

NARUNGGGA *NEEDS*

2026-2030

FRASER ELLIS MP
MEMBER FOR NARUNGGGA



A man with short, dark hair, smiling, stands on a wooden deck. He is wearing a white, long-sleeved, button-down shirt with thin vertical stripes, tucked into dark blue trousers, secured with a brown belt. He has his arms crossed and is wearing brown leather shoes. The background features a clear blue sky with light clouds, a body of water, and some green foliage on the right side.

This booklet is
a vision for the
future and has
been developed
in consultation
with the
community.
I welcome all
feedback.

My Local Priorities

Since my election in 2018 my priorities have remained steadfast based on my overriding belief that crucial to the sustainability and growth of our rural district are:

- *The delivery of quality health services*
- *The provision of a fair share of investment in local roads and infrastructure projects*
- *Achieving regional development through increased support for our valuable grains, livestock and tourism industries; and*
- *Lowering costs of living and doing business*

We have achieved much in the last seven years, including, most especially getting years-long touted road upgrades finally completed.

But there is much more to be done.

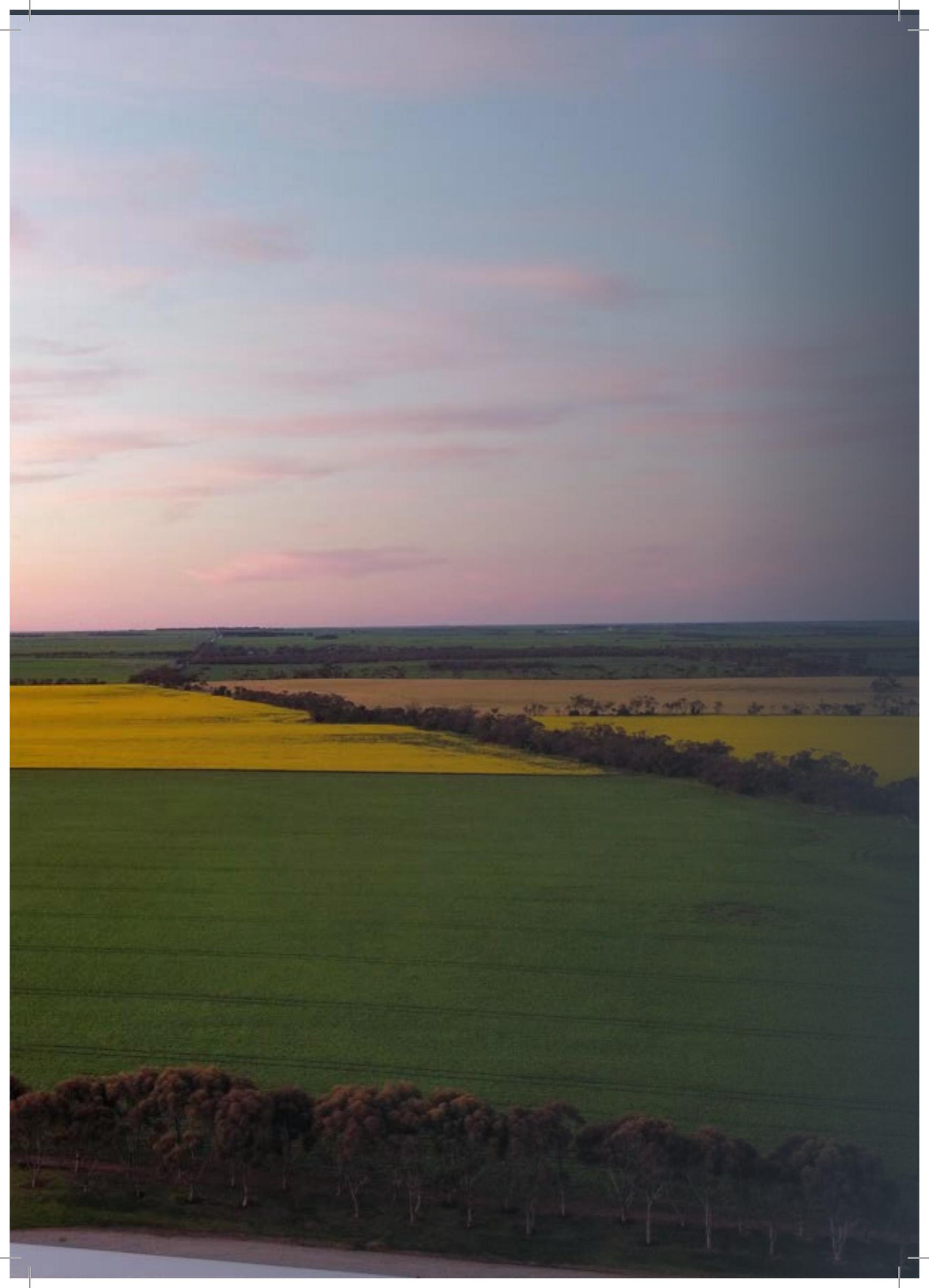
Top of list is having a health service that grows to meet the expanding demands of the increasing numbers of people who are choosing to call the Narungga electorate home.

This booklet is a vision for the future and has been developed in consultation with the community. I welcome all feedback.

I am passionate about the growth prospects of Narungga if there is a focus on essential services and if governments can get out of the way of private enterprise via reduced red tape.

I firmly believe the policies and infrastructure and service needs outlined within are vital for the future livability of our region, and ultimately, for the State's prosperity as a whole.





Contents

Investment in our Hospitals.....	6-9
Major Wallaroo Hospital Upgrade	
Wallaroo Hospital Theatre Upgrade	
Yorketown & Maitland A&E Upgrades	
Ardrossan Emergency Service	
Mental health services	
Paid paramedics to support local volunteers	
Patient Assistance Transport Scheme improvements	
24/7 radiology services	
Health Petition Inquiry update	
Continued pipeline of road works.....	10-11
Deceleration Lane Fund	
Overtaking Lanes	
Priority Roads List	
Better community infrastructure.....	12-13
Mobile Connectivity	
Extending the battery life of phone towers	
Jetties Fund increase	
Regional Development opportunities.....	14-17
Local Sporting infrastructure	
Improved Access to Childcare	
Tourism	
Road Hazard Accountability	
Spruce up our main streets	
Intra-town public transport	
Keep State debt under control.....	18
Establish a debt ceiling	
Red tape reduction committee	
Better prepared for power outages.....	19
Compensation for extended outages	
Designated community refuge centres	
Provide adequate housing stock.....	20-21
Supply of social and government worker housing	
SA Water Infrastructure	
Prioritise the agricultural industry.....	22-23
Support for improved land access	
30m HML Gazettal for all council roads	
Reduce taxes.....	24-25
No ESL Levy for emergency services volunteers	
50% Payroll Tax discount for regional SA	
Caring for environment.....	26-27
Research and action re Algae Bloom	
Ensure sand drifts unimpeded	
Better management of pest and weeds	

Narungga needs

... Investment in our Hospitals

\$50M

Major Wallaroo Hospital Upgrade

Wallaroo Hospital has 21 beds – a figure that has not increased since it was built 37 years ago. It remains comically small.

In that 37 years demand for its services has increased dramatically with significant population growth and massive tourism influxes.

Activity demand increased 22% between 2017 and 2021 and is expected to increase by 38% by 2036.

\$10M

Wallaroo Hospital Theatre Upgrade

In 2024/25 an operating theatre and obstetric delivery service were forced to close for a lengthy period because of malfunctioned facilities.

That is plainly unacceptable. We have new surgeons willing to offer more services and we must continue to offer birthing services.

\$18M

Yorketown & Maitland A&E Upgrades

Both sites have dated, impractical Accident and Emergency departments. Each site struggles to attract permanent and locum doctors to their facility.

Upgraded A&Es would make it more enticing for health practitioners, more workable for staff and provide a better service for patients.

\$10M

OVER 7 YEARS

Ardrossan Emergency Service

Ardrossan Community Hospital was shuttered in 2023. The decline of privately insured patients meant a number of presentations were unfunded and caused significant difficulty in staying financial.

Despite this Ardrossan deserves an emergency health service. It is the largest town in the Yorke Peninsula Council area, and has a significant retired and aging population. In Keith, when their community hospital was forced to close, the Government stepped in to provide a public, emergency triage service. It needs to do the same here.



\$5M

Mental health services

There is a mental health crisis in regional areas - including ours. Wait times for a publicly-funded psychologist is in excess of 12 months and there are no options for acute care. We need a Mental Health Alternative Care Service for our region like the one in Port Pirie and a Headspace for young people aged 12-24 to start to address this crisis.



\$7.5M

Paid paramedics to support local volunteers

The strain on our ambo volunteers is immense and the numbers are in freefall. The volunteer system is on the precipice of collapse which would leave our regions with no ambulance services. I am advocating for a mixed system of paid paramedics and volunteers in supporting roles. Paid paramedics could reduce the training requirements and responsibilities imposed on volunteers and make it easier to attract them into supporting roles.



\$1M

Patient Assistance Transport Scheme

PATS enables people from regional SA reimbursement for costs in accessing services that aren't available where they live. While the costs of accessing those treatments continues to rise, subsidy assistance does not. The subsidy should be tied to CPI index increases and greater recognition should be given to long waiting lists as a legitimate reason to bypass local services.



\$1M

24/7 CT and ultrasound

As the largest health facility in our electorate there must be 24/7 ultrasound and CT imaging available. Currently a patient requiring an urgent CT for stroke management and diagnosis must be transported to Port Pirie Hospital for an out of hours scan. These delays are dangerous and creates a significant cost and workforce issue.

Narungga needs ... more health services

Health petition update – Parliamentary Committee recommendations tabled

On 18 September 2025, the Economic and Finance Committee tabled its recommendations to Parliament after its near year-long formal Inquiry into the delivery of health services on the Yorke Peninsula.

It is now three years since we launched the petition to force State Parliament to improve health services across the Narungga electorate, and near two years since we tallied the mammoth more than 10,000 signatures that were required to trigger a formal Inquiry into our requested actions.

I was so proud to lodge the petition in Parliament on 15 November 2023, and we all patiently awaited the formal Inquiry that under law was to ensue, which finally commenced in November 2024.

The community again rallied, providing 86 written submissions and participating in public hearings held in March 2025 as a vital part of the Inquiry process.

Of the tabled final report, I am disappointed in its underwhelming language, with far too many recommendations calling for the Government to ‘consider’ or ‘investigate’ certain actions that arise out of the evidence.

The report includes a number of recommendations which should be adopted, without consideration, investigation or equivocation, immediately by both sides of politics.

Of the 16 recommendations presented, number one is upgrading services at Wallaroo Hospital, including increasing the number of beds and ensuring 24/7 on site radiology services.

Also importantly, on the findings list are recommendations for further investigation into new ED facilities for Yorketown and Maitland, more mental health and palliative care services, expansion of GP and nursing staff incentives to aid recruitment, more support for our local volunteer ambos, and changes to the Patient Assistant Transport Scheme.



CK OF IT.
LTHPETITION

Narungga needs ... a continued pipeline of road works

\$2M
Per Annum

Deceleration Lane Fund

Our coastal communities are exciting holiday destinations for so many who visit our region but almost none have attractive, safe entrances from the main road. Stansbury is an example of what our coastal community entrances should look like – well lit and with deceleration lanes.

Hardwicke Bay is an example of a community that has been pleading for one for years.

\$20M
Per Year

Overtaking Lanes

As trucks get bigger and longer, caravans become more prevalent and traffic to our community increases it becomes more important that there are safe overtaking opportunities. Currently our road network is almost bereft of them. The RAA Regional Road Assessment has identified increased overtaking lanes in its last four surveys and we need a fund to get this investment started.



Priority Roads List

We have made great progress on road works throughout the past eight years but there remains a great deal to do. Roads are the lifeblood of our community – they allow us to get to social engagements, arrive at work safely and to deliver important commodities to port. Our next tranche of road works needs to be locked in and I would like to see a series of roads in the southern part of the peninsula as well as some in the northern part of the electorate prioritised.



Narungga needs ... better community infrastructure

Mobile Connectivity

Reliable access to mobile connectivity continues to be of critical importance to people living, working and travelling in the Narungga electorate. It is not a luxury but an essential tool for business, community safety and regional service delivery. I also alarmingly, continue to receive reports of poor-quality mobile network coverage in areas that used to have reliable connectivity. With so many black spots we need a multi-tiered Government approach like the one that resulted in 27 new towers in the South East.

Extending the battery life of phone towers

We cannot leave whole communities vulnerable with no phone or internet every time extended power outages occur. I am seeking amendments to legislation to specify the need for at least 24 hours of reserve power in regional areas particularly prone to bushfires. I am advised by telcos the cost for towers to have 24-hour battery charge is in the vicinity of \$50,000 a tower with an additional \$10,000 a year maintenance costs.

Jetties Fund increase

While it was welcome news that the Government was to establish a jetties fund for the refurbishment of jetties around the state it is clear that more is needed. Our jetties are too important for local recreational needs and our tourism industry to risk closure, or worse, having to be torn down for safety reasons due to storm damage or an irresponsible lack of regular maintenance. The fund should be quadrupled and onus on councils reduced.

**Mobile
Connectivity**



\$6M

Per Year

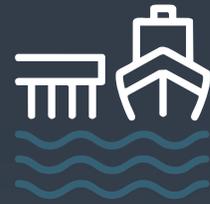
**Extending phone
tower battery life**



\$1M

Per Year

**Jetty Fund
Increase**



\$20M

Per Year



Narungga needs ... to maximise regional development opportunities

Local Sporting infrastructure

Community sport is a vitally important aspect of regional life – it provides an opportunity for isolated people to interact with others as well as the physical benefits of regular exercise. Continued access to grant programs to ensure that our facilities are fit for purpose are also essential. In addition a one-off grant to Copperclub at Port Hughes to finish its course will provide our region with a showpiece sporting infrastructure tourism attraction.





Improved Access to Childcare

A lack of access to childcare is preventing valuable members of our local economy from returning to work. This means local businesses are struggling to find people to add to their operations and draining valuable efficiency from our economy. Luckily we have new child care operations in Maitland and Minlaton with a large facility set to be delivered in Kadina. However, for those towns that it is not commercial we need to see an increase in Rural Care and Family Day Care opportunities to enable families to contribute in our communities.



Tourism

Tourism is largely untapped in the Narungga electorate and has the potential to significantly grow in the next 10 years. The Moonta Mines precinct is destined for World Heritage listing and will attract major cultural and heritage grant funding, and the Marna Banggara-Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park sanctuary project continues to make exciting progress. I continue to advocate for increasing our ferry services (including one from Glenelg to Yorke Peninsula) and I am also pleased cruise ships will be back docking at Wallaroo in 2027.

Narungga needs ... to maximise regional development opportunities

Impose a legal obligation upon Governments to maintain roads to a certain standard

The road maintenance backlog across SA has reportedly jumped from \$750 million in 2018 to \$2 billion in 2024, resulting in more roads being left with hazards such as potholes and crumbling shoulders for longer. It is now estimated that 20 percent of the State's 13,000 kilometres of sealed road network is in dire need of maintenance.

With that comes increasing reports of vehicles incurring damage on unrepaired roads, requiring owners to pay for costly repairs.

My mantra is if our cars, trucks and machinery have to be roadworthy, our roads need to be vehicle-worthy.

Governments need to be held to account for not repairing reported hazards within a designated time-frame, and I propose to emulate legislation similar to what is already in place in Victoria and ACT.



A grant program for regional towns to spruce up their main street

In support of businesses located in regional town “shopping strips”, I propose introduction of a small grants program (up to \$5,000) for projects which beautify shopfronts and entice foot traffic to our town main streets. Examples of projects could include painting, paving, verandahs, public toilet blocks, seating etcetera.

Establish an intra-town public transport service for Narungga electorate

Elderly residents across the Narungga electorate without capacity to drive a private vehicle are increasingly having to rely on stretched community transport services to attend medical appointments or to do household shopping.

We need more intra-town, regular bus services to meet this need, in order to encourage and support our aging population to stay in their home country town and in their own homes longer.



Narungga needs

... to keep State debt under control

Establish a debt ceiling

Governments are borrowing more money than ever before to fund massive spending programs leaving an incredible burden on future generations. Interest repayments are chewing up increasingly large amounts of the budget and ability to ever repay debt is in doubt. The Government should need the consent of both Houses of Parliament to increase debt any further. It is forecast that SA state debt will be \$46 billion by the end of 2027/28, with two major projects – the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital and finishing the North South Corridor – attributing \$18 billion to the bottom line.

Red tape reduction committee

The existing bureaucracy is failing to make any headway on reducing the burden of paperwork and regulation that small business is grappling with. A perpetual committee made up of industry representatives from outside of the public service should be established to report directly to the Parliament about opportunities to ease the load on business. The existing bureaucracy is failing to make any headway on reducing the burden of paperwork and regulation that small business is grappling with. A perpetual committee made up of industry representatives from outside of the public service should be established to report directly to Parliament about opportunities to ease the load on business. These recommendations would be made publicly available and the onus would be on the public service to make the argument why they should stay.

Narungga needs ... to be better prepared for power outages

Compensation for businesses which suffer loss because of extended outages

Business should not be left out of pocket for expenses that incurred as a result of an extended power outage like the one we experienced in March 2025. A scheme already exists for 'voltage variation' compensation even where the power provider is at no fault. This scheme should be expanded to include power outages for any unplanned, extended outage that results in financial loss. On 20 August 2025 I introduced a Private Member's Bill that amends the National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011 to recognise any unplanned supply interruption of more than 8 hours attributable to a transmission or distribution network service provider as a claimable incident under the existing Small Claims Compensation Scheme. We already pay very high energy prices, and it is a basic right in 2025 to have a consistent power supply.

Designated battery/generator powered community refuge centres

One of the most concerning outcomes from the extended power outage was the lack of options for people to escape the heat – it was a hot day and residents were without access to air conditioners for the entire day. The Government should designate community refuge centres and provide them with emergency power generation options so that all residents know where they can go in an emergency. This would have the dual purpose of providing refuge during extreme weather events.

Narungga needs ... adequate housing stock

Continued supply of Housing Trust and Key Government Worker Housing

The wait list for Category One housing – for people in desperate need of a roof over their heads -- has now stretched out to two years locally. We have dire need for emergency public housing and increased Housing Trust stock. On 26 February 2008 the Narungga electorate had 405 Housing Trust properties. By 31 October 2024, there were 411 – a rise of just 6 properties in 16 years. We also have a need to provide housing to key government workers (health care professionals, police, teachers) to ensure that we get the services we need. We had ten new Housing Trust homes and nine new Key Government worker houses constructed during the current Parliament and we need to repeat that again.

SA Water Infrastructure

Parts of our electorate are experiencing enviable growth in residential development, all of which is placing pressure on ageing (or non-existent) water and sewerage infrastructure that threatens to stymie construction progress. Upgrading and expanding water and sewerage systems is essential for the growth of our region - the State Government must invest in SA Water trunk upgrades in collaboration with SA Water to ensure housing growth can occur. Whilst it is currently concentrating on its Housing Roadmap in designated priority areas, proposed housing developments in the Narungga electorate (estimated in 2025 to collectively comprise 1,000 homes across Yorke Peninsula alone) are in danger of stalling due to a lack of water infrastructure and this must be urgently addressed.



Narungga needs ... to prioritise our valuable agricultural industry

Our agricultural industry has carried our region into prosperity for generations and will continue to do so as we move forward. Farming businesses don't historically ask Government for much but as costs continue to rise and threats for other industries arrive it is imperative that we offer support. Work should begin on a body of work like that done in other states to identify our prime agricultural land as it faces encroachment from mining, housing and other alternative uses.



Support for improved land access

With only 11 per cent of South Australia's land mass classified as arable, we need to better protect our capacity to produce food for future generations.

My Private Member Land Access Mining Bill was voted down in 2025 (supported by the four Independent MPs) , which was aimed to provide a better balance of the conflicting interests of mining and farming prime agricultural land.

Having taken action on multiple occasions, including crossing the floor trying to amend a previous Bill and establishing a select committee, this Land Access Mining Bill was a last-ditch effort for improvements for farmers in my electorate.

I will continue to fight for the rights of landholders of prime agricultural land. Whether it is mining enterprises, housing developers or energy companies looking to place power lines through farms, there must be increased recognition of the value of food producing land.

We cannot continue to carve up arable land without proper planning in place.

30m HML Gazettal for all council roads

There is dire need for 30 m road train High Mass Limit Gazettal for all council roads across the electorate, matching what is in place in the neighbouring Port Pirie Regional Council.

This is essential for efficient freight movement.

Existing regulations allow 30 m road trains along multiple roads but it is prohibited for the operators to alight onto main intersections if a turn of less than 90 degrees is required.

This is a ludicrous situation which is sorely impacting local farmers who must be able to efficiently move grain to markets.

Narungga needs ... to reduce taxes for those contributing to our community

No Emergency Services Levy for those who volunteer in emergency services

While not a new idea it is one that should be finally implemented – the reasons often given for its continued rejection are ridiculous. Our emergency services volunteering is in dangerous straits. There are very few people volunteering for ambulance service and where there are no paid paramedics this leaves communities in a dangerous spot. CFS and SES sheds are constantly in recruiting drives trying to keep their vehicles staffed and so on. By way of an incentive for those who might be considering volunteering and as a reward for those who do the ESL should be waived.

50% Payroll Tax discount for regional South Australia

Small businesses across the Narungga electorate-- and in all regional areas-- need relief from rising costs of doing business (taxes, rent, wages, power, transport). I stand with the SA Business Chamber in calling for the introduction of a 50% payroll tax discount for regional South Australia, in line with similar regional payroll tax schemes already in place in Victoria and Queensland. This initiative would encourage new businesses to set up and stay in regional SA, driving economic growth.



People who are volunteering in our
local communities are being hit
with unnecessary taxes that provide
a disincentive for that contribution



Narungga needs ... to care for our environment



An inquiry into the algal bloom outbreak and increased preparedness if it occurs again

In June 2025 I called for urgent research and action on the algae bloom outbreak, and by September there were multiple inquiries underway, triggered by ongoing related environmental and financial harm.

We must learn all we can from this natural disaster and be better prepared for if/when this occurs in our seas and on our shores again.



Further work on ensuring sand drifts along our coastline unimpeded

It has been disappointing that in recent years there have been examples of designs of boat ramps and other marine infrastructure causing environmental damage to our beaches, necessitating further remediation funding.

It is hoped process improvements will occur for more efficient coastal management to ensure our vitally important natural resources are protected for future generations.

Management of pests and weeds

The Landscape Levy (previously known as the NRM Levy) is paid by all ratepayers and collected by Local Government for the State Government.

Ratepayers validly expect that monies collected from their council area should directly fund land and water management projects and pest and plant control initiatives within their council area.

More must be done to ensure this occurs as concerns are rising that funds collected locally are supporting projects in other regions rather than addressing local needs.

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