



AN UPDATE FROM ROBERT SIMMS MLC

GREENS MEMBER OF STATE PARLIAMENT

☀ Summer 2022



DEAR RESIDENT

It's been an honour representing you in the state Upper House. Here's a snapshot of some of the things I've been working on in the Parliament over the last year.

HOUSING FOR ALL

South Australia is in the midst of a housing affordability crisis and I am very concerned about the impact of this, along with the pandemic on the most vulnerable members of our community

I have spoken out in Parliament against funding cuts to the Hutt Street Centre and Catherine House and repeatedly questioned the Government about what strategies are in place to ensure the COVID vaccine is available to people experiencing homelessness. Last year, I successfully moved to extend the moratorium on rental evictions for people experiencing severe rental distress as a result of COVID-19. This moratorium was set to end in June, and I was

pleased to see the Government bow to pressure from the Greens and extend this until December.

Now that this measure has expired, I remain concerned that many South Australians may face an uncertain future. I will continue to focus on this issue in the new Parliament, and ensure the Government is held to account.



with Chris Burns, Hutt St Centre CEO

with the community in fighting this move to privatise our public green space.

In October, my motion opposing the Riverbank Arena being built on the Park Lands passed the Legislative Council and in November I introduced a Private Member's Bill that would have prevented the Government from rezoning the Park Lands without the approval of both Houses of Parliament. It was disappointing to see this blocked in the Upper House by the Labor and Liberal parties.

In November, I introduced another Private Member's Bill to add the Park Lands to the state heritage list. The Greens will continue to do everything we can to protect our iconic Park Lands.

PROTECTING OUR PARKLANDS

Last year, the Liberals announced plans to build a riverbank arena on Helen Mayo Park, and rezone other areas of the Park Lands to allow commercial development. The Greens have been standing



with Barbara Pocock, Greens lead senate candidate 2022

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GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Raising the bar of political transparency has been a long-term project of the Greens. Nobody should be above scrutiny in our democracy. In May, I amended the Local Government Review Bill to ensure that candidates standing for Council are now required to disclose donations received before the voting period.

In December 2021, I introduced a Bill to allow for the proactive disclosure of ministerial diaries. This would require ministers to make publicly available monthly all meetings, events and functions relating to their professional responsibilities.

REDUCING WASTE

In September, I introduced a Bill to encourage food businesses to allow customers to bring in their own takeaway containers to reduce waste. This reform involved amending the Civil Liability Act to provide protection from liability for businesses that allow BYO containers (but not protection for selling unsafe food).

The Bill has had support from businesses and consumers who are keen to make green choices.

I was pleased to see this reform unanimously backed in the Upper House and am looking forward to its progression in the Lower House in the new Parliament.

CAPPING VC SALARIES

In August of last year I introduced a Bill to cap Vice Chancellor salaries to bring them in line with community expectations. This came as Adelaide University's governing Council backed a proposal to merge five faculties into three and axe staff. With staff working in the state's university sector facing so much uncertainty, it's appalling that SA's Uni chiefs remain some of the highest paid in the world. I will continue to stand with University staff and students in resisting job cuts and mergers, and plan to continue to pursue this issue in the new Parliament.



at rally against university job cuts

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

8

Private Member's
Bills Introduced

2

Private Member's
Bills Passed

10

Motions Moved

3

Motions Passed

47

Questions Asked

42

Speeches Made

GET IN TOUCH

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We respectfully acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Kaurna people.