



**CONNIE BONAROS** MLC  
**FRANK PANGALLO** MLC  
Members of the Legislative Council  
Parliament of South Australia

11 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](mailto:craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au)

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

SA Best 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.

Other (please specify):

We look forward to consulting on any proposed legislation with you with a view to supporting practical and realistic forums.

##### **Q4**

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

Other (please specify):

The entire planning and design code needs a review.

**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

Other (please specify):

subject to further consultation on how this impacts housing affordability.

**Q6**

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

Other (please specify):

Support on the basis it is phased in for new builds and reconsider as part of the review of the Planning & Design Code

**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**

Page 5: 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).

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation but support in principle

**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.

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation

**Q10**

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

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation

**Q11**

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

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation

**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**

Page 6: 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.

**No**

**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.

**Yes**

**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.

**Yes**

**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.

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation with local government and the opportunity cost

**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**

Page 7: 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.

Other (please specify):  
subject to further consultation with all relevant stakeholders

**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.

Other (please specify):  
subject to further consultation

**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.

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation with relevant stakeholders

**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.

Other (please specify):  
In principle support but this cannot come at the expense of desperately needed public and  
community housing

**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

Other (please specify):

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.

Other (please specify):  
We support a review of the Urban Tree Fund and how it is used

**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.

Other (please specify):

We support a review of the exemption process and the effectiveness of the current Urban Tree Fund scheme

**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.

**No**

**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.

Other (please specify):

We support a review of the Urban Tree Fund as above

**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.

Other (please specify):

this should form a part of a review of the Planning and Design Code

**WELLBEING ECONOMY7**

**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**

Page 10: CLEAN STATE, NO WASTE

**Q41**

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

Other (please specify):  
subject to further consultation

**Q42**

Publicly advocate for intermediate level radioactive waste (which needs to be kept safe from humans for 10,000years) 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):  
query practicality of timeframe

**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).

**No**

### **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.

**No**

**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.

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation with all relevant stakeholders

**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**

Page 13: 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.

Other (please specify):

subject to review and consultation with all relevant stakeholders

**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.

Other (please specify):

maintain current protections and review periodically with all relevant stakeholders

**Q63**

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

Other (please specify):

We don't support a moratorium but support a timely review

**Q64**

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

Other (please specify):

Utilise current compliance and monitoring tools without duplicating existing processes within state and federal government departments

## INVEST IN NATURE

### **Q65**

A commitment to invest an additional \$1 billion over 4 years to protect, restore and enhance nature and biodiversity in SA.

Other (please specify):

Query the opportunity cost of \$1 billion spend

### **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.

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation

### **Q67**

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

Other (please specify):

We support open and transparent funding to peak industry bodies

### **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).

Other (please specify):

subject to consultation

## 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.

Other (please specify):

We intend to extensively consult on any new draft of the Pastoral Bill, noting the significant stakeholder concerns in relation to the first draft.

**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.

Other (please specify):

as above

**Q72**

Retain rolling 42-year lease terms.

Other (please specify):

as above

**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.

Other (please specify):

as above

**Q74**

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

Other (please specify):

as above

Page 16: 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

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation

**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**

**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.

Other (please specify):

support a review of legislation

**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.

Other (please specify):

support a review of legislation

**Q85**

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

**No**

**Q86**

Ban the hunting of ducks and quails.

**No**

**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

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation

**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.

Other (please specify):  
subject to consultation

**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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Connie Bonaros', written over a faint circular stamp.

Connie Bonaros MLC

SA-BEST