to ensuring that the Environmental Defenders' Office is maintained and adequately funded and resourced.	Yes ✓	No - this is a Federal issue, due to parlous budget position left by State Labor, we do not believe the State Government can afford to pick up a Federal funding obligation at this time.	no ✗