

# NO CHANGES TO CFS GRAIN HARVESTING CODES OF PRACTICE



## 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



I was relieved to see proposed changes to the CFS Harvesting Code of Practice withdrawn by the government. Yet again, this city centric government sought to make regulatory changes which would severely hamper the ability of farmers to do their jobs, with longer harvests, lost production and, ultimately, lost income. The Speirs Liberal team strongly opposed these changes, and we are grateful to Grain Producers SA for their support in our opposition to these proposals. Too often we are seeing this Labor government refusing to listen to our farming communities in regional South Australia. If the government wants to revise these Codes of Practice next year, they must begin consultation now to ensure our farmers have an opportunity to have their say, and educate the government on the realities of farming in regional SA.

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2023

As 2023 draws towards a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and blessings for the holiday season and upcoming New Year. With harvest in full-swing, it is a busy time for many.

It has been a challenging year for many, with increasing interest rates and inflation meaning the cost-of-living challenge is becoming greater, and the expense of doing business ever increasing too. This should be a strong focus for all levels of government, but we saw the Federal Labor government instead spend significant time, effort, and hundreds of millions of dollars on a referendum which was clearly doomed to fail from the start. We would all agree that we should be striving for better outcomes for our indigenous population, especially in key areas such as health, education, and child protection, but unfortunately the process taken up by the Prime Minister was instead divisive, lacked any clear detail, ultimately failed all Australians and was rejected emphatically.

I hope the government is now focussed appropriately on outcomes and being accountable to them.

At a local level, health, roads, and housing continue to be a strong focus of mine.

Getting access to GPs within our region is crucial, as well as pushing for as many other medical services as possible. Where we can't access them locally, we need a strong PATS system to help cover the growing costs to patients, which you can see me cover on the back page of this newsletter.

It has been frustrating to have the repeated issues with the failing of recent roadworks continue, and I am constantly advocating to the Minister and government for their attention to our road network.

On top of that, appropriate funding for jetties, looking for solutions for our childcare challenges, fighting for mobile blackspot attention, and crime and safety in our region also remain priority areas.

## FLINDERS HIGHWAY DESERVES BETTER



The ongoing failure of the Labor government to manage our major regional roads continues and is unacceptable. The previous Liberal government invested heavily in many highways across the Eyre Peninsula, including the Lincoln, Tod, Birdseye and Eyre Highways, and now it is time that the Flinders Highway gets appropriate attention and funding.

Investment into our regional road network across South Australia is vital for the economic drive of our state, and with Eyre Peninsula contributing so much to our state's economy, our contribution should be reflected with increased levels of investment into our road network.

It is a dangerous situation that I fear is going to lead to a

significant accident, and the government must commit to upgrades in the interests of public safety and economic productivity, especially in the sections from Ceduna to Streaky Bay and south of Elliston. I recently spoke in Parliament on this matter, and local media outlets have also taken up the cause to secure the necessary upgrades to ensure the safety of all motorists and passengers along this vital stretch of road.

## PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry in my Flinders Photo Competition 2023.

There were some incredible entries from all across our wide-ranging region, from the rugged coastlines, to the beautiful inland scenery, and productive farming landscapes. A big congratulations to our overall prize winner, Jack Davies, on his spectacular coastal sunset photo at Greenly Beach, winning dinner for two with me at Parliament House.

A special mention to the two runner-up winners, Marie Clark with her photo—Seeding time at Colton, and Sasha & Mila Stratford— Sunrise at Tumbly Bay, both winning a Parliamentary prize pack.



## PATIENT ASSISTANCE TRANSPORT SCHEME

In recent weeks I have received a significant escalation in community concerns on the extended PATS claim response times, with reports of patients waiting several weeks, sometimes several months, for any response from their PATS applications.

After our assistance to work through a follow-up process for many patients, we heard from PATS officers admit they are struggling with the current workload, with processing times blowing out. In our region we rely on an effective PATS system, as the local specialist health delivery is very limited, forcing us to travel significant distances, usually to Adelaide, to receive that care.

I have heard from many who are waiting for multiple PATS claims to be returned, with further medical visits imminent soon. With the current cost of living crisis, some patients are seriously considering whether they can afford the considerable up-front expense which is necessary for their travel and treatment. I have written to the Health Minister, urgently requesting more resources are allocated to fixing up this obvious claims backlog.



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

AUTHORISED BY SAM TELFER MP, 36 WASHINGTON STREET, PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

PORT LINCOLN OFFICE

36 WASHINGTON STREET

PH: 08 8683 0722

CEDUNA OFFICE

O'LOUGHLIN TERRACE

PH: 08 8625 2392

EMAIL: [FLINDERS@PARLIAMENT.SA.GOV.AU](mailto:FLINDERS@PARLIAMENT.SA.GOV.AU)



### WUDINNA 2023 AG TOWN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Wudinna, the 2023 Ag Town of the Year! Since 2019, Eyre Peninsula towns have now won three of the five Ag Town awards, a testament to our standing as South Australia's major agricultural region. Congratulations to Mayor Eleanor Scholz, CEO Kristy Davis and everyone in Wudinna on this much deserved award!



### SPEIRS HEADS WEST

I was delighted to host Opposition Leader David Speirs last month on one of his regular regional tours. Starting in Port Lincoln, I showed David around the Clean Seas facility at Arno Bay and the vital contribution they make to our state's economy before meeting with Franklin Harbour Council representatives. From there, we headed west through Kimba, Wudinna and on to Ceduna, speaking with Council representatives about the needs of our all of our Eyre Peninsula communities. While the Labor government might be exclusively focused on Adelaide, I will continue to fight for our fair share of funding for our region.

### FIRE SEASON

With lower than average rainfall this year, combined with potential high average temperatures this summer, it's more important than ever to be bushfire ready this season. You never know when a bushfire is going to start, particularly with so much vegetation that has grown over the last couple of years and the traditionally unpredictable weather conditions across the Eyre Peninsula. Preparing your property by regular cleaning of fire fuel, such as leaves and bark, and preparing adequate fire breaks is an essential first step to protecting your property and family. For more information on how to prepare this fire season, visit <https://cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/>



### MOBILE PHONE BLACKSPOTS

It was great to acknowledge the commissioning of the latest mobile phone tower in our region, with the new tower at Brooker being turned on. This tower was funded by the previous Liberal government under their Mobile Blackspot funding program. Unfortunately we haven't seen that program continue in the same form with this new Labor government. Without adequate mobile coverage, our regional communities and businesses are left behind, and our potential as a region can't be fully achieved. This should continue to be an area of investment for government, and I will continue to make it a priority for our region while both the state and federal governments ignoring country areas.

### PORT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL TURNS 100

It's not often that you get to celebrate a 100th birthday, and Port Lincoln High School certainly did it in style over the October long weekend. Congratulations go to the organising committee, who worked for an extraordinary 16 months to ensure everything came together across the weekend. With attendees from far and wide, including South Australian Governor Frances Adamson, and current Chief Justice of South Australia, former student Chris Kourakis. With events including the performing arts showcase at the Nautilus Theatre, and the retrieval and burial of time capsules, it was a great way to mark such a significant milestone. Congratulations also go to the staff and students of Port Lincoln High School, including Principal Todd George, for such a successful event.



### WEST COAST POWER CUTS

We know how dangerous fire conditions can become across our region, and the measures we need to take in order to stay safe. However, I was most disappointed by the actions of SA Power Networks in September, when they cut the power supply with basically no notice. There are many residents across the Flinders electorate who need advance notice to make alternative plans in the event of power outages, whether those are medical, business, security or other reasons. I have taken this matter up and am working to ensure any expected power outages in future occur with as much advance notice as possible. It is unreasonable for text messages to go out to customers as power is cut, and we deserve better from our utility providers.

### PRIMARY PRODUCER WORKERS

With temporary workers necessary for many primary production operations, I have written to the State government, seeking clarity around driver's license arrangements. It was brought to my attention after a recent blitz on the oyster industry that there is no process for interstate or overseas visitors to obtain a licence extension for driving farm machinery over 4.5T, such as tractors. The government needs to take action, or else our agricultural businesses, oyster growers, and horticulturalists could be potentially left in the lurch at a time when its hard enough to find staff.



### LABOR REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY ON BILLY LIGHTS POINT

It seems like Minister Susan Close, SA Water and the Labor State government are pushing ahead with plans to put a desalination plant at Billy Lights Point at Port Lincoln, despite the ongoing concerns being voiced by both local industry and community. The previous government listened to the Lower Eyre community when they put in place a Site Selection Committee with local industry and community leaders to look at locations for a desalination plant after opposition to the use of Billy Lights Point. There is no doubt that we need a climate independent source of water to minimise our reliance on the southern basins which are under increasing stress, however it should not come at the risk of existing business, and the right decision must be made for our long-term future, not short-term financial reasons. I will continue to remind the Minister that this is not what the community wants, and that her actions in ignoring the community's voice sets a dangerous precedent for future infrastructure projects across our state. There are options available to the Minister, but she needs to be open to looking at those opportunities.



FOLLOW ME ON



SamTelferMP



SamTelferMP



SamTelferMP