

# EYRE PENINSULA WATER INQUIRY IS CRUCIAL TO OUR FUTURE



## SAM TELFER MP

### MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

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SHADOW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH



The Liberal Party has instigated a parliamentary committee inquiry into Water supply and distribution on the Eyre Peninsula, as the lack of direction from the government on this subject becomes apparent.

The saga of desalination plants on the Eyre Peninsula drags on, with the Minister for Water blindly advancing with her project at Billy Light's Point, and the Premier seemingly not understanding the basics.

When I asked in Parliament on 5 March about concerns regarding the Billy Lights Point proposed desalination plant (5GL annually), the answer was, "SA Water can't simply say, 'We don't care about any of that, we're just doing it.'" However, the reality looks like SA Water barging on despite ongoing community concerns.

Meanwhile, the government has committed to developing the business case for a major desalination plant for the Northern Water Project at Cape Hardy (90GL+ annually), just up the road from Port Lincoln, but seemingly this is happening in isolation from the southern project.

I wrote to the Premier late last year urging him to have a big-picture perspective on the Eyre Peninsula water supply, but the lack of coherent direction from this Labor government continues frustrate me, and we are at risk of continuing to lose time with a water supply that is under increasing pressure. The EP Water committee will be hearing from SA Water and the Northern Water Project, but also crucially will be able to hear directly from those local perspectives from individuals and businesses across the EP that know the nuances of the system, and where the failings have been.



## WE NEED MORE CHILDCARE

It is well known that we live in what is referred to by many as a childcare desert, but what is not known is the economic benefits childcare can bring. A recent report from Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP), and EP Councils, found that an investment of \$55 million in funding for 598 new childcare places could produce an annual \$44 million boost to our economy.

I will continue to work closely with my federal counterpart, Rowan Ramsey, to ensure both the state and federal governments provide the necessary investment to see the EP achieve its potential.

## TELSTRA AND OPTUS IGNORING REGIONAL SA WITH 3G CHANGES

The recent decision of both Telstra and Optus to shut down their 3G networks across the country is deeply concerning. I have written to both Telstra and Optus, calling on them to reconsider their decision, and place the welfare of rural and regional Australians at the forefront of their thinking.

I also welcome the announcement last month by the Senate to conduct an inquiry into the shutdown of the 3G network across the nation, and I would encourage everyone who will be affected by this decision to have their say. If you wish to make a submission to the inquiry, you can do so by emailing [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au). Submissions close on 31 May.



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## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2024



With Shadow Regional Roads Minister Adrian Pederick at the corner of Adelaide place and Liverpool Street, one of four roundabouts affected.

## COMMUNITY IGNORED ON LIVERPOOL STREET

The Government is seemingly bulldozing on with the works on the key intersections along Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln, despite ongoing community opposition.

The works on the roundabouts along this road are ultimately removing the left-turn slipways which are used by motorists to exit Liverpool St more effectively, to access the retail precinct, schools and workplaces, and reduce the existing traffic congestion.

I wrote to the Minister months ago to express the community's concerns that the removal of the left-turn slipways at these roundabouts would actually cause more traffic and pedestrian challenges, not solve any. Despite this community concern, including in the formal consultation process over a year ago, even though the Minister visited recently, and saw the traffic chaos that we are already experiencing, the government, sadly, is progressing with the slip lane removal.

The government had an opportunity to make these intersections better and more appropriate for the modern traffic movement in Port Lincoln, but unfortunately I believe they have made things worse.

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**CEDUNA CRIME CONCERNS**

I have been receiving a steady flow of calls, texts, emails and letters about the crime situation in Ceduna, and the messages are confronting and disturbing. I hosted Senators Jacinta Nampijinpa Price & Kerryne Liddle recently to hear directly from people in Ceduna experiencing these challenges firsthand, and hear suggested solutions. I have called on government ministers, to visit the community UNANNOUNCED, to understand and experience the problem. The current situation cannot continue, and I am doing what I can as the local member to make sure decision-makers are fully aware of the whole situation.



The team at Our Town Kimba do a great job helping the community build resilience in the face of mental health challenges, and I enjoyed catching up with them to learn about their latest projects.

**TUMBY BAY JETTY CHALLENGES REMAIN**

Encouraging recent news that the Department has allowed the adjusting of the engineering arrangements to allow a temporary reopening of the Tumby Bay jetty whilst long term arrangements can be finalised is certainly great for the community. However, I will continue to work closely with the Tumby Bay council aiming towards a fairer deal from the government for Tumby Bay residents, who are being expected to shoulder significant financial burden. Whilst the State continues to expect small local regional communities to contribute millions of dollars towards these important pieces of infrastructure, jetties will continue to be at risk. With 19 jetties in just our region, we have seen that it is not just the Tumby Bay jetty that needs attention, but Streaky Bay, Denial Bay, and recently Louth Bay all needing work. The long-term arrangements that are being negotiated now will need to have an eye on the long-term sustainability of all of our jetties that are so important to our communities.



**A NEW CUMMINS POLICE STATION**

It has been a long time coming, but it appears that Cummins will soon get a new police station. With the old building having been condemned due to health and safety issues, police in Cummins have had to make do with a variety of public spaces to engage with the public. I recently asked the Minister for Police during Question Time for an update on the negotiations for a temporary office site for the station, and also urged his persistence for the planning and work on rebuilding a permanent facility. This has been a challenging time for our local police, and my thanks go to the Police Minister for his genuine efforts to deliver the facilities our local police need in order to do their jobs in serving the community on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.



**EYRE HIGHWAY**

The recent fatal crash on the Eyre Highway is a stark reminder of the need for more resources and better management on our remote roads.

While the emergency services personnel in attendance did a wonderful job in horrific circumstances, other freight trucks should not have to be parked for days on end, placing freight and drivers at risk.

We need to work on solutions to minimise such impacts, improve response procedures to shorten closure to lessen the impact on our remote roads and to keep our trucks moving, and put appropriate safety measures in place to continue to look after the many road users who traverse that main thoroughfare.

**WEST COAST ON DISPLAY**

I was delighted to welcome Shadow Minister for Regional South Australia and Primary Industries, Nicola Centofanti, to Ceduna, Streaky Bay, and Port Lincoln earlier this year.

We met with a wide range of fishing and aquaculture industry representatives throughout the visit, as well as with other key industry players across agriculture & tourism, in addition to visiting the crucial Thevenard port facility.

I will continue to remind not only my own shadow cabinet colleagues, but also members of the government, just how important our region is to our state's economy.

The MTA facility at Cleve provides important training opportunities and provides greater capacity for heavy diesel trade needs. It was great to catch up with the team to learn about their work.

**HIGHWAY ROADWORK ISSUES CONTINUE**

It has now been two years since the commencement of roadworks on both the Flinders and Tod Highways, and we are still seeing repairs being undertaken due to shoddy previous works. The intersection of the Tod and Flinders Highways has just undergone a fourth repair, and it already appears that works on the Flinders Highway at Western Approach Road are failing as well. This is all in addition to the unnecessarily long period of time it took to complete the works on the Lincoln Highway with the overtaking lanes between Louth Bay and Tumby Bay. It is completely unreasonable to expect motorists, especially those driving grain trucks, to put up with such poor workmanship and constant speed limit changes, which cause driver frustration, leading to accidents. I will make sure the Minister for Regional Roads hears our concerns about these failings and, while I am assured that the contractors responsible will bear the financial cost of repairs, I will be seeking guarantees that such neglect of our vital roads on the Eyre Peninsula is not repeated by this government.



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