

FIXING OUR HIGHWAYS



Everywhere I travel across the Eyre Peninsula, the one constant on everyone's minds is the state of our regional roads, especially our highways.

The former Liberal government invested greatly into improving our road network on the Eyre Peninsula, but our highways, through a combination of higher than expected usage coupled with weather conditions, have not stood up to the rigours of use, particularly during harvest.

I invited the Leader of the Opposition, David Speirs, to inspect our highways during his January visit to our region, and the Minister for Regional Roads, Geoff Brock, also visited areas of concern during his December visit.

I am advised that work on the Lincoln Highway will shortly be completed, however I have not been provided advice on the Tod Highway or Western Approach Road.

There remains much work to be done, and there needs to be considerable investment to continue to ensure our roads are of the standard we need and deserve. I am continuing to work with the Minister and Leader of the Opposition to fix our roads to improve safety and transport efficiency right across the region.



DOPPLER WEATHER RADAR

The Eyre Peninsula is the only grain growing region in Australia without doppler weather radar coverage. This means our farmers and emergency services workers are left without accurate weather forecasts and updates as they plan their farming activities or emergency plans.

Other state jurisdictions have invested in these radars, with assistance from the federal government, and have seen considerable benefits from their financial outlay. I have written to both the Primary Industries and Emergency Services Ministers, seeking their support for this vital piece of infrastructure. I am hopeful of a positive outcome.

I also continue to lobby the Ministers to repair or replace existing jetties, such as Tumby Bay, and to ensure there is a sustainable funding model for jetty maintenance into the future.

FLINDERS PHOTO COMPETITION



We have a beautiful and diverse region and, like many of you, I am often taking photos all around the electorate.

To recognise this diversity, I am running a competition for avid photographers from across the electorate of Flinders to send me photos which encapsulate their corner of our vast region.

There will be a winner from each of our 10 Council Areas, as well as the Out of Districts areas, with a Parliamentary prize for each, the overall prize being a dinner for four with me in Parliament House.

The winning photos will also be on display in my electorate office to showcase the beauty of the entire region.

To Enter: Email your photo to flinders@parliament.sa.gov.au — Photos must be at least 3MB
Photos must include a title, location, and the entrants name and age. Entries close June 30.

Upon entering the competition, full rights will be assumed to be given to use the images entered, including reproduction and adaptations

TUMBY BAY JETTY UPDATE

The response from the community to my Tumby Bay Jetty petition has been overwhelming. I have had to table four lots of petition signatures in Parliament, such has been the enormous response, with 1459 signatures in the final submission, for a total of 3,126!

Tumby Bay Council has continued to pursue options to perform remedial repair works on the jetty, although there was obviously considerable disappointment this could not be done in time for the peak summer tourism season.

The neglect of not just Tumby Bay Jetty, but all jetties across SA by the state government, is extremely disappointing. I continue to hold them to account for their lack of investment into these vital pieces of community infrastructure, by lobbying them to repair or replace existing jetties such as Tumby Bay, and, most importantly, making sure there is a sustainable funding model for jetty maintenance into the future.



SAM TELFER MP MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
SHADOW MINISTER FOR STATE MIGRATION STRATEGY
SHADOW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023



A TIME OF CHANGE

The last six months has seen an incredible amount of change across the Flinders electorate and our state.

Thank you to those who have got in touch with me regarding my new portfolio responsibilities. It is a great honour to have added Police, Corrections and Community Safety to my responsibilities.

We face many challenges when it comes to anti-social behaviour across our state, and in our regions, and the opportunity to work closely with our local police and community organisations to stamp out this scourge is important in maintaining the appeal of the Eyre Peninsula.

I have also added State Migration Strategy to my responsibilities.

We understand all too well, here on the EP, the challenges of gaining access to basic health services and infrastructure because of the tyranny of distance.

I am determined to ensure that regional South Australia gets its fair share of investment in roads, schools, hospitals and law enforcement, while encouraging responsible growth of our towns across the Eyre Peninsula.

On a more localised note, we have seen inclement weather affect the ability of farmers to harvest on time.

These delays create challenges. We can do better in providing our farmers with the tools they need to maximise their productivity during harvest, and I am working to deliver a new doppler weather radar to our region to assist in this endeavour. You can read more about the issue inside this newsletter.

January is also the highlight of the Port Lincoln calendar, with Tunarama finally returning after a two year absence.

Finally, I have been working with our local councils as they seek to address the shortage of doctors in our communities. Our councils should not be responsible for attracting doctors to our regional areas, but the dedication of our local representatives to achieving results is a great example of our community spirit.

SIGN UP FOR MY EMAIL UPDATES BY REGISTERING AT SAMTELFER.COM.AU

STAY UP TO DATE BY VISITING MY WEBSITE SAMTELFER.COM.AU

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PARLIAMENT ROUNDUP

There have been several important updates from Parliament since my last community newsletter.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE TRANSPORT SCHEME

One of the first announcements of the new year by the government was the doubling of the fuel subsidy as part of the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS).

I am delighted this is the case, and it is great to see the government adopting one of the core campaign commitments of the Liberal Party from the last election.

We can always do more to make healthcare more accessible for our regional, rural and remote communities, and this is why I will continue to work with the state and federal governments to not only ensure the PATS subsidy continues to rise given our challenging economic situation, but to also ensure that the Eyre Peninsula has access to high quality services locally as well, so that more residents can access the services they need.



EYRE PENINSULA DESALINATION PLANT

The State Government, Minister Susan Close, and SA Water made a recent announcement on their preferred location of Billy Lights Point for the construction of a Desalination Plant for the Eyre Peninsula, rather than the recommendation of the EP Desal Site Selection Committee (SSC) at Sleaford West.

The SSC (which included aquaculture, industry, community, and local government leaders) was appointed by the former Water Minister David Speirs in response to significant community and industry concerns about the potential risks of Billy Lights Point.

The SSC followed a thorough process of investigation and information gathering to put together their recommended site. This time and effort put in by the committee was reflective of the significant interest from the community, and the process which they followed was robust and thoughtful. I have been supportive of their recommendation of their preferred site at Sleaford West, and it is very disappointing that the Government has decided to ignore this local representation.

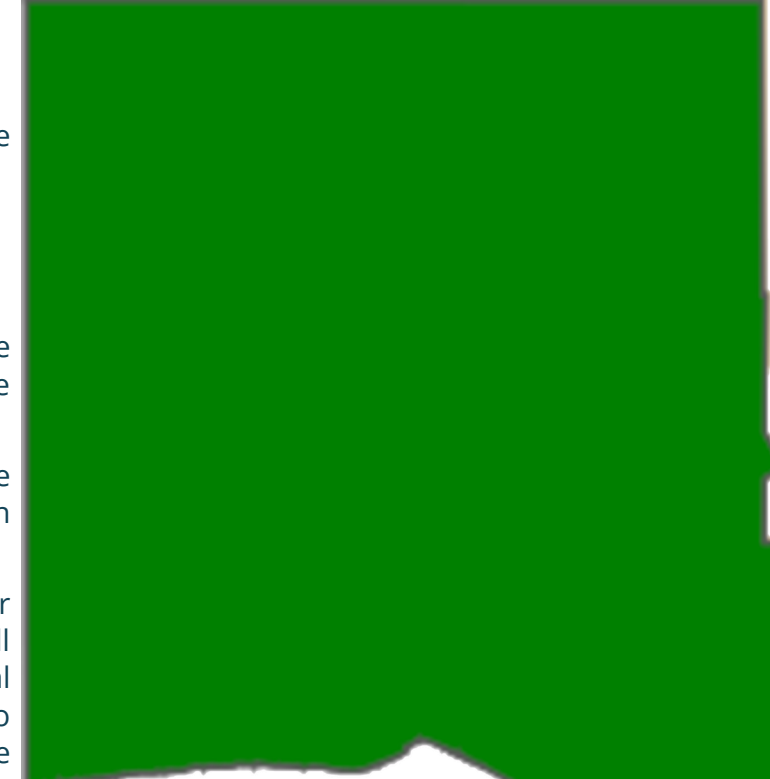
We need a long-term solution for water on the Eyre Peninsula, and we need it soon before the underground aquifer source is undermined to a point beyond repair, but it should not be at the risk of existing industry which puts so much into the State's economy.

LOCAL HEALTH UPDATE

Too many of our towns across the Eyre Peninsula are being forced to go without local doctors for long periods of time.

The Eyre and Far North Local Health Network has provided for four long term locums to be based on the Eyre Peninsula, with two of the locum doctors allocated to the Cleve and Kimba Medical Centres, and Cleve, Kimba and Cowell hospitals. The other two locum doctors will be based at Elliston and Wudinna medical clinics, and Elliston and Wudinna hospitals.

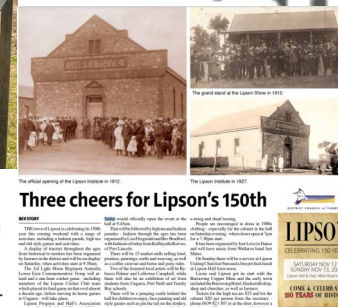
While this recruitment is good news, we still need to attract permanent medical professionals to our region, and I am working with the Shadow Minister for Health and the Shadow Minister for Regional Health to ensure the Eyre Peninsula is not left behind when it comes to quality healthcare.



I was joined on my recent West Coast visit by Senator Kerryn Liddle. Kerryn and I took the chance to meet with local indigenous leaders, community leaders, small business owners and service providers to hear about their concerns, and to find ways to provide better economic opportunities for our remote communities.



The new upgrades to the Elliston Wetlands not only allow for better community amenities, but also reduce the possibility of mosquito borne viruses. I was delighted to be part of the official opening of this wonderful new community facility.



It was a thrill to attend the 150th birthday celebrations of Lipson. A little bit of rough weather certainly didn't deter a great turnout, with great music, stalls, food and a cricket game all providing a memorable birthday celebration for one of our great local communities on the Eyre Peninsula.



Our region constantly faces a battle to ensure health resources and personnel are available in our more distant towns. Over the Christmas break I met with Kimba Mayor and chair of the Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance, Dean Johnson, and Kimba Council CEO Deb Larwood, to discuss ways in which better health resources can be attracted and also maintained in our region.



The new school year is underway, and we are reminded that our schools on the Eyre Peninsula face many challenges given our distance from Adelaide.

One of our great agricultural schools is in Cleve, where the school partners with the local community to give students a quality education in all farming matters on the one thousand acre Sims Farm.

I enjoyed my visit to the school in January, where I met with Principal Trevor McDonough and the school team to check in on their plans for the upcoming year.

I also took the chance to meet with representatives of the District Council of Cleve to offer support at a state level for their growth and development plans for the upcoming year.

It might have taken a couple of false starts, but the 60th Tunarama festival finally made it to the starting line across the Australia Day weekend.

Tunarama holds a unique place in our state, as the largest regional festival in South Australia, and provides a spectacular showcase for all there is to see, do and eat across the Eyre Peninsula.

With all the features of your usual country show, as well as those unique features like the prawn, salmon and tuna tosses, it really is one of the cultural highlights of the summer calendar.

Thank you to the Tunarama committee, led by President Sharon Humenick, for their incredible efforts in returning Tunarama to the calendar, and congratulations to all the prize winners from all the events throughout this year's festival.

Tunarama only exists thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, so if you'd like to be involved, simply visit www.tunarama.net



There was a magnificent turnout for this year's Australia Day ceremonies and celebrations across the Flinders electorate.

Congratulations to all the award winners across the ten local government areas within the electorate and for their dedication to making our community such a welcoming place.

I particularly wanted to acknowledge Ken and Valerie Lamb of Cowell. Their inclusion in the Australia Day Honours List for services to the Roxby Downs community is testament to the strong community spirit within Flinders.

Anyone can nominate a person for a King's Birthday or Australia Day Honour. You can find out more about the criteria, and nominate someone, by visiting www.gg.gov.au and click on "Australian Honours and Awards"



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