

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE ELECTION 2018**

An independent assessment of each party's policies by the Australian Conservation Foundation, Conservation Council SA and The Wilderness Society.

# **How do the parties' policies compare?**

## The detail

## HOW DID WE CALCULATE THESE RESULTS?

This is an independent guide from an alliance of environment and community organisations across South Australia and the country. We are proudly independent and non-partisan.

To see the full list of collaborators, visit [www.ourfuturesa.org.au/about](http://www.ourfuturesa.org.au/about)

To develop this scorecard, we first sought input from a network of nature, climate, community and conservation organisations. Two working groups (climate/energy and nature) refined the key issues and developed tests for potential future leaders.

We have assessed and updated a scorecard based on these policy commitments by the following political parties contesting the 17 March 2018 South Australian state election (in alphabetical order):

- **Australian Greens (South Australia)**
- **Liberal Party of Australia (South Australian Division)**
- **SA Best**
- **South Australian Labor Party**

We also invited the **Australian Conservatives Party** to participate in the survey and scorecard process but the party did not respond.

We gathered initial information regarding the policy commitments of the parties via an **online questionnaire** issued to party leaders on 8 November 2017.

In addition, we used the following sources to gather updated information and adjust scores as required:

- **Media releases and news reports** of party announcements made during the election campaign
- **Public statements** made during the *South Australia: Our Future State Election Leaders Forum* organised by the lead conservation organisations on 20 February 2018. Leaders of the four parties we assessed all attended the forum.
- **A commitment letter** signed by each party leader outlining and verifying their policy commitments.

## WE HAVE INDEPENDENTLY ASSESSED EACH PARTY'S POLICY COMMITMENTS USING THE FOLLOWING METHODOLOGY:

### Criteria

We weighted policy commitments against the following criteria:

- The impact of the commitment on reducing South Australia's **carbon footprint**
- The **ecological impact** of the commitment on South Australia's natural environment
- The extent to which the commitment leaves an **enduring legacy** on South Australia's environment
- The extent to which the commitment is **inspirational** and/or **enabling** of other positive ecological outcomes for South Australia

### Scoring

We rated parties between 0 and 1 based on their responses to the policy commitments detailed in *South Australia Our Future – Actions to Protect People, Places & Wildlife*.

Parties received:

- **0** for no response or commitment
- **0.25** for a partial commitment
- **0.5** for meeting half the commitment
- **0.75** for mostly meeting the commitment
- **1** for fully meeting the commitment

We also attributed partial scores between these numbers.

### Nature and climate

We distributed total points equally for:

- **Clean & Clever: Our Heritage, Our Future** – policy commitments relating to climate change and energy; and
- **Nature for Everyone: Respect & Protect** – policy commitments relating to nature protection and restoration.

### The most significant issues

Of the 36 policy tests, the top ten most significant commitments attracted 50% of the total points available on the scorecard. These are:

- Stop the oil and gas industry risking the Great Australian Bight
- No Gasfields in the South East
- Repower South Australia
- No nuclear waste dump
- Marine Parks
- Native vegetation and fire management
- Investing in nature
- Landscape scale projects
- Kalakooopah Creek wilderness in the Simpson
- Murray-Darling Basin Plan

**PARTY COMMITMENT LETTERS**

The following appendices are the official policy commitment letters signed by each of the four parties:

**Appendix 1: Australian Greens (South Australia) ..... 05**

**Appendix 2: Liberal Party of Australia (South Australian Division) ..... 10**

**Appendix 3: SA Best ..... 15**

**Appendix 4: South Australian Labor Party ..... 21**

# MARK PARNELL MLC

## Parliament of South Australia

Kelly O'Shanassy	Craig Wilkins	Maria Cirillo	Peter Owen	Natasha Davis
CEO	CEO	Acting Director	Director	CEO
Australian Conservation Foundation	Conservation Council of South Australia	Solar Citizens	The Wilderness Society SA	Trees for Life

Sent via email: [craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au](mailto:craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au)

28 February 2018

Dear Kelly, Craig, Maria, Peter, and Natasha,

**The Greens have made the following commitments in response to 'South Australia: Our Future – Actions to Protect People, Places & Wildlife':**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1a. Legislate by 2019 to source all of South Australia's electricity from renewables by 2025 with a fully funded implementation plan   | Yes |
| 1b. Commit to an interim renewable energy target of at least 80% by 2022   | Yes |
| 1c. Replace the South Australian Energy Security Target with an on-demand renewables plan underpinned by reverse auctions and public ownership   | Yes |
| 2a. Establish a renewable hydrogen export industry   | Yes |
| 2b. Set a state target of exporting an additional 50% of our energy needs by 2030  | Yes |
| 2c. Use the investment in cheap abundant power in SA to attract appropriate industries   | Yes |
| 3a. Establish a publicly owned, public interest energy retailer to facilitate access to cheap power, energy efficiency and renewables with storage for people in public housing or on low-incomes                                    | Yes |
| 3b. Fund the development of community owned and led energy projects  | Yes |
| 3c. Work with Indigenous communities to co-design and fund an Aboriginal Renewables Program  | Yes |
| 3d. Create a workforce plan by 2019 to support workers in the fossil fuel industry to retrain and be re-employed in other sectors, and to equip new workers in the renewables sector to enable a rapid and fair community transition | Yes |
| 3e. Legislate a fair price for solar   | Yes |

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3f.	Facilitate peer to peer trading	Yes
3g.	Provide incentives for both landlords and tenants to install solar PV and/or batteries	Yes
4.	Oppose all oil and gas exploration activity (seismic and deep sea drilling) in the Great Australian Bight	Yes
5a.	Protect the South East (Limestone Coast and Otway Basin) with a ban on all gas field exploration and/or development	Yes
5b.	Institute a permanent ban on all gas activities on prime agricultural and high yielding cropping land across the state	Yes
6.	Ban all extreme and risky fossil fuel extraction activities, including underground coal gasification	Yes
7.	Remove all State Government incentives and subsidies for the exploration and/or production of fossil fuels	Yes
8a.	Commit to an electric vehicle uptake target	Yes
8b.	Immediate implementation of a backbone electric vehicle charging network	Yes
8c.	A State Government electric vehicle fleet purchase target	Yes
8d.	Electric vehicle stamp duty registration and tax discounts	Yes
8e.	Electric vehicle public/fleet purchaser awareness programs	Yes
9.	Commit to the rapid phasing out of all diesel public transport fleet vehicles and rule out new diesel fleet purchases.	Yes
10a.	Extend and upgrade the cycling network infrastructure in SA including a cycling strategy with special reference to connections with public transport links	Yes
10b.	Develop new guidelines to make all local government roads cycle-friendly	Yes
11a.	Categorically rule out the creation of an international high and/or intermediate level radioactive waste storage and disposal facility	Yes
11b.	Actively oppose the federal government plan for a radioactive waste facility in SA	Yes
11c.	Actively support the state Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000. Commit to further strengthen this legislation by removing the modified section 13(2).	Done! Thanks to Greens Bill
12.	Drive South Australia's transformation towards a circular economy by establishing a 'Circular Economy Action Lab' in 2018 to generate innovation and cross-sector collaboration	Yes
13.	Commit to the diversion of 90% of municipal solid waste (MSW) from landfill by 2023, including state-wide comprehensive organics and food waste recycling	Yes
14.	Institute a credible, comprehensive and consistent mass balance reporting system for the waste and recycling industry	Yes
15.	Make SA a national leader by banning disposable plastic cups, cutlery, and plates, unless made from compostable or biologically sourced materials	Yes

16.	Ban the sale of products containing micro-plastics/micro-beads	Yes
17.	Commit to extend the moratorium against GM crops recognising the growing economic importance of organic production and international market access, and the need to protect SA's clean, green status	Done! Thanks to Greens Bill the moratorium is now extended to 2025 and can't be removed before then without a vote of both houses of State Parliament!
18.	Retain the South Australian system of Marine Parks including current management plans and sanctuary zones, and consider increasing the size of key iconic sanctuaries in the Great Australian Bight region	Yes
19.	Protect the iconic Kalakooah Creek wilderness in the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve via a proclamation under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)	Yes
20.	Protect the Coongie Lakes by establishing a Wilderness Protection Area covering the National Park and the No-Go Mining zone in Coongie and Tirrawarra Paddocks. The management of the entire Coongie Paddock should also be considered	Yes
21.	Legislate to prevent mining and exploration activities in all public and private protected areas, including Regional Reserves and areas recognised through Heritage Agreements	Agreed, however in relation to existing activities in Regional Reserves, including the Cooper Basin, we need to plan for a phase-out of existing mining. Agreed we need to prevent all new mining activity in all reserves and protected areas including in Regional Reserves.
22.	Reinstate the Wilderness Advisory Committee to enhance and progress the wilderness assessment process under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)	Yes
23.	Develop and implement a 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy' for parks and reserves by 2020	Yes
24.	Revise preventative fire management activity in SA (excluding emergency responses) to ensure they are based on best practice science and sound biodiversity management principles which include ongoing post fire monitoring and evaluation	Yes
25a.	Increase the proportion of NRM levy revenue and DEWNR budgets dedicated to on-ground works	Yes

25b.	Implement a devolved delivery model and formalise opportunities for the environment non-government sector to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decision making	Yes
25c.	Increase resourcing for volunteers and community groups delivering environmental protection and restoration services and projects, and re-establish state funded community grants	Yes
25d.	Re-establish state funded NRM community grants for volunteers and community groups	Yes
25e.	Co-invest state funds 'dollar for dollar' in on-ground programs, to match regional NRM levy revenue and federal government investment	Yes
25f.	Allocate resources for a targeted stewardship and acquisition program to help protect areas of high conservation value	Yes
25g.	Increase the proportion of funding for landscape scale, multi-partner and multi-year biodiversity projects such as Wild Eyre	Yes
25h.	Ensure that more robust science is combined with local knowledge in project delivery	Yes
26a.	Partner with environment NGO's to continue the Nature of SA, the partnership project building shared visions for nature conservation in SA	Yes
26b.	Commit to investing in projects that showcase how nature contributes to our wellbeing and sense of identity as South Australians	Yes
27.	Commit to working with indigenous communities in SA to expand and secure initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers, and Indigenous Protected Areas	Yes
28.	Commit to recurrent funding of at least \$200K p.a. for the South Australian Environmental Defenders Office to support vital public interest legal action	Yes
29.	Rule out any new laws that constrain the democratic rights of people and communities to peacefully protest or prevent environmentally destructive activities, and ensure legal protection exists for such actions taken in the public interest	Yes
30.	Ensure a minimum 2% of the state budget is invested in biodiversity conservation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as enforcement of environmental legislation and climate change action	Yes
31.	Prohibit exploration and mining activities which have the potential to impact groundwater resources including the Great Artesian Basin	Yes
32.	Prescribe all at-risk surface and groundwater supplies, resources and reserves and ensure there is a water allocation plan in place for them	Yes
33.	Create 1000 hectares of new 'Aquifer Recharge Farms' in agricultural regions of the state by 2022	Yes
34a.	Ensure that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan returns the equivalent of 3200 GL to the environment to safeguard the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes and the Coorong, including the 450GL negotiated by SA when the Basin Plan was formed	Yes



- |      |  |     |
|------|--|-----|
| 34b. | Maintain strong pressure on the Federal Government to return oversight of water to the federal environment portfolio and ensure all states play by the rules and deliver on their commitments under the Basin plan | Yes |
| 35.  | Urgent review by 2019 of all legislation and other protection measures that impact on native vegetation and significant trees to address the unsustainable rate of removal in urban and regional areas             | Yes |
| 36.  | Support development of a biodiversity-focused carbon offsets industry in regional South Australia, delivered in partnership with the non-government environment sector   | Yes |

Yours sincerely,



Mark Parnell MLC  
Parliamentary Leader, Greens SA



Steven Marshall MP  
State Liberal Leader

28 February 2018

Kelly O'Shanassy	Craig Wilkins	Maria Cirillo	Peter Owen	Natasha Davis
CEO	CEO	Acting Director	Director	CEO
Australian Conservation Foundation	Conservation Council of South Australia	Solar Citizens	The Wilderness Society South Australia	Trees for Life

Sent via email: [craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au](mailto:craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au)

Dear Kelly, Craig, Maria, Peter, and Natasha,

**The Liberal Party of South Australia has made the following commitments in response to 'South Australia: Our Future – Actions to Protect People, Places & Wildlife':**

**1b. Commit to an interim renewable energy target of at least 80% by 2022**

Other: The Liberal Party will abolish the state-based Renewable Energy Target (RET) in favour of a single national policy mechanism to provide the certainty needed by the market to invest in new generation that is more efficient and cleaner. The State Liberals will also establish a Renewable Energy Zone between SA and NSW supported by an interconnector, allowing SA to become a major energy exporter as it produces more renewable energy.

**1c. Replace the South Australian Energy Security Target with an on-demand renewables plan underpinned by reverse auctions and public ownership**

Other: The Liberal Party will not proceed with the SA Energy Security Target and will pursue a policy as outlined above in 1b.

**2a. Establish a renewable hydrogen export industry**

Other: The Liberal Party will consider any proposals for a renewable hydrogen export industry.

**2b. Set a state target of exporting an additional 50% of our energy needs by 2030**

Other: The Liberal Party's solution includes a \$200m interconnection fund. This provides opportunities to export renewable energy, with an interconnector between SA and NSW.

**2c. Use the investment in cheap abundant power in SA to attract appropriate industries**

Yes

**3b. Fund the development of community owned and led energy projects**

Other: The Liberal Party would be prepared to consider proposals for such projects.

**3c. Work with Indigenous communities to co-design and fund an Aboriginal Renewables Program**

Other: The Liberal Party will explore the viability of this approach.

**3d. Create a workforce plan by 2019 to support workers in the fossil fuel industry to retrain and be re-employed in other sectors, and to equip new workers in the renewables sector to enable a rapid and fair community transition**

Other: The Liberal Party training policy will cater for workers who need to be retrained and re-employed in new industries.

**3f. Facilitate peer to peer trading**

Yes

**3g. Provide incentives for both landlords and tenants to install solar PV and/or batteries**

Other: The Liberal Party will provide means tested grants averaging \$2500 to facilitate the installation of batteries in 40,000 homes.

**5a. Protect the South East (Limestone Coast and Otway Basin) with a ban on all gas field exploration and/or development**

Other: The Liberal Party has made a clear commitment to banning unconventional gas extraction (fracking) in the state's south-east

**8a. Commit to an electric vehicle uptake target**

Other: The Liberal Party will support policies to increase the uptake of electrical vehicles.

**8b. Immediate implementation of a backbone electric vehicle charging network**

Other: The Liberal Party will consider ways of increasing the number of electrical vehicle charging stations.

**8e. Electric vehicle public/fleet purchaser awareness programs**

Other: The Liberal Party would be prepared to support awareness programs.

**10a. Extend and upgrade the cycling network infrastructure in SA including a cycling strategy with special reference to connections with public transport links**

Other: The Liberal Party supports cycling and the growth of cycling infrastructure.

**11a. Categorically rule out the creation of an international high and/or intermediate level radioactive waste storage and disposal facility**

Yes

**11c. Actively support the state Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000. Commit to further strengthen this legislation by removing the modified section 13(2).**

Other: The Liberal Party supports the current Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000.

12. **Drive South Australia's transformation towards a circular economy by establishing a 'Circular Economy Action Lab' in 2018 to generate innovation and cross-sector collaboration**

Other: The Liberal Party is open to exploring this option.

13. **Commit to the diversion of 90% of municipal solid waste (MSW) from landfill by 2023, including state-wide comprehensive organics and food waste recycling**

Other: The Liberal Party will support policies that seek to increase the percentage of municipal solid waste diverted from landfill.

14. **Institute a credible, comprehensive and consistent mass balance reporting system for the waste and recycling industry**

Other: The Liberal Party will consider proposals for a comprehensive mass balance reporting system for the waste and recycling industry.

15. **Make SA a national leader by banning disposable plastic cups, cutlery, and plates, unless made from compostable or biologically sourced materials**

Other: The Liberal Party will consult all stakeholders before considering this option.

16. **Ban the sale of products containing micro-plastics/micro-beads**

Other: The Liberal Party will consult all stakeholders before considering this option.

17. **Commit to extend the moratorium against GM crops recognising the growing economic importance of organic production and international market access, and the need to protect SA's clean, green status**

Other: The Liberal Party will initiate a review of the current GM moratorium

18. **Retain the South Australian system of Marine Parks including current management plans and sanctuary zones, and consider increasing the size of key iconic sanctuaries in the Great Australian Bight region**

Other: The Liberal Party will undertake a science-based review of the effectiveness of marine parks

19. **Protect the iconic Kalakooah Creek wilderness in the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve via a proclamation under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)**

Yes

20. **Protect the Coongie Lakes by establishing a Wilderness Protection Area covering the National Park and the No-Go Mining zone in Coongie and Tirrawarra Paddocks. The management of the entire Coongie Paddock should also be considered**

Other: Under the Wilderness Protection Act, the declaration of any Wilderness Protection Area requires consultation with Parliament's Environment, Resources and Development Committee, the Parks and Wilderness Council and any Aboriginal group claiming an interest in an area proposed for declaration. A Marshall Liberal Government would initiate the required consultation prior to deciding whether to proceed with a declaration.

22. **Reinstate the Wilderness Advisory Committee to enhance and progress the wilderness assessment process under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)**

Yes

23. Develop and implement a 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy' for parks and reserves by 2020

Yes

24. Revise preventative fire management activity in SA (excluding emergency responses) to ensure they are based on best practice science and sound biodiversity management principles which include ongoing post fire monitoring and evaluation

Yes

25a. Increase the proportion of NRM levy revenue and DEWNR budgets dedicated to on-ground works

Yes

25b. Implement a devolved delivery model and formalise opportunities for the environment non-government sector to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decision making

Yes

25c. Increase resourcing for volunteers and community groups delivering environmental protection and restoration services and projects, and re-establish state funded community grants

Yes

25d. Re-establish state funded NRM community grants for volunteers and community groups

Yes

25f. Allocate resources for a targeted stewardship and acquisition program to help protect areas of high conservation value

Yes

25g. Increase the proportion of funding for landscape scale, multi-partner and multi-year biodiversity projects such as Wild Eyre

Yes

25h. Ensure that more robust science is combined with local knowledge in project delivery

Yes

26a. Partner with environment NGO's to continue the Nature of SA, the partnership project building shared visions for nature conservation in SA

Yes

26b. Commit to investing in projects that showcase how nature contributes to our wellbeing and sense of identity as South Australians

Yes

27. Commit to working with indigenous communities in SA to expand and secure initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers, and Indigenous Protected Areas

Other: The Liberal Party is committed to increasing the number of park rangers by 20 (from 93 to 113) during its first term in government. Specific opportunities for indigenous rangers will be explored and supported.

28. **Commit to recurrent funding of at least \$200K p.a. for the South Australian Environmental Defenders Office to support vital public interest legal action**

Other: the Liberal party will continue existing state funding grants.

29. **Rule out any new laws that constrain the democratic rights of people and communities to peacefully protest or prevent environmentally destructive activities, and ensure legal protection exists for such actions taken in the public interest**

Other: The Liberal Party will rule out any new laws that restrict current democratic rights of people to protest peacefully.

31. **Prohibit exploration and mining activities which have the potential to impact groundwater resources including the Great Artesian Basin**

Other: Whilst this is a decision for the Federal Government, the SA Liberal Party acknowledges the environmental risks, would not support any drilling which would negatively impact this important region and would work with all stakeholders to ensure South Australia's environment is appropriately protected

33. **Create 1000 hectares of new 'Aquifer Recharge Farms' in agricultural regions of the state by 2022**

Other: The Liberal Party is supportive of aquifer recharge and would be prepared to discuss the viability of such an option.

- 34a. **Ensure that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan returns the equivalent of 3200 GL to the environment to safeguard the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes and the Coorong, including the 450GL negotiated by SA when the Basin Plan was formed**

Yes

- 34b. **Maintain strong pressure on the Federal Government to return oversight of water to the federal environment portfolio and ensure all states play by the rules and deliver on their commitments under the Basin plan**

Yes

35. **Urgent review by 2019 of all legislation and other protection measures that impact on native vegetation and significant trees to address the unsustainable rate of removal in urban and regional areas**

Yes

36. **Support development of a biodiversity-focused carbon offsets industry in regional South Australia, delivered in partnership with the non-government environment sector**

Yes

Yours Sincerely,



Steven Marshall MP  
State Liberal Leader

Kelly O'Shanassy  
CEO  
Australian  
Conservation  
Foundation

Craig Wilkins  
CEO  
Conservation Council  
of South Australia

Maria Cirillo  
Acting Director  
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Peter Owen  
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The Wilderness  
Society South  
Australia

Natasha Davis  
CEO  
Trees for Life

Sent via email: [craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au](mailto:craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au)

28 February 2018

Dear Kelly, Craig, Maria, Peter, and Natasha,

SA-BEST is pleased to provide the following commitments in response to your 'South Australia: Our Future – Actions to Protect People, Places & Wildlife' election document:

**1a. Legislate by 2019 to source all of South Australia's electricity from renewables by 2025 with a fully funded implementation plan.**

TBD. We fully recognise the Paris Climate agreement and the aspiration to achieve 1.5 deg C. Whilst the drive to renewables will continue to increase, gas peaking may still be required in 2025. Our immediate focus is on affordable power.

**1b. Commit to an interim renewable energy target of at least 80% by 2022**

SA-BEST supports the current state target of generating at least 50% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025, to drive investment and reduce emissions. We are open to a more ambitious target if it can be shown that it will lower electricity prices and enhance reliability of supply.

We also acknowledge the implications of achieving a much higher target because SA is part of the broader NEM which has commercial generators attached.

**1c. Replace the South Australian Energy Security Target with an on-demand renewables plan underpinned by reverse auctions and public ownership**

TBD. A reverse auction worked well for ACT, and there are concerns with the EST, but no position has yet been taken. SA-BEST supports taking back control of essential services.

**2a. Establish a renewable hydrogen export industry**

We support trials and R&D in hydrogen to demonstrate its potential as an export industry.

**2c. Use the investment in cheap abundant power in SA to attract appropriate industries**

Yes

**3a. Establish a publicly owned, public interest energy retailer to facilitate access to cheap power, energy efficiency and renewables with storage for people in public housing or on low-incomes**

Yes

**3b. Fund the development of community owned and led energy projects**

Yes

**3c. Work with Indigenous communities to co-design and fund an Aboriginal Renewables Program**

Yes

**3f. Facilitate peer to peer trading**

Yes

**3g. Provide incentives for both landlords and tenants to install solar PV and/or batteries**

Yes – We would look at what makes most sense considering a combination of PV, energy management, energy efficiency, batteries and maybe subject to means testing.

**4. Oppose all oil and gas exploration activity (seismic and deep-sea drilling) in the Great Australian Bight**

Yes

**5a. Protect the South East (Limestone Coast and Otway Basin) with a ban on all gas field exploration and/or development**

SA-BEST opposes fracking in our state's South-East until all health and environmental safety concerns are addressed and most importantly, until a social licence is achieved.

**5b. Institute a permanent ban on all gas activities on prime agricultural and high yielding cropping land across the state**

Our policy is to investigate options to strengthen legislative protections for agricultural land to reduce land use conflict. Less than five percent of South Australia's landmass is suitable for dryland agriculture to grow crops such as wheat, barley, canola, chickpeas and lentils and a further three percent for high rainfall grazing. We must protect it from competing land uses.

**6. Ban all extreme and risky fossil fuel extraction activities, including underground coal gasification**

We apply the precautionary principle, wherein a developer has to explain the technology, risks, mitigation, supply chain and economic benefit in a fully open and transparent manner

**8b. Immediate implementation of a backbone electric vehicle charging network**

Yes

**8c. A State Government electric vehicle fleet purchase target**

Yes

**8d. Electric vehicle stamp duty registration and tax discounts**

Open to further consideration – must be undertaken in a manner that is proportional to displaced externalities.

**8e. Electric vehicle public/fleet purchaser awareness programs**

Yes

**10a. Extend and upgrade the cycling network infrastructure in SA including a cycling strategy with special reference to connections with public transport links**

Yes



**11a Categorically rule out the creation of an international high and/or intermediate level radioactive waste storage and disposal facility**

Yes

**11b. Actively oppose the federal government plan for a radioactive waste facility in SA**

SA Best recognises the benefits of nuclear medicine and research and supports a responsible approach to radioactive waste management in Australia. However, this must be based on transparent and inclusive processes. SA Best notes community concern and is not supportive of any planned national radioactive waste facility in SA in the absence of full federal government transparency regarding its consultation, selection and assessment processes. Should the federal government fail to demonstrate this SA Best would support using existing state legislation to block the plan.

**13. Commit to the diversion of 90% of municipal solid waste (MSW) from landfill by 2023, including state-wide comprehensive organics and food waste recycling**

SA-BEST supports a significant increase in the level of re-investment from the 'Green Industry Fund' back into new initiatives that result in waste reduction, a greater diversion of waste to landfill and; new re-use and recycling industry and employment opportunities.

**14. Institute a credible, comprehensive and consistent mass balance reporting system for the waste and recycling industry**

Support in principle, provided smaller country councils have access to sufficient resources to help them implement.

**15. Make SA a national leader by banning disposable plastic cups, cutlery, and plates, unless made from compostable or biologically sourced materials**

TBD. We recognise that micro plastics and plastics are environmentally damaging.

**16. Ban the sale of products containing micro-plastics/micro-beads**

TBD. SA-BEST recognise the impact of micro-plastics/beads in particularly the marine environments

**17. Commit to extend the moratorium against GM crops recognising the growing economic importance of organic production and international market access, and the need to protect SA's clean, green status**

We would commit to the moratorium, until such time as a comprehensive investigation into the benefits, vs risks is tabled. The report would consider issues such as GM contamination to neighbours, patents, supply chain exclusivity, SA fetching a premium price for non-GM, advances in crop yield and drought tolerance etc. We note that GM implementation is an irreversible process, so extreme caution should apply.

**18. Retain the South Australian system of Marine Parks including current management plans and sanctuary zones, and consider increasing the size of key iconic sanctuaries in the Great Australian Bight region**

Yes, whilst this is based on ongoing scientific review and not political interference.

**19. Protect the iconic Kalakoopah Creek wilderness in the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve via a proclamation under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)**

Yes

**20. Protect the Coongie Lakes by establishing a Wilderness Protection Area covering the National Park and the No-Go Mining zone in Coongie and Tirrawarra Paddocks. The management of the entire Coongie Paddock should also be considered**

Yes, in principle

**21. Legislate to prevent mining and exploration activities in all public and private protected areas, including Regional Reserves and areas recognised through Heritage Agreements**

Support in principle

**22. Reinstate the Wilderness Advisory Committee to enhance and progress the wilderness assessment process under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992)**

Yes

**23. Develop and implement a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for parks and reserves by 2020**

TBD. All regions of the state now have Climate Change Adaptation Plans, which should consider landscape-scale strategies, regardless of tenure. Addressing climate change is a critical, ongoing consideration that needs to be integrated into all areas of strategic and operational planning, rather than as stand-alone.

**25a. Increase the proportion of NRM levy revenue and DEWNR budgets dedicated to on-ground works**

Yes

**25b. Implement a devolved delivery model and formalise opportunities for the environment non-government sector to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decision making**

Yes

**25c. Increase resourcing for volunteers and community groups delivering environmental protection and restoration services and projects, and re-establish state funded community grants**

Yes

**25d. Re-establish state funded NRM community grants for volunteers and community groups**

Yes

**25e. Co-invest state funds dollar for dollar in on-ground programs, to match regional NRM levy revenue and federal government investment**

Yes

**25f. Allocate resources for a targeted stewardship and acquisition program to help protect areas of high conservation value**

Yes - we support a much stronger focus, and increased landholder stewardship support for landscape revegetation and restoration efforts across the state.

**25g. Increase the proportion of funding for landscape scale, multi-partner and multi- year biodiversity projects such as Wild Eyre**

Yes - we support a much stronger focus, and increased landholder stewardship support for landscape revegetation and restoration efforts across the state

**25h. Ensure that more robust science is combined with local knowledge in project delivery**

Yes

**26a. Partner with environment NGOs to continue the Nature of SA, the partnership project building shared visions for nature conservation in SA**

Yes

**26b. Commit to investing in projects that showcase how nature contributes to our wellbeing and sense of identity as South Australians**

Yes. Initiatives such as 'NaturePlay' are important in demonstrating this, with wider mental and physical health benefits.

**27. Commit to working with indigenous communities in SA to expand and secure initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers, and Indigenous Protected Areas**

Yes

**28. Commit to recurrent funding of at least \$200K p.a. for the South Australian Environmental Defenders Office to support vital public interest legal action**

Yes

**29. Rule out any new laws that constrain the democratic rights of people and communities to peacefully protest or prevent environmentally destructive activities, and ensure legal protection exists for such actions taken in the public interest**

Yes

**30. Ensure a minimum 2% of the state budget is invested in biodiversity conservation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as enforcement of environmental legislation and climate change action**

Yes. SA-BEST is concerned at the decline in investment into the environment. For example, we note that since 2008/09, State Government funding into regions via the 'NRM fund' declined from \$15.5 million to just \$2.4 million.

**31. Prohibit exploration and mining activities which have the potential to impact groundwater resources including the Great Artesian Basin**

Support in principle – any proposal must be subject to a rigorous and independent assessment with regards to safety, environment and economics in a fully open and transparent manner.

**32. Prescribe all at-risk surface and groundwater supplies, resources and reserves and ensure there is a water allocation plan in place for them**

Yes

**33. Create 1000 hectares of new Aquifer Recharge Farms in agricultural regions of the state by 2022**

TBD – We note some preliminary research into this opportunity by institutions including the CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, Charles Sturt Uni, ANU, UNSW, however would need to give further consideration before committing.

**34a. Ensure that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan returns the equivalent of 3200 GL to the environment to safeguard the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes and the Coorong, including the 450GL negotiated by SA when the Basin Plan was formed**

Yes

**34b. Maintain strong pressure on the Federal Government to return oversight of water to the federal environment portfolio and ensure all states play by the rules and deliver on their commitments under the Basin plan**

Yes

**35. Urgent review by 2019 of all legislation and other protection measures that impact on native vegetation and significant trees to address the unsustainable rate of removal in urban and regional areas**

In principle support for a review into canopy increase and review of significant trees in urban areas. In regional areas, we note that farmers and other private landholders are the custodians of around 65% of the state's remaining native vegetation. Any legislative review must be undertaken in conjunction with stronger support/incentives for private landholders, as environmental stewards, to maintain and improve these remaining pockets of important habitat and biodiversity as a broader public good.

**36. Support development of a biodiversity-focused carbon offsets industry in regional South Australia, delivered in partnership with the non-government environment sector.**

Yes

Yours sincerely



Nick Xenophon

Craig Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Conservation Council SA  
[craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au](mailto:craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au)

Dear Craig

Labor has a vision to both protect the things we love about our state and to set up the next generations for a bold, rich future. Building on our proud record of innovation and progressive reform. Team Labor has the experience, the confidence and the runs on the board to make SA even greater.

Labor recognises that our natural environment is our states most important ongoing asset. That is why we have invested significantly to preserve our unique biodiversity, coastlines, national parks and green spaces.

If South Australia is to fulfil its obvious and enormous potential, it will need a government characterised by strength, vision and purpose – not by weakness, negativity, inexperience and risk. We have seen, around the world, the damage that is done by allowing the free market and wealthy global corporations to dictate government policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to outline our position. A detailed response to your questions is attached.



Hon Jay Weatherill MP  
Premier of South Australia

28/02/18

### **Repower SA**

- *Legislate by 2019 to source all of South Australia's electricity from renewables by 2025 with a fully funded implementation plan.*
- *Commit to an interim target of at least 80% by 2022.*
- *Replace the South Australian Energy Security Target with an on-demand renewables plan underpinned by reverse auctions and public ownership.*

### **RESPONSE**

**We are increasing our Renewable Energy Target to achieve 75% of the energy generated in South Australia being from renewable sources by 2025.**

**We are adopting a Renewable Storage Target to achieve 25% of South Australia's average peak demand (~750MW) available in stored renewable energy by 2025, supported by a \$20 million fund.**

**We have deferred the Energy Security Target until 2020. We will commit to undertaking consultation about the design of any scheme prior to any implementation.**

The South Australian Labor Government has overseen the transformation of our energy grid from 99% fossil fuelled electricity in 2003-04 to 48.9% renewable electricity generation in 2016-17. This means we will easily meet our existing target of 50% energy from renewable sources by 2025.

This is why we are increasing our Renewable Energy Target to 75% of energy generation in South Australia from renewable sources by 2025.

In addition, as we continue to transition our energy network, we recognise the importance of ensuring adequate capacity to support system security and reliability. That is why we are also adopting a Renewable Storage Target, to ensure have 25% of our state's average peak demand (~750MW) available in stored renewable energy by 2025.

Our energy storage target will be supported by a fund, providing \$20million over four years to incentivise the uptake of new storage technologies.

South Australia now leads the nation – and the world – in renewable energy. And our renewable energy targets continue to build on this leadership.

Through our energy plan – *South Australian Power for South Australians* – we have supported investment in cutting edge renewable energy projects.

We have partnered with Neoen and Tesla to build the world's largest lithium-ion battery, which is now demonstrating how renewable energy matched with storage adds reliability and security to our energy grid and can outperform traditional generators.

We have used the government's purchasing power to secure the world's largest Solar Thermal plant. Solar Reserve's Aurora Solar Thermal project will deliver all of the South Australian Government's electricity demand from 2020, as well as boosting market competition.

As part of the Government's new electricity supply contract SIMEC ZEN Energy will supply more than 80% of the Government's electricity needs in 2018. This will increase to 100% in 2019 by which time 100% of the supply is expected to come from local renewable energy projects.

Under this government, there has been approximately \$7.6 billion in capital expenditure investment in renewable energy to date.

Our energy plan is supporting even more investment in renewables through our \$150 million Renewable Technology Fund, designed to accelerate the transformation to the next generation of renewable energy technologies. This includes our partnership with Tesla to create the world's largest virtual power plant, which is outlined in greater detail in a later section.

Some of the other projects supported through our Renewable Technology Fund include four pumped hydro projects in the Upper Spencer Gulf, a hydrogen production facility in Port Lincoln, a number of large grid scale batteries and biomass projects. We will have more to say about this as the election campaign unfolds.

We have deferred the introduction of the Energy Security Target until 2020. We recognise that the national electricity market is constantly changing and that the design of any scheme will need to be considered as the policy environment evolves. We will undertake a process of consultation on the design of the scheme, prior to any implementation.

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to continuing to support more renewable energy, which can meet our State's energy needs while helping to decarbonise the energy grid. This is vital if we are to keep global warming to two degrees or below.

Any policies that facilitate renewable energy will assist in furthering our carbon neutral ambitions and the State's zero net emissions by 2050 target.



### **Repower SA**

- *Following the achievement of 100% renewables, maximise our 'first mover' advantage and South Australia's renewable potential and;*
- *Establish a renewable hydrogen export industry; and set a state target of exporting an additional 50% of our energy needs by 2030*

### **RESPONSE**

**We have launched a Hydrogen Roadmap, which set out our ambitious goals for hydrogen production and export in South Australia, which includes export targets.**

**We have recently supported a number of national-leading hydrogen production projects through our Renewable Technology Fund to kick start SA's hydrogen industry.**

Our vision is to make South Australia a super power. To help achieve this we are spending \$150 million to support the development of renewable energy technology. Through this Fund, we have supported a number of exciting hydrogen projects, which will accelerate the development of the hydrogen industry in South Australia. These include:

- A 15MW hydrogen electrolyser plant near Port Lincoln, to be delivered by H2U, working with thyssenkrupp, which will be one of the largest green hydrogen facilities in the world and will include ammonia production for agricultural use
- [REDACTED] (yet to be announced)
- A hydrogen production and distribution facility at Tonsley, to be delivered by AGIG and other project partners, including a hydrogen Centre of Excellence, including a 1.25MW electrolyser.

These projects will contribute to the ambitious goals set out in our Hydrogen Roadmap, which outlines our commitment to developing a local industry right here in South Australia that delivers cheap power to our manufactures while exporting clean, green energy to the rest of the world.

South Australia has a unique opportunity to transform our natural endowments into a significant export commodity. The State Labor Government has a vision to make South Australia an Asia-Pacific hub for the production, use and export of hydrogen, which is outlined in the recently released 'Hydrogen Roadmap for SA'.

South Australia's world-leading use of renewables, established trade routes and reputation as a safe exporter of fuels makes it the perfect place to advance this emerging industry.

As well as the development of a local industry, the Hydrogen Roadmap outlines how South Australia can use its abundant wind and solar resources to position itself as a global hydrogen producer and exporter, and develop a new growth export industry that will lower carbon emissions, and generate jobs, investment and export revenue.



Japan and South Korea are among nations aiming to transition their economies to use hydrogen as an alternative zero-carbon emitting fuel source. And South Australia is a strategic industry hub located at the centre of Australia's road, sea and air networks.

Under the Roadmap, within three years, South Australia will have the capacity to export our first hydrogen supplies produced using our renewable energy assets.

Hydrogen is not only an energy source that can be exported to the rest of the world, it is a green-energy storage system that allows a state like South Australia to fully utilise our large concentration of renewable energy.

For example, our Roadmap envisages a large fleet of hydrogen fuel cell powered public buses to gradually replace our diesel fleet. Work has already begun to identify a supplier of buses and the refuelling station that would be required in Adelaide.

The Roadmap also supports industry in the transition to increase personal ownership of hydrogen fuelled vehicles, with the aim of having sufficient refuelling stations located in South Australia to allow a motorist to drive from Ceduna to Mt Gambier.

We are working with car manufacturers to achieve that aim, and to build a pathway to reduce our reliance on petrol and diesel powered vehicles.

Our Hydrogen Roadmap includes a target to start exporting by 2020. There is potential to consider a more ambitious target beyond this. However, the development of South Australia's hydrogen industry is still in the early/feasibility stages.

## **Repower SA**

*Ensure all South Australians are empowered through the energy transition by:*

- Establishing a publicly owned, public interest energy retailer to facilitate access to cheap power, energy efficiency and renewables with storage for people in public housing or on low-incomes;*
- Funding the development of community owned and led energy projects,*
- Work with Indigenous communities to co-design and fund an Aboriginal Renewables Program;*
- Create a workforce plan by 2019 to support workers in the fossil fuel industry to retrain and be re-employed in other sectors, and to equip new workers in the renewables sector to enable a rapid and fair community transition;*
- Legislating a fair price for solar;*
- Facilitating peer to peer trading; and*
- Providing incentives for both landlords and tenants to install solar PV and/or batteries.*

## **RESPONSE**

**We are partnering with Tesla to build the world's largest virtual power plant and to give all South Australian households the opportunity to participate the renewable energy revolution.**

**The trial phases of the VPP will look at ways to strongly encourage the uptake in private rental properties.**

**We are strongly supportive of non-government groups considering a 'community retailer' to participate in the retailer procurement process for the VPP, and significant meetings have already occurred.**

**We have committed to the creation of a \$100 million no interest loan scheme for household batteries, which will allow householders to repay a battery system through their energy retailer.**

**We encourage community groups to submit applications through Round 2 of the popular Fund My Neighbourhood program.**

The South Australian Labor government is aware of the importance of ensuring all South Australians benefit from, and can participate in, the energy transformation. These elements all connect to the Energy Plan theme of putting South Australians back in charge of their energy future.

We recently announced the next stage of our energy plan, which is a partnership with Tesla to create the world's largest virtual power plant. Through this partnership, a network of 50,000 home solar and battery systems working together to form a 250MW virtual power plant.

Starting with those in most need, a trial of 1100 Housing SA properties has commenced, each set to receive a 5kW solar panel system and 13.5kWh Tesla Powerwall 2 battery will be installed at no charge to the household.

Following the trial, systems are set to be installed at a further 24,000 Housing Trust properties, and then a similar deal offered to all South Australian households, with a plan for at least 50,000 households to participate over the next 4.5 years.

All households, including tenants, are encouraged to sign up to register their interest in being involved in the program.

Independent analysis by Frontier Economics shows the 250MW plant is expected to lower energy bills for participating households by 30 per cent.

Additionally, all South Australians will also benefit from the increased generation in the South Australian energy mix, with lower energy prices and increased energy stability.

Over the coming months, Tesla and the South Australian Government will be seeking a retailer from the market to join the project as the official Program Retailer, with the aim of a Program Retailer being in place from mid-2018.

We encourage non-government groups to consider participating in the retailer process, potentially through the creation of 'community retailer'. We are already liaising with community groups in relation to this option, and we are excited at the opportunity.

We have also created \$1.25 million fund to help South Australian businesses secure contracts on major renewable energy projects, like the world's largest Virtual Power Plant and the Solar Thermal plant at Port Augusta. Jobs are our number one priority and we want local businesses to employ local workers to work in a local renewable energy industry.

We have also committed to the creation of a \$100 million no interest loan scheme for household batteries, which will allow householders to repay a battery system through their energy retailer.

About 168,000 South Australian households have also been invited to take up the State Government's Concessions Energy Discount Offer, with over 26,000 already signed up.

The Origin Energy offer will save South Australians eligible for the existing State Government energy concession up to \$531 off their annual bill.

The Origin Energy offer includes a guaranteed 18 per cent discount on usage and supply charges. The offer is available to households receiving an existing State Government energy concession.

We have also recently funded Planet Ark and DoSomething founder Jon Dee to spearhead EnergySmart South Australia, a program to help South Australian households and businesses improve their energy efficiency and reduce the cost of their power bills.

15 workshops will be held across the State, covering topics such as negotiating a better energy deal, cutting the cost of lighting, heating, cooling and hot water and saving money with insulation and solar. An EnergySmart South Australia booklet with tips on reducing energy costs is also available.

Work is currently being progressed by Premier's Climate Change Council to develop a just transition policy and programs. This complements our climate change adaptation plan commitment regarding training.

Our Building Upgrade Finance currently overcomes the split landlord/tenant barrier in commercial buildings for environmental and heritage upgrades.

In relation to solar feed in tariffs, this government was the first in Australia to introduce a solar feed in legislation. Our positive policy environment has led to a significant solar uptake in SA – with solar panels installed on over 30% of SA houses.

Since the Essential Services Commission determined that it would no longer set at minimum retailer feed-in tariff (R- FiT), many retailers in SA have significantly increased their market offering. As at 31 July 2017, retailer feed-in tariffs ranged from 6.8 cents to 22 cents per kilowatt hour, meaning that South Australian solar customers were able to access the highest R-FiTs in Australia.

We encourage community groups to submit application through Round 2 of the popular Fund My Neighbourhood program, which will make a further \$20 million available for local residents to improve their communities.

### **Keep it in the ground**

*Oppose all oil and gas exploration activity (seismic and deep sea drilling) in the Great Australian Bight. South Australia does not have the capacity to cope with disaster in the Great Australian Bight. We must recognise and act upon the catastrophic risk oil exploration presents to this globally significant whale nursery, and the tourism and fishing sectors.*

### **RESPONSE**

**Any negative impacts of oil and gas exploration in the pristine waters of the Great Australian Bight are unacceptable.**

**Labor recognises the risk that any potential environmental incident may have on our coastline, our flora and fauna and our tourism and fishing industries.**

**The Labor Government has not and will not support any exploration in the Great Australian Bight that would risk our environment and our reputation as a producer of clean, safe and sustainably produced food.**

The South Australian Labor Government has a proud history of leading the nation in environmental policy. We have a plan to continue building our legacy as an environmentally forward thinking state, that other states and territories, and indeed other countries look to for guidance.

The Labor Government has not and will not support any exploration in the Great Australian Bight that would risk our reputation as a producer of clean, safe and sustainably produced food.

South Australia's clean waters are home to some of the world's most sought after seafood including rock lobster, tuna, oysters and prawns. The protection of our aquatic environment through our environmental monitoring, aquatic animal health programs and strict zoning requirements ensures South Australian seafood retains a high standard of environmental credentials.

In 2016-17, South Australia's fisheries and aquaculture sectors produced about 67,000 tonnes of seafood, generating revenue of \$908 million.

Our agriculture, food, beverage and seafood industries are a vital part of the state's economy – they are our largest export sector and a major employer. They are a central part of our prosperity and identity.

The increasing global demand for premium products that are cleanly, safely and sustainably produced has created opportunities for our primary industries and food manufacturing businesses to expand their markets and continue to grow. In 2016-17, our agriculture, food, beverage and seafood industries generated a record \$19.97 billion in revenue – an increase of \$1.3 billion on the previous year's results.

As has always been the case, Labor does not support any activity which will threaten these industries and jobs.

We acknowledge that the Commonwealth Government is the decision-making authority in relation to oil and gas mining activities in the Great Australian Bight. The Commonwealth Government have issued the current exploration permits and the approval process is overseen by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Agency (NOPSEMA).

Australia's regulatory and environmental standards are extremely rigorous – especially when it comes to exploration and drilling in waters such as the Bight.

We will continue to push for the strictest standards through the NOPTA (National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator) Joint Authority, ensuring that companies adhere to the most stringent environmental protections.

The Great Australian Bight (GAB) is an area of significant importance for many marine species, including Southern Right Whales and Blue Whales. This is why, when carrying out one of the most significant and important conservation programs ever undertaken in our State, the South Australian Government established seven of the State's 19 marine parks in the GAB area.

Any negative impacts of oil and gas exploration in the pristine waters of the Great Australian Bight are unacceptable and South Australia recognises the risk that any potential environmental incident may have on our coastline, our tourism industry and our fishing industry. We acknowledge the serious concern being expressed by the South Australian community.

### **Keep it in the ground**

*Protect the South East (Limestone Coast and Otway Basin) with a ban on all gas field exploration and/or development and a permanent ban on all gas activities on prime agricultural and high yielding cropping land across the state.*

### **RESPONSE**

**There are no current proposals for fracking in the South East. South Australia has adopted a risk-based decision making model and a performance-based regulatory model to the assessment of environmental impacts, which includes water-related impacts.**

**We have serious concerns that any development must be proven to be safe, we will, as always, rely on the science.**

Fracking has been used as part of gas extraction in the Cooper basin for more than 30 years and there have been no significant water related impacts.

In prescribed wells areas, the take of groundwater associated with unconventional gas and oil production requires either a water licence or a Ministerial authorisation to take water. Water licences can only be issued in accordance with the rules in the relevant Water Allocation Plan.

### **Keep it in the ground**

- *Ban all extreme and risky fossil fuel extraction activities, including underground coal gasification.*
- *Remove all State Government incentives and subsidies for the exploration and/or production of fossil fuels, to clearly affirm the state's commitment to renewables.*

### **RESPONSE**

**South Australia has world-class environmental regulators safeguarding our environment.**

**Any proponents of underground coal gasification in South Australia have to convince our world class environmental regulators that they can safeguard the environment before they will be given approval to carry out any work anywhere in this State.**

Only if the regulators can be convinced that the proponent has a risk management plan and the proven capacity to implement it will any environmental approvals be granted. That is a high bar to clear and as yet no company proposing to develop an underground coal gasification project has been granted any approvals in South Australia beyond the initial exploratory stages required to inform further their own feasibility studies, which will be needed to support any application under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act.

Underground Coal Gasification does not have wide-spread commercial application in the western world. Any project will require a pilot first. This will need to meet strict regulatory approvals including the strict conditions set out in Air Quality, Water Quality and Waste Policies.



### **Cleaner transport 1**

- *Commit to position SA as the 'EV Capital of Australia' by 2019 through:*
- *An EV uptake target*
- *Immediate implementation of a backbone EV charging network;*
- *Government fleet purchase target*
- *Stamp duty registration and tax discounts; and*
- *Public/fleet purchaser awareness programs*

### **RESPONSE**

**We have adopted a government fleet target of 30% low emission vehicles**

**We have incentivised a network of charging stations across South Australia**

**We will commit to adopting an EV target for South Australia**

**We will waive registration and stamp duty costs on electric and zero emission vehicles**

**We will continue to advocate to remove barriers imposed by the Federal Government, such as the luxury car tax and rules around fringe benefit**

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to transitioning to a low-carbon economy. We have committed to achieving net zero emissions state-wide by 2050 and partnered with the City of Adelaide on our ambitious plan make Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city.

We have already reduced emissions by 10 per cent while the economy has grown by over 60 per cent since 1990.

We were the first government to set a target of having 30 per cent low emission vehicles in our vehicle fleet by 2019.

Through the Climate Action Roundtable, the State Labor Government recently led the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between cities, states and territories that will see more electric cars on roads across Australia.

The MOU commits the signatories (the ACT, South Australia, City of Adelaide, City of Hobart and the Electric Vehicle Council of Australia) to working together to increase the share of electric vehicles in government fleets, support the uptake of electric vehicles in the community, and take a coordinated approach to planning and constructing infrastructure to support the use of electric vehicles.

The State Labor Government has also advocated to remove barriers imposed by the Federal Government, such as the luxury car tax and rules around fringe benefit, and will continue to do so.

We will continue to work closely with the Electric Vehicle Council and other non-government to develop and implement policies that will see us have more electric cars not just in South Australia but across the nation – our commitment to helping lead Australia's actions to combat dangerous global warming.

As part of the arrangements under our 100MW battery contract, Tesla has created a network of 50 stations across the state, and will soon install an additional 50. This is on top of three SuperCharger Stations installed at Keith, Clare and in Adelaide.

We also recently launched an EV charging hub in the CBD with Tesla and other model charging points, and a solar garage at Tonsley.

If re-elected, we will commit to adopting an uptake target for electric vehicles in South Australia, as part of a broader zero emission vehicle strategy.

### **Cleaner transport**

- *Commit to the rapid phasing out of all diesel public transport fleet vehicles and rule out new diesel fleet purchases.*
- *Extend and upgrade the cycling network infrastructure in SA including a cycling strategy with special reference to connections with public transport links and develop new guidelines to make all local government roads cycle-friendly.*

### **RESPONSE**

**The South Australian Labor Government is committed to transitioning to a low-carbon economy. A key to this transition is reducing transport emissions. This is why the State Labor Government has provided record investment into public transport, including expanding the tram network.**

The State Labor Government has committed to invest \$300 million over the next ten years for 400 new buses to service the Adelaide Metro network. The new contract is for the supply and support services of approximately 40 buses per year from July 2018.

The need for environmentally friendly buses was specified in the contract, as was the need for the proponent company to provide sustainable business practices that encompass emerging technologies. The EOI specified this in a number of ways:

- Enabling carbon neutral technologies such as electric buses, micro-hybrids, hydrogen powered buses to be trialled and implemented, contributing to the State's Carbon Neutral Adelaide Strategy and target of net zero emission by 2050.
- Ensuring each bus:
  - seeks innovation and has the ability to accommodate emerging technologies;
  - Is environmentally sustainable and compatible, including but not limited to, carbon neutral technologies such as electric buses, microhybrids or hydrogen powered buses.

Companies are also asked to provide details of their commitment to assisting Government in delivering a target of South Australia achieving a net zero emissions by 2050.

As part of making Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city, the South Australian Labor Government is contributing \$6 million to the City of Adelaide to improve cycling infrastructure in the city, and deploying bike lockups at train stations.

We are also collaborating with the council on a strategy to reduce transport emissions in the city, including improving public transport.

South Australia's cycling policies have been cited by bike sharing company, Ofo, as a key reason why Adelaide was chosen as their launch city in Australia.

DPTI is currently developing expanded cycle ways in support of Carbon Neutral Adelaide.

### **No radioactive waste 1**

*Actively oppose the federal government plan for a radioactive waste facility in SA and support the state Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000 which makes any such facility illegal. Commit to further strengthen this legislation by removing the modified section 13(2).*

### **RESPONSE**

**SA Labor has supported changes to the *Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000*.**

**We have written to the Turnbull government outlining our strong expectations around community support for any proposed facility, including a veto for the local Aboriginal Community.**

The State Labor Government supported an amendment in parliament that affirmed the State's ban on spending public money on nuclear waste. The Government has also been clear that any Commonwealth nuclear waste facility **MUST** have the support of the community, including the local Aboriginal community.

Premier Jay Wetherill has recently written to the Turnbull government and made our expectations in this regard very clear, and to request their process include a veto policy for any local Aboriginal community.

S13 of the *Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act 2000* prohibits the expenditure of money on any nuclear waste facility. s13(2) allowed us to spend money on consultation on the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission. We recently supported an amendment Bill to remove this clause – but with a modified replacement clause as follows:

*Subsection (1) does not prohibit the appropriation, expenditure or advancement to a person of public money for the purpose of financing the maintenance or sharing of information or to enable the State to engage with other jurisdictions.*

This clause means that money cannot be spent on pursuing a nuclear waste facility, but allows us respond to enquiries from the public and to engage with the Commonwealth on their process. Without this amendment, our Act would prohibit us from even talking to the Commonwealth in relation to their process.

### **Circular economy 1**

*Drive South Australia's transformation towards a circular economy by establishing a 'Circular Economy Action Lab' in 2018 to generate innovation and cross-sector collaboration.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will support a Circular Economy Action Lab to drive innovation and cross-sector collaboration.**

The State Labor Government is leading the nation once again and investing in building a circular economy – to reduce waste, increase jobs, and grow our economy sustainably.

We are supportive of a circular economy, which builds on our national and international leadership on recycling.

A report commissioned by the SA Labor Government found that by 2030 when compared to a business as usual scenario, a Circular Economy could create an additional 25,700 jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 27 per cent in South Australia.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to implement reforms to the waste and resource sector that will improve landfill diversion rates while growing jobs.

GISA has also recently held a grant round for co-working spaces in the State and is working with Innovyz to develop an incubation program for businesses/technologies that can contribute to a circular economy. GISA are exploring a second Innovyz program that addresses the circular economy question.

The State Labor Government has also recently signed an MOU with an organisation in India to develop executive courses and training on the circular economy.

We will continue to work with NGOs and the waste and resource recovery sector on a circular economy. Our work on recycling and renewables already makes us leaders in this space but we know more can be done.

### **Circular economy**

*Commit to the diversion of 90% of municipal solid waste (MSW) from landfill by 2023, including state-wide comprehensive organics and food waste recycling.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government under its Waste and Resource Recovery Plan will focus on innovation and investment into the waste industry to meet increased targets of diversion to landfill.**

South Australia is recognised internationally as a leader in waste management and resource recovery. We currently achieve a landfill diversion rate of more than 81 per cent and annually recover resources exceeding \$200 million in value.

Since 2003, the Labor Government has invested more than \$100 million of waste levy funds into programs and projects that have built capacity, improved markets and assisted the development of new products and skills.

Our recycling rate has rapidly improved and is among the world's best. South Australia has reduced waste to landfill by 29 per cent since 2002-03, exceeding the 2014 State Strategic Plan Target of a 25 per cent reduction from 2002-03 levels.

In 2003-04, South Australians were diverting 61 per cent of materials from landfill. This has increased significantly over time - we are now diverting approximately 81.5 per cent of all waste generated, which is also preventing approximately 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

The waste management and resource recovery industry is a growing sector of the economy in South Australia. It has an annual turnover of around \$1 billion, contributes over \$500 million directly and through multiplier effects to Gross State Product, and employs almost 5,000 people directly and indirectly.

The State Labor Government has been a strong supporter of the waste and resources sector through three consecutive waste strategies and programs, which have contributed strongly to technological innovation, business productivity, economic development and community cohesion.

In 2013-14, we evaluated the work taken to achieve the 2011-2015 waste strategy objectives and targets. This review highlighted how the State Labor Government's work has significantly contributed to the economy and quality of life of South Australians.

Our most recent strategy, South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020, continues to advocate for high levels of recycling and includes many key targets and goals.

More than \$6.5 million has been provided for implementing high-performance, council kerbside recycling collection systems. This work has given households access to easy-to-use, two or three-bin systems and in some council areas, access to food waste recycling systems. In 2002, South Australian councils diverted on average, only about 20 per cent of kerbside

collected material from landfill. Through State Labor Government grants to councils, kerbside recycling has increased significantly.

It is estimated that councils providing fortnightly collection of green organics and food organics to all residents, as well as recycling and residual waste collection, can achieve a diversion rate up to 70 per cent. Since 2010, 150,000 households have introduced food waste recycling systems with the support of State Government funding to councils. 12

The State Labor Government recently announced another \$745,000 for Local Government organisations in Kerbside Performance Incentives. The program aims to build on existing successes by promoting and incentivising the uptake of food waste recycling services. There is also a current grant round open for councils to access funding to improve or implement food waste recycling services.

The Weatherill Government currently has a diversion target of 70 per cent by 2020, and a re-elected Government will look at how we can achieve a 90 per cent diversion rate by 2023.

### **Circular economy**

*Institute a credible, comprehensive and consistent mass balance reporting system for the waste and recycling industry.*

**The EPA is currently working with industry to design a mass balance scheme for South Australia.**

The Government recently successfully amended the *Environment Protection Act (1993)* to help facilitate the introduction of mass balance reporting and the EPA is currently working with industry to design a scheme that can be implemented in the State.



### **Circular economy**

*Make SA a national leader by banning disposable plastic cups, cutlery, and plates, unless made from compostable or biologically sourced materials.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will investigate a phase out of disposable plastic coffee cups.**

The South Australian Labor Government has been working with the City of Adelaide, KESAB and others on how to reduce waste in the CBD, particularly from disposable cups and cutlery which can be hard to recycle or reuse. Currently, the City of Adelaide is trialing a scheme to encourage the use of reusable cups and/or compostable cups. The Government, through its initiative with Innovyz, is also looking at technology that can help improve the recycling of plastic lined coffee cups.

GISA has recently commissioned a study into the use of polystyrene packaging in the takeaway food industry and what alternatives might be available. The Government is committed to maintaining South Australia's clean and green reputation. We have built on our plastic bag ban by being the first state to ban e-waste going to landfill. We will continue to work with industry and the community to improve our recycling rates, being careful to ensure that industry can provide alternatives to products being phased out.

### **Circular economy**

*Ban the sale of products containing micro-plastics/micro-beads.*

### **RESPONSE**

**We will continue to take action to phase out the sale of products containing microbeads in South Australia and will continue to advocate for a national approach to banning the sale of these products.**

South Australia has led the phase out of micro-plastic/micro-beads in products. This has resulted in the Meeting of Environment Ministers agreeing to an industry proposal to phase out such products by mid-2018. The South Australian Labor Government has made it clear that if this voluntary phase out does not occur, we will act to stop the sale of products containing microbeads in South Australia.

### **Clean Food**

*Maintain the moratorium against GM crops recognising the growing economic importance of organic production and international market access, and the need to protect SA's clean, green status.*

### **RESPONSE**

#### **We have extended our ban on GM food crops until 2025.**

In November 2017 the State Labor Government extended its ban on genetically modified (GM) food crops until 2025 – maintaining our status as the nation's only remaining mainland state to hold such a moratorium. Any decision to lift the ban before 1 September 2025 will require parliamentary debate and ensure the Parliament will have the final say on this important issue.

South Australia is the only remaining mainland state in Australia to prohibit the commercial cultivation of GM food crops, giving globally-recognised companies such as Tuckers Natural, San Remo, Fleurieu Milk and Yoghurt Co and B-D Farms Paris Creek the opportunity to promote their non-GM status and gain access to key markets.

South Australia's non-GM status is one of the elements underpinning our global reputation as a supplier of premium products and supporting the State Government's *Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World* economic priority.

### **Protect iconic areas 1**

*Retain the South Australian system of Marine Parks including current management plans and sanctuary zones, and consider increasing the size of key iconic sanctuaries in the Great Australian Bight region.*

### **RESPONSE**

**We will maintain our system of Marine Parks and we will consider further implementation of the marine parks program over the next five years, leading up to the legislated 10-year review of the management plans by 2022.**

**Labor's Marine Parks program is the most significant conservation program ever undertaken in this State with a network of 19 marine parks established in 2012.**

91% of South Australians support our marine parks because they understand the value of our pristine and ecologically important marine habitats.

About 85% of southern Australia's marine life isn't found anywhere else in the world.

The State undertakes the largest ongoing marine biodiversity monitoring programme in South Australia's history.

South Australia's sanctuary zones are critical for protecting long-lived, site-attached, vulnerable species. The Sponge Gardens Sanctuary Zone was found to be an important refuge for blue groper, blue devils and harlequin fish and is a biodiversity hotspot, with unique bathymetry creating habitats for a high diversity of plants and animals.

A public report, 'South Australia's marine parks 5 year status report 2012-2017', has been released and found that our network of marine parks are already working to protect biodiversity in our marine waters.

A re-elected Weatherill Government supports retaining current management plans and sanctuary zones and would be open to discussing the options and feasibility to increase these sanctuary zones.

## **Protect iconic areas 2**

*Protect the iconic Kalakoopah Creek wilderness in the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve via a proclamation under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992).*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Labor Government will investigate options to provide additional protection to the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve.**

South Australia now has the largest percentage of land area in both public and private protected areas of any Australian mainland jurisdiction - a total area around the size of the state of Victoria. This is a valuable environmental, economic and social resource for all South Australians.

We have enhanced our protected area system in South Australia through the protected areas strategy, Conserving Nature 2012-2020: A strategy for establishing a system of protected areas in South Australia.

When Labor came to Government in South Australia in 2002, just 70,000 hectares of South Australia had wilderness protection status. Since then, 74 new parks have been proclaimed and there have been 87 additions to our parks.

There are now a total of 356 reserves constituted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 and the Crown Land Management Act 2009. Of these, 22 are National Parks.

In 2012 Labor enacted special purpose legislation to establish the Arkaroola Protection Area which prohibits mining and provides for the protection and proper management in perpetuity of the natural, cultural and landscape values of this region of the Northern Flinders Ranges.

In 2013, we provided the iconic Nullarbor Plain with South Australia's highest level of conservation protection. It is now a Wilderness Protection Area, and has contributed to the almost doubling of area in South Australia which receives this level of protection to approximately 1.8 million hectares of land.

An important new National Park was created last October – the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (pronounced (Wee-nay-chi-nay-chi Pang-ka-ra). Other additions made on 22 September 2016, are the proclamation of the new Kinchina Conservation Park and Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park near Monarto, and additions to Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park in the Barossa Valley and Cape Blanche Conservation Park and Searcy Bay Conservation Park on the coast of western Eyre Peninsula near Streaky Bay.

More than 2.2 million hectares have been added to the State's Reserve System or re-classified to a higher conservation status under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and the Wilderness Protection Act 1992.

### **Protect iconic areas 3**

*Protect the Coongie Lakes by establishing a Wilderness Protection Area covering the National Park and the No-Go Mining zone in Coongie and Tirrawarra Paddocks. The management of the entire Coongie Paddock should also be considered.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Labor Government will investigate options to provide additional protection to the Coongie Lakes recognising it is listed as an internationally important RAMSAR site.**

**South Australia now has the largest percentage of land area in both public and private protected areas of any Australian mainland jurisdiction - a total area around the size of the state of Victoria. This is a valuable environmental, economic and social resource for all South Australians.**

**Since 2002, we have gone from 70,000 hectares of land under protection to more than 2.2 million hectares either added to the State's Reserve System or re-classified to a higher conservation status under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.**

We have enhanced our protected area system in South Australia through the protected areas strategy, *Conserving Nature 2012-2020: A strategy for establishing a system of protected areas in South Australia*.

One of the most recent additions to the parks system is the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (the Sanctuary), which stretches for 60 kilometres from the Barker Inlet in the south to Parham in the north and provides a protected area for a diverse range of species including 50 shorebird species.

The Port Gawler Conservation Park was reclassified on 8 August 2017 to become part of the national park - an addition of 418 hectares. Further to this other recent additions have included:

- A new 1,058 hectare conservation park at the eastern end of Hindmarsh Island called Lawari Conservation Park. Lawari is situated within an area of internationally important wetlands formally recognised as the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Reserve;
- Addition of 3,949 hectares to the Ngarkat Conservation Park on the northern boundary of this vast mallee park, which is south of Lamerloo;
- Addition to the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park of Sacred Canyon, a site of profound cultural and spiritual significance to the local Adnyamathanha People;
- A new conservation park, Thidna Conservation Park on the Yorke Peninsula, protects 857 ha of remnant native vegetation in a landscape that has been heavily cleared for agriculture;
- Sturt Gorge Recreation Park in the southern suburbs has nearly doubled in size with the addition of 190 ha of revegetated land at Craighburn Farm;
- Black Hill Conservation Park, which adjoins Morialta, has had another 53 ha added to its north-west boundary, bringing the park to a total area of 758 ha; and

- In the South East, Butcher Gap Conservation Park, near Kingston, has grown by 74 ha with the addition of Crown land bordering the park to protect coastal habitats that supports a number of rare and threatened fauna species.

***Parks, and additions to parks 2011-***

<b>Oct 2011 to Present</b>	<b>New Land</b>	<b>Reclassifications</b>	<b>New Parks</b>	<b>No. of Additions</b>
Conservation Park	43,015	29,895	24	28
National Park	32,876	418	1	7
Recreation Park	279			4
Wilderness Protection Area		894,291	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,170</b>	<b>924,604</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>40</b>

**Protect iconic areas 4**

*Legislate to prevent mining and exploration activities in all public and private protected areas, including Regional Reserves and areas recognised through Heritage Agreements.*

**RESPONSE**

Mining in protected areas is continuously reviewed by DEWNR to ensure that the appropriate checks and balances are maintained. A re-elected Weatherill Government will investigate options to strengthen environmental safeguards.

## **Protect iconic areas 5**

*Reinstate the Wilderness Advisory Committee to enhance and progress the wilderness assessment process under the Wilderness Protection Act (1992).*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will establish a Wilderness Advisory Sub-Committee as part of the Parks and Wilderness Council.**

The Parks and Wilderness Council undertakes the functions previously performed by the Wilderness Advisory Committee. Achievements of the Parks and Wilderness Council to date include:

- Supporting the establishment of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park—Winaityinaityi Pangkara and the Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain biking destination;
- Advice was provided for ten park management plans- nine have since been adopted;
- Land was assessed land adjacent to Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area and recommended the area be constituted as a Wilderness Protection Area; and
- Contributed to key strategies including *Heathy Parks, Healthy People South Australia*, the *Nature Like Nowhere Else* tourism strategy and 'The First Animal Life on Earth' an action plan for South Australia's Ediacaran fossils.

We will commit to seeking a nomination from the Conservation and Wilderness Council of South Australia for the Parks and Wilderness Council



### **Protect iconic areas 6**

*Develop and implement a 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy' for parks and reserves by 2020.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will continue to be a world leader in climate change policy and activities and will commit to a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for our parks and reserve system.**

South Australian communities have already experienced the impacts of climate change through an increase in the frequency of extreme events, including intense rainfall, flood events, and bushfires.

Since 1880, South Australia's sea levels have risen by 20 cm, and have been rising at an accelerated average rate of over 4 mm per annum since 1992.

Under this government, South Australia has become a national leader in climate-change policy and renewable energy (refer to renewables section).

South Australia is playing its part in the global ambition to keep warming to 2 degrees Celsius or less.

- First jurisdiction in Australia to adopt a target of zero net emissions by 2050
- Founding Co-chair of The Climate Group – States and Regions Alliance
- First jurisdiction in Australia to introduce container deposit legislation
- We have cut carbon emissions by over 8 per cent on 1990 levels while our economy has grown over 60 per cent.
- Internationally recognised and nationally award winning Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- First jurisdiction in Australia to introduce climate change specific legislation, the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emission Reduction Act 2007
- Founding Co-chair of The Climate Group – States and Regions Alliance
- Establishing Adelaide as the world's first Carbon Neutral City

The State Government has received international acclaim for its efforts to prepare the State for the changes that a warming planet will bring. We have worked with each of the State's 12 regions to develop a bottom up adaptation plan for each region. This innovative approach is now being replicated by other jurisdictions in Australia and the world. Each region is now working to implement their plans. This is a partnership between the local councils, NRMs, community and the businesses.

These plans have helped the State Government prepare a State wide adaptation plan. This plan sets out 65 commitments from the Government spanning the health and education sectors to Government decision making. For biodiversity conservation the Government has committed to:

- Delivering the Nature of SA Project;

- Continuing to implement Conserving Nature 2012-2020: A strategy for establishing a system of protected areas in South Australia;
- Expanding the availability of locally sourced carbon offsets;
- Ensuring all NRM regions are climate ready;
- Considering the impacts of climate change in reviewing pest plants and animal controls;
- Continuing to improve the recovery of near shore seagrass populations.

In addition, our management of parks and protected areas continues to account for the changes that global warming will bring.

The Government is committed to working with environment sector in helping protect and conserve our parks and protected areas.

## **Protect iconic areas 7**

*Revise preventative fire management activity in SA (excluding emergency response) to ensure they are based on best practice science and sound biodiversity management principles which include ongoing post fire monitoring and evaluation.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will revise its fire management activity and strategy to reconfirm it's aligned with best science and biodiversity management principles, with a focus on high nature conservation value areas.**

When Labor came to Government in 2002, there was no preventative fire program for our parks and reserve system.

And since establishing a prescribed burns program, the Labor Government has worked to make it one that is leading the nation. This reflects a consistent increase in commitment by this Labor Government towards reducing the risk that bushfires pose to the lives and property of the people of our State.

Environmental fire management budget for 2017-18 was \$13.7 million, compared to approximately \$3.155 million in 2003-04.

Increased funding provided by the Labor Government has enabled the environmental department to recruit and train staff in specialist fire management skills and to purchase and develop equipment, which includes the use of aircraft for undertaking prescribed burning and fuel reduction programme in high risk areas.

The number of brigade members in the environment department brigade has increased year by year, every year, from 300 in 2003-04 to 530 in 2017.

In 2016 the State Labor Government committed \$16.2 million over four years to increase the State's capacity to prepare for bushfires and implement bushfire fuel management strategies on both public and private lands.

We know that prescribed burning can be used to promote the conservation of biodiversity (ecological burning) as well as reduce fuel levels to protect human and environmental assets.

Recently the first cultural burn on co-managed land in South Australia took place at Loveheart Springs, part of the National Heritage Listed Witjira-Dalhousie Springs at Witjira National Park in November. It was managed in partnership between the Irrwanyere Aboriginal Corporation and the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

### **NRM reform and partnerships**

*Establish a genuine partnership with the SA Nature Alliance to deliver the following NRM reforms in 2019:*

- *Increase the proportion of NRM levy revenue and DEWNR budgets dedicated to on-ground works;*
- *Implement a devolved delivery model and formalise opportunities for the environment non-government sector to deliver projects and have direct involvement in investment decision making;*
- *Increase resourcing for volunteers and community groups delivering environmental protection and restoration services and projects, and re-establish state funded community grants;*
- *Co-invest state funds 'dollar for dollar' in on-ground programs, to match regional NRM levy revenue and federal government investment;*
- *Allocate resources for a targeted stewardship and acquisition program to help protect areas of high conservation value;*
- *Increase the proportion of funding for landscape scale, multi-partner and multi-year biodiversity projects such as Wild Eyre; and*
- *Ensure that more robust science is combined with local knowledge in project delivery*

### **RESPONSE**

**The Labor State Government is nationally acknowledged as having the strongest, most effective, responsive and accountable NRM system in the country.**

The South Australian NRM system is supported by specific legislation that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Boards and the State Government. The State Labor Government introduced the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* to improve the ability of our communities to lead management of our natural resources across the state.

South Australia's \$18.2 billion food and wine industry is underpinned by a clean environment, and sustainable use of our natural resources.

NRM Boards are developing climate change plans to reduce carbon footprint but at the same time invest in the economic, social and environmental resilience and to take advantage of any opportunities that will arise.

The eight regional natural resources management (NRM) boards are fundamental to engaging the community and key stakeholder groups in planning and action to help ensure the sustainable use of the State's natural resources.

The NRM boards provide the focus for communities to plan, make decisions and take action on the things that matter most to them. They connect communities with broader government and whole of state priorities.

The State Labor Government is extremely supportive of on-ground works and of partnerships and Boards making the decisions for how to allocate resources in conjunction with the community as part of their strategic planning process.

The NRM Boards and the group of Presiding Members have spent years building highly functional relationships across the state and the country.

NRM have worked in partnership with Primary Producers SA, Conservation Council SA, Local Government association of SA, Landcare SA and state government agencies to produce the SA NRM Investment Strategy 2016. The State Government is highly supportive of these partnerships and encourages all ENGOS and NGOs who want to work with NRM to speak with the Boards about collaborative approaches to care and management of our precious natural resources.

Significant achievements have been delivered through NRM, including:

- Programs supported by NRM boards that increase premium food and wine production while working to improve soil health. For example, the Kangaroo Island NRM Board and Natural Resources KI staff have been working together with Agriculture KI, industry groups and local producers to demonstrate the benefits of soil health in driving continuous cropping systems and pasture growth to support highly productive rotational grazing.
- SA Murray-Darling NRM Board secured over \$70 million from the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Programme which helps to save water by modernising on farm irrigation and return water to the environment.
- In the SA Murray-Darling Basin region, the NRM Board has developed a climate change adaptation plan to identify environmental, social and economic risks, help the region build resilience to the impacts of climate change and ensure the region is adaptive and sustainable.
- NRM Boards and the State Government have worked together to improve pest animal and plant control to an international best practice standard. An excellent example is the 'Naturally Yorke' programme, which is a landscape scale fox baiting initiative designed to protect endangered wildlife on Southern Yorke Peninsula, while at the same time enhancing the productive capacity of graziers. The project involves the placement of fox baits across 80,000 ha on the Southern Yorke Peninsula, with over 13,500 baits laid since February 2008.
- South Australian premium food and wine products and experiences attract interstate and international visitors and our national parks and reserves provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for visitors. For example the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail, a magnificent new 5-day trail network that will provide an added boost to the local tourism industry in a sustainable and ecologically friendly way.
- The expansive co-managed public lands and national parks of the Alinytjara Wilurara region offer a unique set of biological, geological and cultural experiences. The AW NRM Board is collaborating with traditional Aboriginal owners to develop cultural tourism opportunities that provide an ongoing, self-sufficient and economically sustainable base for remote communities.
- The River Murray Youth Council is a ground-breaking youth leadership programme modelled on the Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Education Team, and the Young Environmental Leaders Program for students in years 5 to 8 who want to get involved in looking after natural resources with their school was another programme commended.

### **Partnerships for nature 1**

- *Partner with environment NGO's to continue the Nature of SA, the partnership project building shared visions for nature conservation in SA.*
- *Commit to investing in projects that showcase how nature contributes to our sense of wellbeing and identity as South Australians.*

### **RESPONSE**

#### **We have committed to delivering the Nature of SA project in partnership with the Conservation Council and the environment sector.**

The State Labor Government has committed to delivering the Nature of SA project in partnership with the Conservation Council and the environment sector. The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) has established a partnership with the South Australian environmental non-government organisation (e-NGO) sector to review the current Strategy's strengths and weaknesses, identify current and future nature conservation challenges, develop a shared understanding of priority directions and, later in the year, with a broader range of partners, commence drafting a new conservation framework.

The partnership is sponsored by Chief Executive of DEWNR and the Chief Executive of Conservation SA, and by Sharon Starick and Professor Chris Daniels on behalf of the Presiding Members of the NRM Boards. The work is driven by a Strategy Group drawn from DEWNR, PIRSA and the e-NGOs which is overseeing the development of the new framework under the title the Nature of SA.

Stage one of the Nature of SA has been focused on gaining the confidence of influential advocates and researchers from across the environment sector, and exploring new approaches to nature conservation.

The partnership has consulted with people from DEWNR, e-NGOs and Natural Resource Management Boards in each of the State's eight regions to determine their views on current issues, nature conservation challenges and on those challenges likely to be faced over the next decade and beyond.

A particular challenge identified is the increasing rates of change in the species composition and functionality of many of the State's ecosystems. These challenges have been identified in the most recent South Australian (2013) and national (2017) State of the Environment reports, and aligns with similar trends globally (for example, in the United Kingdom (2016)).

Stage 2 of the Nature of SA project will now work across industry, government and other stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of what is required for the future conservation of South Australia's environment.

Nature of SA is an important initiative that will address many of the recommendations raised by the recently released Environment, Resources and Development Committee report. The report examined the regulatory and policy framework that supports terrestrial and marine ecological processes, biodiversity values and abatement of species extinction.

## **Partnerships for nature 2**

*Commit to working with Indigenous communities in SA to expand and secure initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers, and Indigenous Protected Areas.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Labor Government will look at the opportunities to expand roles and functions of Aboriginal rangers in consultation with Aboriginal nations through our nation-leading co-management structure.**

The Labor Government supports the important relationship and connection Aboriginal people have with the land. South Australia is leading the nation in co-management arrangements with 13.5 million hectares or about 64% of our state's park reserve land is under co-management with Aboriginal people.

The State Labor Government established the co-management system under legislation in 2004, and the system has since been nationally and internationally recognised.

Our partnerships with Aboriginal people create real pathways towards senior levels in the environment department.

We employ 27 Aboriginal rangers out of a total of 93 classified Rangers in South Australia

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources will continue to progress in alignment with Reconciliation Action Plan (September 2017- September 2019) that was officially launched on 7 November 2017.

There is also strong Aboriginal engagement and employment in NRM, providing opportunities for sharing knowledge, and increasing the influence of Aboriginal communities over local NRM issues.

As the only region-wide partner between government and communities, the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board is implementing a strategic governance and partnership agenda across the region, which aims to capture shared visions around regional governance, leadership and economic development. This initiative recognises that future social and economic prosperity relies heavily on sustainable land use and the cultural connection between Aboriginal people and country in a contemporary context.

There has been a 20 per cent increase in Aboriginal employment across the AW region between 2013-2015. This includes employment on parks across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands. The AW NRM Board's ongoing engagement with leadership groups in the region has led to the development of "Palya Kalkuni" agreements, or, a "Promise to Work Together".

So far, the Board has developed a Palya Kalkuni agreement with Yalata Community Council, and has draft agreements in place with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, as well as a collective of co-management Boards. Both Maralinga Tjarutja and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation have agreed to progress agreements with the Board.

### **Partnerships for nature 3**

*Commit to recurrent funding of \$200K p.a. for the South Australian Environmental Defenders Office to support vital public interest legal action.*

#### **RESPONSE**

**We currently provide approximately \$15,000 per annum to the EDO, as well as contributing funding to other environmental NGOS such as Conservation Council and the Nature Conservancy.**

Labor recognises the valuable work the EDO performs.

### **Partnerships for nature 3 and 4**

*Rule out any new laws that constrain the democratic rights of people and communities to peacefully protest or prevent environmentally destructive activities, and ensure legal protection exists for such actions taken in the public interest.*

#### **RESPONSE**

**We disagree with restrictions imposed by the Federal Government and commit to no changes to state legislation and a re-elected Weatherill Government supports the right to organise.**

The State Labor Government believes everyone is entitled to have their say and respects the right to protest in a peaceful and lawful manner.

The restrictions imposed by the Federal Government are outrageous as is the targeting of environment groups through the tax office, the charities commission and other government agencies.

In making decisions everyone must be able to have their say and this is why the State Labor Government is committed to providing transparency through the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. The Government has also been working with the EPA to improve its public engagement process and would welcome feedback from NGOS on how to improve this.



### **Invest in nature 1**

*Ensure a minimum 2% of the state budget is invested in biodiversity conservation, effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as enforcement of environmental legislation and climate change action.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will continue to invest to protect the environment and support our communities and industries as we transition to a low carbon economy.**

Since Labor came to Government in early 2002, there have been 74 new parks proclaimed and 86 additions made to existing parks. Almost 2.25 million hectares has been added to the State's Reserve System or re-classified to a higher conservation status. Just over two (2) million hectares of this land resulted from upgrades in classification, while 233,866 hectares of new land have been proclaimed. All of the Marine Parks have been added in this time.

One of the most recent additions to the parks system is the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (the Sanctuary), described further above.

The area is a key part of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and has the potential to be an exciting drawcard for birdwatchers from interstate and overseas, supporting both tourism and the environment in South Australia. The State Labor Government has committed to invest an additional \$1.7 million over four (4) years for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the Sanctuary.

South Australia, under this government, has been a leader in tackling some of the critical global issues associated with climate change, such as renewable energy and emissions reduction targets.

In 2007, South Australia was the first Australian State to enact legislation which committed us to renewable energy and emissions reduction targets.

In November 2015, we announced the objective for South Australia to reach zero net carbon emissions by 2050, and we are working to embed this objective in our policy making and legislative frameworks.

Our 12 State Government regions have prepared climate change adaptation action plans to consider what each part of our State should consider when preparing for the impacts of climate change.

These plans have helped the State Government prepare a State wide adaptation plan. This plan sets out 65 commitments from the Government spanning the health and education sectors to Government decision making.

### **Driest state, driest continent 1, 2 and 3**

- *Prohibit exploration and mining activities which have the potential to impact groundwater resources including the Great Artesian Basin.*
- *Prescribe all at-risk surface and groundwater supplies, resources and reserves and ensure there is a water allocation plan in place for them.*
- *Create 1000 hectares of new 'Aquifer Recharge Farms' in agricultural regions of the state by 2022.*

### **RESPONSE**

**The State Labor Government believes that water is one of our most precious resources. There is a limit to how much is available for use on an ongoing basis, and so it is important to provide certainty to current and future users of water, particularly to those whose livelihoods depend on it.**

A water allocation plan provides certainty and gives consideration to the environment, social and economic needs for long term sustainability and security.

The State Government will map and define at-risk areas and will either prescribe them or use another appropriate mechanism to monitor and control water extraction.

South Australia is a proven world leader in converting treated wastewater and stormwater runoff to high quality water for irrigation use through advanced treatment technology, storing water below ground in aquifers and recovery for application when needed. Our existing technology, skills and experience can be employed in creating more schemes to harvest more water that may otherwise create environmental harm to instead create agricultural, economic and employment opportunity.

Our state has the productive land and water capable of creating another 1000 Ha of irrigated agriculture by 2022. The State Labor Government can commit to investigating how we can open up 1000Ha of land for irrigation using managed aquifer recharge water.

#### **Driest state, driest continent 4**

*Ensure that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan returns the equivalent of 3200 GL to the environment to safeguard the health of the River Murray, Lower Lakes and the Coorong, including the 450GL negotiated by SA when the Basin Plan was formed. Maintain strong pressure on the Federal Government to return oversight of water to the federal environment portfolio and ensure all states play by the rules and deliver on their commitments under the Basin plan.*

#### **RESPONSE**

**The State Labor Government will continue to fight for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to be delivered on time and in full, including through our Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission into the implementation of the plan and continued advocacy for compliance, transparency and political commitment to the Plan.**

South Australian Labor is passionately committed to the delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan on time and in full. We will continue to fight at a national level to ensure the equivalent of 3200GL is returned to the river. We will continue to show leadership in delivering the 450GL of upwater. We will investigate claims of corruption and maladministration through a Royal Commission. We will continue to implement our responsibilities under the Basin Plan and the Water Act with integrity and transparency.

South Australian Labor deeply believes the Commonwealth Water portfolio needs to be separated from the Agricultural portfolio. Not only is it in the best interests of South Australia – it is also in the best interests of the Murray Darling Basin and the nation.

Our Nation's former Agriculture and Water Minister is the best example of why these two portfolios need to be separate. We have had a Federal Water Minister who was more concerned with ensuring his political donors got the best financial deal and the most water from the nation's most important river system than ensuring its survival for all river users and the next generation. This has been possible because he has had oversight of both portfolios.

The Commonwealth's water responsibilities and obligations are better managed from within the Environment portfolio as they are in South Australia.

Following the widespread allegations of water theft and systemic corruption by upstream irrigators in the Murray-Darling Basin, the State Labor Government announced it would establish a Royal Commission into widespread allegations of water theft by upstream

Murray-Darling Basin Plan is critical for our state and our state's growing economy. It is also the lifeblood for our nation with the Basin areas producing around one-third of our national food supply and providing the critical drinking water needs for Adelaide.

As far back as 1969, South Australia took the first actions and capped our water use from the Murray - recognising that we had to care for and manage this important resource for

our future generations. And in the 48 years since we took those first actions, South Australian has continued to be the leaders in compliance and management of the River.

We have seen evidence of water theft, corruption and substandard management that threaten the very water our state needs for its drinking supply and its farmers. We have reports that detail a lack of leadership at the Commonwealth level and a falling short in commitment by Basin States – we must now act.

We have to hold those governments and those irrigators who are alleged to be stealing billions of litres of water to account for their actions. And only a Royal Commission can do that. Only a Royal Commission will have the power to compel witnesses to give evidence and to get the Basin Plan back on track to ensure it is delivered on time and in full.

The State Labor Government will continue to fight for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to be delivered on time and in full. This includes our Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission into the implementation of the plan and continued advocacy for compliance, transparency and political commitment to the Plan.

In establishing this Royal Commission we're standing up South Australia to protect South Australia's interests, but also to protect the national interest.

### **Trees for life 1**

*Urgent review by 2019 of all legislation and other protection measures that impact on native vegetation and significant trees to address the unsustainable rate of removal in urban and regional areas.*

### **RESPONSE**

**The State Labor Government established a stronger focus on the value of native vegetation.**

**We want to protect the native vegetation and biodiversity of our state by ensuring there is strong legislation and offsets for native vegetation clearances.**

**Since 2009 the Native Vegetation Council has spent \$13,615,425 to offset the loss of approved clearances.**

**A further \$2,178,788 has gone towards on-ground works, including the purchase of land and stewardship payments to secure on-going conservation outcomes.**

**Native vegetation plays a vital role in the health and prosperity of South Australia's ecosystems, communities, and supporting natural resource-based industries.**

The State Labor Government has undertaken significant reform work around native vegetation and has undertaken reforms of its native vegetation policies and procedures, including a review and remaking of the 2003 Regulations to develop a more effective and efficient regulatory system. The aim of the review was to reduce regulatory burden for landholders and establish a stronger focus on the value of native vegetation in achieving biodiversity conservation priorities.

South Australian private landowners have embraced the native vegetation heritage agreement scheme under the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and over one million hectares of native vegetation has been perpetually protected under this scheme.

Significant Environmental Benefit compensates for the loss of vegetation from approved clearance. This is achieved by managing and enhancing native vegetation elsewhere, with the intent of providing a net environmental gain over and above the impact of the clearance.

Importantly, these reforms create a new market for environmental conservation, enabling individuals or entities to work directly with companies that are clearing native vegetation in order to provide the required Significant Environmental Benefit.

During 2017, with the support of SEB money secured through the Native Vegetation Act, three new projects are being launched that will restore and protect priority remnants of River Red Gum Woodland vegetation across the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. The three projects will encompass sites ranging from Meadows to Eden Valley over the next three years, with a focus on removing threats via fencing and weed control, facilitating regeneration and revegetation of native flora, and increasing community ownership and

involvement in the restoration activities. An SEB will be delivered over a total of 390 hectares within the region.

### **Trees for life**

*Support development of a biodiversity-focused carbon offsets industry in regional South Australia, delivered in partnership with the environment sector.*

### **RESPONSE**

**A re-elected Weatherill Government will be implementing a carbon offset strategy that will focus on a biodiversity-led carbon offset industry across South Australia, delivered in partnership with the environment sector.**

The State Labor Government recognises that offsets presents a new opportunity for land holders and farmers to earn income from their land. The potential for this new industry in South Australia was identified by the Low-Carbon Economy Experts Panel in 2015. The Government also recognises that establishing this industry can also help improve South Australia's environment through increasing bio-diversity and other conservation outcomes.

The State Labor Government has launched a planting guide for landholders that covers all regions in South Australia. This guide sets out what plants can be planted and their benefit to increasing biodiversity in the region. We have also committed \$1 million to developing a carbon sequestration industry in South Australia. As this industry develops the Government will continue to work with the environment sector to maximise the co-benefits this new industry can bring to our State.