

ROBERT SIMMS

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

10 March 2022

Craig Wilkins
Chief Executive
Conservation SA

Peter Owen
Director
The Wilderness
Society (SA)

Natasha Davis
Chair
SA Nature Alliance

Darren Peacock
Chief Executive Officer
National Trust (SA)

Patrick O'Connor
President
Nature Conservation
Society (SA)

Daniel Bennett
President
Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects (SA)

Steven Langley
President
Birds SA

Sent via email: craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au

Dear Craig, Peter, Natasha, Darren, Patrick, Daniel and Steven,

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

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Q2

Substantially strengthen SA's legislated short term climate targets by: Introducing a reduction target based on the best available science (at least a 75% reduction in carbon emissions on 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2035)

Yes

Q3

Substantially strengthen SA's legislated short term climate targets by: Introducing mandatory carbon budgets into SA's Climate Change Act to provide a clearer carbon reduction pathway.

Yes

Q4

Substantially strengthen the response to climate change, water and biodiversity sensitive design in the Planning & Design Code and other key planning policy.

Yes

Q5

Provide clear market signals for the development industry, including: Emphasising the shift away from methane gas by banning all incentives for new gas connections for residential and commercial properties

Yes

Q6

Provide clear market signals for the development industry, including: Mandating light coloured roofing to reflect heat.

Yes

Q7

Make SA a world leader in Natural Climate Solutions (conservation, restoration and improved land management actions that increase carbon storage or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in landscapes and wetlands), whilst ensuring any infrastructure for renewable energy avoids all areas of conservation value – for example, no further clearance of native vegetation for solar farms.

Yes

KEEP GAS IN THE GROUND

Q8

No new gas, coal and oil activity approvals in South Australia, including: An immediate stop to the release of all fossil fuel exploration acreage (including offshore), an end to all gas, coal and oil exploration and the retirement of exploration licences and leases at point of renewal (no further extensions of any kind to be granted).

Yes

Q9

No new gas, coal and oil activity approvals in South Australia, including: An end to all state government subsidies for gas, coal and oil-related activity, including carbon capture & storage.

Yes

Q10

No new gas, coal and oil activity approvals in South Australia, including: A ban on the use of Underground Coal Gasification.

Yes

Q11

Require all hydrogen energy and production systems to be sourced from 100% renewable energy

Yes

Q12

No further extensions to be granted for Petroleum Exploration Leases currently held by Tri-Star within and adjacent to the Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert National Park and the immediate retirement of the leases if/when Tri-Star withdraws.

Yes

PRIORITISE CLEANER TRANSPORT

Q13

Scrap the Torrens to Darlington phase of the North-South Corridor and commit to re-directing the proposed \$10bn+ spend towards upgrading South Australia's public and active transport systems.

Yes

Q14

Commit to diverting freight away from the SE freeway via a road and rail corridor behind the Adelaide Hills as an alternative to directing interstate trucks down Cross Road.

Other (please specify):

We support the investigation of the bypass as an option to take trucks off suburban roads, but it is not an overall solution. The bypass may enable the use of larger truck configurations and will improve freight productivity. We must recognise that this will likely lead to a net increase in the amount of trucks on the roads. We need policies that put planning at the forefront, and this means more investment in active and public transport options for the community. While the Greens want to see a reduction in trucks on our suburban roads – and a bypass would achieve this - until we put people back into planning, we will continue to prioritise investment in roads, instead of alternate modes to reducing congestion.

Q15

Require peer-reviewed, publicly shared Cost-Benefit ratios and analysis that give appropriate weighting to social, climate and environmental factors to be used for all road projects above \$10m.

Yes

Q16

Urgently transition the state bus fleet to 100% electric and fast track the electrification of the SA rail network, including the Belair line.

Yes

Q17

Commit to acquiring the land and progressing infrastructure development for passenger rail extensions to Aldinga, Virginia and Two Wells.

Yes

Q18

Increase funding for core bus services to expand frequency of services, particularly to outer suburbs, and interconnectors (e.g. Route 100/300).

Yes

Q19

Conduct a detailed feasibility study to explore the option of extending the metro rail network to Mt Barker and Murray Bridge and other public transport solutions for the Adelaide Hills.

Other (please specify):

There have been many feasibility studies conducted over the years, that show the project is viable. The people of Mount Barker and the Adelaide Hills have been the victims of a poor planning process – one that fails to consider infrastructure needs and puts the interests of developers ahead of the community. The people of the Adelaide Hills deserve reliable, accessible, and safe transport options. This would not only reduce commuter car traffic on the SE Freeway, but also reduce emissions. The Greens just want to get on with it - we don't need any more studies.

Q20

Commit at least \$20M (per annum) to the State Bicycle Fund for low-stress local bike routes and remove cap on spending: i.e. fully fund rather than require 50% Local Government top-up.

Yes

Q21

Construct a cycling and walking track across the River Torrens to link the Royal Adelaide Hospital with North Adelaide.

Yes

Q22

Complete the Greenways (cycling / shared-use paths) currently under construction and provide allocated funding to further expand the Greenways network.

Yes

Q23

Fund the full implementation of the State Walking Strategy, including increased funding for the Safe Streets to School

Yes

Q24

Massively increase incentives to encourage electric vehicle uptake by: Removing stamp duty from EVs under \$78,000 purchased from April 1, 2022 and from all other EVs and plug-in hybrids from 1 July 2027 or when EVs make up at least 30% of new car sales, at which time a road user charge will be introduced.

Yes

Q25

Massively increase incentives to encourage electric vehicle uptake, by: Providing subsidies for installing a smart home charger.

Yes

Q26

Massively increase incentives to encourage electric vehicle uptake, by: Providing a minimum \$6,000 subsidy available from April 1, 2022 for the first 10,000 battery-electric vehicles purchased in South Australia.

Yes

ENERGY TRANSFORMATION**Q27**

Ensure all South Australians are empowered through the energy transformation, by: Funding the creation of solar 'farms' or 'gardens' to enable renters and apartment dwellers to access the benefits of solar.

Yes

Q28

Ensure all South Australians are empowered through the energy transformation, by: Working with Indigenous communities to co-design and fund an Aboriginal Renewables Program.

Yes

Q29

Ensure all South Australians are empowered through the energy transformation, by: Facilitating peer to peer trading of household solar energy.

Yes

Q30

Ensure all South Australians are empowered through the energy transformation, by: Implementing minimum energy efficiency standards for private and public rental properties, and mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings for all rental properties in South Australia.

Yes

Q31

Committing additional funding of \$64 million over four years for Housing SA and other community-based organisations to deliver a targeted energy efficiency program for public and community housing tenants.

Yes

Q32

Create a workforce plan by 2023 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

PROTECT BIG TREES

Q33

Commit to law reform to protect urban tree canopy as outlined in the Call to Action, and Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws reports including: Bringing South Australia into line with similar jurisdictions in Victoria and New South Wales by changing the definition of a Regulated tree to one that: - has a trunk circumference of 1m or more measured 1m above the ground, or - has a height of 6m or more, or - has canopy of over 9sqm.

Yes

Q34

Commit to law reform to protect urban tree canopy as outlined in the Call to Action, and Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws reports including: Removing the series of exemptions to planning regulations introduced in 2011 that allow the removal of mature trees without approval, including the 10m rule and the 20m rule.

Yes

Q35

Commit to law reform to protect urban tree canopy as outlined in the Call to Action, and Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws reports including: Restoring the requirement for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department for Education to conduct consultation and planning approval before the removal of regulated and significant trees.

Yes

Q36

Commit to law reform to protect urban tree canopy as outlined in the Call to Action, and Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws reports including: Increasing offset scheme fees to match the costs that are consequently passed on to Councils to plant, establish and maintain replacement trees.

Yes

Q37

Commit to law reform to protect urban tree canopy as outlined in the Call to Action, and Comparison of Australia's Tree Laws reports including: Increasing the number and size of trees required by the Planning and Design Code to be planted in new developments.

Yes

WELLBEING ECONOMY

Q38

Follow New Zealand's lead and introduce a 'Wellbeing Budget' that better considers economic, environmental and social objectives together through: Breaking down agency silos and requiring across-

government work Focusing on outcomes that meet the needs of present generations at the same time as thinking about the long term impacts for future generations, and Tracking progress with broader measures of success, including the health of people, communities, the environment and public finances.

Yes

Q39

Join the Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) Partnership – a collaboration of national and regional governments promoting sharing of expertise and transferrable policy practices, with the aim to deepen their understanding and advance their shared ambition of building Wellbeing Economies (currently comprises Scotland, New Zealand, Iceland, Wales, and Finland).

Yes

Q40

Develop a set of Environmental-Economic accounts for South Australia, based on United Nation's SEEA Framework, to integrate economic, environmental and social data into a single, coherent framework for holistic decision-making.

Yes

CLEAN STATE, NO WASTE

Q41

Actively oppose the Federal Government's attempt to impose a temporary intermediate level nuclear waste facility in SA.

Yes

Q42

Publicly advocate for intermediate level radioactive waste (which needs to be kept safe from humans for 10,000 years) to continue to be stored in situ at Lucas Heights until a comprehensive, permanent (deep geological) solution is in place for the disposal of Australia's long lived radioactive waste.

Yes

Q43

Commit to expanding the successful and popular Container Deposit Legislation scheme to all glass (including wine and spirit) bottles, and plastic milk bottles.

Yes

Q44

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 (please specify):

The Greens support in principle, however we have concerns around the feasibility of the 2023 deadline. Our policy aims for 90% by 2030.

Q45

Push nationally for an urgent phase-out of plastic waste in packaging through extended producer responsibility and a ban on the sale of products containing micro-plastics/micro-beads.

Yes

PROTECT IMPORTANT AREAS**Q46**

A clear, legislated ban by the end of 2022 on all mining and other industrial development within South Australia's protected area estate (land and sea).

Yes

Q47

Carry out a wilderness assessment to determine the extent of the state's remaining large intact ecosystems and a climate refugia assessment to inform an expansion of the protected area estate and the creation of wildlife corridors that allow species to move and adapt to climate change.

Yes

Q48

Ensure fire management strategies in wilderness areas are based on the best available science and not on vegetation mosaics and the construction of fire access tracks.

Yes

Q49

Commit to working with First Nations communities in SA to care for country, by: Expanding and securing initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers and Establishing a First Nations Advisory Group to provide advice directly to the Minister for Environment on matters including the protection of Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites.

Yes

Q50

Support World Heritage protection for the Great Australian Bight.

Yes

Q51

Investigate the possibility of World Heritage protection for the terrestrial freshwater ecosystems of the Lake Eyre Basin catchment.

Yes

Q52

Investigate the possibility of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for Kangaroo Island.

Yes

Q53

Protect ecologically important areas of the outback, including through proclamations under the Wilderness Protection Act 1992, such as Goyder Lagoon, the Kallakoopah Creek region and Coongie Lakes Ramsar site.

Yes

Q54

Safeguard South Australia's biodiversity by ensuring 30% of all land ecosystems and 30% of all marine ecosystems are fully protected by 2030.

Yes

Q55

Expand the protected area estate with active revegetation/restoration, targeting the types of ecosystems that have been most cleared in South Australia, like wetlands and woodlands.

Yes

BEAUTIFUL COASTS AND MARINE

Q56

Develop and fund a long-term plan to restore the damaged St Kilda samphire, salt marsh and mangroves, including: the removal of damaging salt from the leaking ponds to the South of St Kilda Road, and in partnership with the community, develop a closure/rehabilitation plan for the salt ponds and the surrounding tidal wetlands.

Yes

Q57

Create a specific Whale Nursery Protection Area at Encounter Bay, in line with equivalent protections at Fowlers Bay and Warrnambool.

Yes

Q58

Resource a comprehensive management plan led by a government, industry, science and community taskforce to respond to the recent listing of the Australian Sea Lion as endangered.

Yes

Q59

Develop a long-term vision for a sustainable 'Living Shorelines' strategy to protect our coastal communities and beaches from storm surges and sea level rise.

Yes

Q60

Reinstitute the fishing ban in the Upper Spencer Gulf of the Giant Australian Cuttlefish during its spawning aggregation season.

Yes

Q61

Fund the creation of additional oyster reefs and further seagrass restoration, including funding for a new reef in the Brighton/Seacliff/Hallett Cove region

Yes

Q62

Increase protections in the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, including banning the use of heavy fishing gear & permanent reduction of boat speeds.

Yes

Q63

Institute a moratorium on new finfish aquaculture approvals until Water Quality Guidelines for SA have been updated and zone plans reviewed.

Yes

Q64

Guarantee adequate resourcing for monitoring and compliance of marine parks, for example vessels, staffing and an annual research program.

Yes

INVEST IN NATURE

Q65

A commitment to invest an additional \$1 billion over four years to protect, restore and enhance nature and biodiversity in SA.

Yes

Q66

Commitment to a minimum of three-year government and landscape board contracts for partnership work with the NGO sector, to enable longer-term gains.

Yes

Q67

Grow capacity in the for-purpose sector through increased funding, Inc. peak body funding to the Conservation Council of SA.

Yes

Q68

A significant increase in funding for the recovery of South Australia's threatened wildlife, distributed according to cost-effectiveness prioritisation.

Yes

Q69

A commitment to continue and increase the funding of the Revitalising Private Conservation program to \$18 million over three years (a collaboration between environment and agricultural organisations that provides technical and financial assistance to current and aspiring native vegetation Heritage Agreement owners across the state).

Yes

PROTECT OUR RANGELANDS

Q70

Ensure a clear legal pathway for voluntary conservation agreements, including Heritage Agreements, on pastoral leasehold land, and ensure all leaseholders who currently manage land for the primary purpose of conservation can continue to do so.

Yes

Q71

Retain safeguards which ensure the sustainable management of the rangelands including stock maximums and a duty for leaseholders to prevent degradation and recognise the need for the rangelands to be managed for climate change.

Yes

Q72

Retain rolling 42-year lease terms.

Yes

Q73

Increase the annual resourcing of the Pastoral Land Board and PIRSA to at least \$5 million per year to enable them to undertake management, monitoring and enforcement of lease conditions in a timely and effective manner.

Yes

Q74

Create a balanced, independent Pastoral Board with ongoing representation from the Conservation Council of SA, a credible rangelands ecologist and an independent Chair.

Yes

DRIEST STATE, DRIEST CONTINENT

Q75

Provide strong State Government led advocacy to ensure that the Murray Darling Basin Plan returns the equivalent of 3200 GL to the environment by the 2024 reconciliation date, including a clear, public commitment to voluntary buybacks prior to 2024 to ensure the water is returned in full.

Yes

Q76

Investigate the possibility of a 'Super Park' within the Coorong & Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site, including the Coorong National Park and the Lawari Conservation Park at the Murray Mouth to better protect and help showcase this vital river habitat.

Yes

Q77

Create an urban water security plan that ensures: The reinstatement of requirements in the State Building Code to connect rainwater tanks for internal household use

Yes

Q78

Create an urban water security plan that ensures: A comprehensive review of the Planning & Design Code to ensure greater prominence and protection of Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Yes

Q79

Create an urban water security plan that ensures: Governance structures are addressed to enable Government, Councils and other agencies and authorities to deliver true integrated water management and stop treating recycled, stormwater and mains water in isolation.

Yes

Q80

Work with landholders to create 1000 hectares of 'regional recharge farms' in agricultural regions of the state by 2025.

Yes

Q81

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

Yes

LOOKING AFTER NATURE

Q82

In 2022, institute the Legislative Review Committee recommendation to "establish an independent review of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and the implementation of the Planning and Design Code to determine its impacts on community rights, sustainability and protection of the environment."

Yes

Q83

Increase the legislative protection and funding for assessment, monitoring and compliance of the Native Vegetation Act, including: A commitment to reduce the number and extent of exemptions in the Act & Regulations which limit effective protection.

Yes

Q84

Increase the legislative protection and funding for assessment, monitoring and compliance of the Native Vegetation Act, including: Ruling out any reduction in the level of legislative protection for native vegetation and biodiversity.

Yes

Q85

Prevent activities, such as off-road vehicle driving, that damage coastal beaches and dunes.

Yes

Q86

Ban the hunting of ducks and quails.

Yes

Q87

Commit to eradicate feral cats on Kangaroo Island and expand cat-control programs in Northern SA.

Yes

Q88

Manage dingoes in a manner that recognises the vital role of the dingo as a valuable apex predator in South Australia's ecosystems, including: Instituting science-based measures and triggers for control underpinned by rigorous, long-term monitoring and evaluation programs that are adequately resourced before baiting is authorised north of the fence

Yes

Q89

Manage dingoes in a manner that recognises the vital role of the dingo as a valuable apex predator in South Australia's ecosystems, including: A shift towards a user-pays approach to apportioning the cost of the dingo fence and other pastoral-focused dingo management.

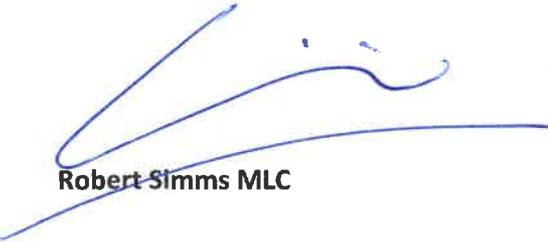
Yes

Q90

Introduce legislation to strengthen the legal protection of the democratic rights of people and communities to peacefully protest or prevent environmentally destructive activities and other such actions taken in the public interest.

Yes

Yours sincerely



Robert Simms MLC