

7.0 PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



2036

**WILL MARK
SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
BICENTENARY.**

Obviously, we have much to be proud of and grateful for, but I think most South Australians feel things could be a lot better. Where we once led the nation, we now follow. We need to reclaim our greatness.

2036 is more than just a date, it's a destination. A destination of hope and prosperity for South Australians, where we can have the life we want in the State we love. A destination where we can provide a better future for our children. A destination where our economy encourages opportunity and rewards effort and risk. A destination where possibility is available to all, not just a few.

That vision of 2036 inspires and excites me. However I'm not waiting until the election in 2018. Planning and delivering on the vision of 2036 must start now. And from our end it has.

In the lead up to the State election we will deliver a clear, consultative and responsible pathway to recovery and success.

This is the first step in our plan for a better South Australia. Please read it, talk about it with your friends and family.

Or, talk to me.

**I am Steven Marshall -
Leader of the State Liberals.**

2036 STARTS NOW.



marshall2036.com.au

A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS KEY TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE – WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR LANDSCAPES AND WATERWAYS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

7.0

We Believe

- In protecting our unique environment for a sustainable future
- In the importance of a sustainably productive landscape to grow our State's economy
- In basing environmental policy decisions on robust, reviewed scientific evidence
- In ensuring that communities, land managers, primary producers and stakeholders are always fully consulted and active participants in environmental management
- In transparent decision making when it comes to the environment
- In the equity and fairness of resources for South Australians

How we will achieve this together

- 7.1 Promoting scientifically-based evidence rather than empty symbolism
- 7.2 Prioritise providing resources to hands-on and on-ground efforts
- 7.3 Genuinely valuing local knowledge and volunteer efforts
- 7.4 Ensuring access to our environmental assets for all South Australians
- 7.5 Protecting the River Murray and our water resources

7.1 Scientific based evidence

Our landscape is unique in Australia and internationally, and we believe there is potential to better protect and restore our natural environments, while maintaining our reputation as a scenic natural location. We need South Australia's natural environmental areas to be protected through rigorous policies informed by the best scientific evidence now and beyond 2036.

In order to ensure that our coastal, bush, desert, suburban, river and lake habitats are given the best chance to be strong and environmentally balanced, government policy needs to utilise the best scientific evidence that is validated by locals on the ground.

For too long environmental policy has been driven by outdated and philosophically driven agendas. It is imperative that our environment, landscape, flora and fauna are understood and managed so they remain healthy and productive for future generations. We must acknowledge that there have been significant environmental changes since European settlement, and incorporate that understanding into our decision making.

We understand that our personal wellbeing and economic prosperity is supported by the environment in which we live. It's imperative that modern and scientifically appropriate management systems are fostered and implemented.

We will reform the policy making process in this area to ensure that all policy announcements are driven by need and evidence, rather than media opportunities or short term symbolism. This will

ensure that all environmental policy will work over the long term and have lasting benefits for our multiple ecosystems and landscapes.

“It's imperative that modern and scientifically appropriate management systems are fostered and implemented”

We need to use the best scientific evidence available to identify which animal and plant species may be endangered or under threat, and use this scientific expertise to ensure their long term survival.

We think it is essential that reform is undertaken to ensure that all environmental policy is created with the utmost integrity and timeliness. Whilst restoring balance to the department, this reform will also provide confidence to stakeholders and public servants on the day-to-day operations and policy creation of the department.

We understand that there can be no progress in environmental management if local communities, stakeholders and landholders are not given an adequate voice when policies are created and implemented. This is why the State Liberals will always listen to the concerns and needs of locals and stakeholders to ensure that policy decisions take into account their needs, as well as the best possible scientific evidence.

7.2 Resources on the ground

The majority of our environmental management needs to be carried out on the ground, rather than be a policy report in a central office. While policy creation at the department level is vital, we also appreciate the importance of those experts and volunteers on the ground who work so hard to rejuvenate and protect our natural areas.

More resources are needed on the ground to ensure that funds reach those places that need it most. We believe it is essential to reform the way resources are allocated through the department– rather than funnelling more money into bureaucracy or duplication, we will ensure projects at the forefront receive the funding they need to make a real difference. The proper allocation of resources is vital for efficient and effective environmental management.

“Ensuring practical resourcing of programs on the ground will ensure that no environment is disadvantaged due to regional location”

In order to understand what is needed and where, we will work with those on the frontline (including local communities and primary producers) to identify the projects which would have the biggest impact in either reversing existing damage or preventing new issues. The effects of climate change are often noticed first at the community level, just as animal protection issues are usually initially identified locally. Proper resourcing will allow environmental problems to be addressed as soon as they are identified, leading to healthier environments and more effective frontline management.

We will reprioritise resources according to what is needed on the ground, by listening and respecting those who are on the frontline of environmental management. We don't believe in dictating to those who live and breathe environmental protection daily – instead we think that collaboration is key in protecting our unique environment across South Australia.

Ensuring practical resourcing of programs on the ground will ensure that no environment is disadvantaged due to regional location.

7.3 Valuing our volunteers and local knowledge

We recognise the best, and indeed only, way to foster changes in environmental and landscape management is through grassroots involvement. We will genuinely respect local knowledge and experience, and ensure these voices are heard. We also appreciate the efforts of committed volunteers in their on the ground works.

Volunteers are the backbone of much of South Australia's environmental management. These groups are the ones who scour beaches for litter, track the progress of endangered animals and look after our heritage assets – amongst many other vital activities. These groups deserve the utmost respect from government for the work they do.

“Our environmental volunteers keep our natural areas balanced and sustainable - they are our unsung heroes”

We believe in the importance of actively working with local leaders and volunteer groups to ensure that they are able to continue looking after our environmental and heritage assets. We don't think that grassroots organisations should be isolated from the policy process; rather, we believe they should be empowered to stand up for their community and get the resources they need to care for our environment.

Like individual ecosystems, not all volunteer and environmental organisations are the same. We understand that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to environmental policy does a disservice to our State and frontline environmental managers. We want to get the best possible environmental outcomes for South Australia, and this cannot be achieved without utilising local knowledge about the areas in our State which need the most attention.

In order to achieve a better communication pathway between volunteer groups on the ground and the policy makers, we will actively work to re-establish and re-engage with local volunteer groups who may have felt ignored and disenfranchised in the past.

The best results for South Australia will only be achieved by everyone working together to protect our precious natural resources and heritage assets.

7.4 Ensuring access to our environmental assets

We are lucky as South Australians to have so many environmental and heritage assets in our State. The State Liberals believe that our environmental areas should be accessible for everyone to visit, protect and enjoy, now and beyond 2036.

Community access to our national parks, reserves, heritage properties, rivers and beaches allows South Australians to enjoy the best our State has to offer while also driving tourism and sustainable recreation. Our environmental areas should be enjoyed by everyone, not locked away from the people.

While measures must always be taken to ensure that visitors respect and care for our national parks and beaches, we also believe that it is your right as a South Australian to visit the assets that make our State unique.

This includes ensuring the necessary infrastructure to allow South Australians with a disability to enjoy the best of our State.

Every time we take our families to visit our local beach, camp in a national park or picnic in a reserve or garden, we are helping these places remain viable and relevant. Visitors from interstate and overseas who come to experience our unique natural environments contribute to our economy and grow our reputation as a tourism destination.

We believe that government has a role to play in ensuring we grow our share of the tourism market by promoting our State's natural assets. By protecting our environmental areas and maintaining responsible and sustainable access for the public, we will be able to capitalise from the economic injection of tourism, and in turn, return these funds to further strengthen our environmental management.

In 2036 we want South Australia to have grown its reputation as a haven for environmental tourism and easily accessible natural beauty.

“Government has a role to play in ensuring we grow our share of the tourism market by promoting our State's natural assets”

7.5 Protecting the River Murray and our water resources

The future of our State in 2036 and beyond depends upon the ongoing health and viability of our vital water resources. The River Murray is the lifeblood of our regions and our cities, and we must always remain committed to maintaining our water security.

Not only is the River Murray a major tourism drawcard and ecological backbone, it is also vitally important to supporting our primary producers and State economy. If the River Murray was to fail, our State would face an unprecedented environmental disaster which would cripple us indefinitely. The State Liberals understand this and are committed to ensuring that this never eventuates.

We need to secure the health of our natural environment to ensure clean, quality water is available for the environment and water users. We can secure the future of our biggest river by ensuring the Murray Darling Basin Plan is fully implemented by 2019 and further enhanced by additional flows to provide ongoing water security for you and your family.

Another important step in protecting our water resources is for government to take a proactive approach to mitigate and reduce the impact of climate change on the Murray Darling Basin and subsidiaries. We will always use the best scientific evidence to drive our environmental management and protect our vital water resources.

“The River Murray is the lifeblood of our regions and our cities, and we must always remain committed to maintaining our water security”

**“WE LIVE IN THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL
NATURAL
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WE MUST
PROTECT IT.”**

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ OUR PLAN TO RECLAIM SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GREATNESS.

Let me know your thoughts, stay connected,
and let's take the first step toward 2036 together.

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