

UPDATED INFORMATION ON COMMITMENTS SOUGHT BY COUNCIL AND

STATUS OF ELECTION COMMITMENTS MADE BY PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

18 MARCH 2022



This document is provided as a summary of commitments to date against the key issues raised in the Council's State Election Platform document and will be used for continued conversations with parties and candidates.

Attached is a summary of all the commitments sought by the Council. A full copy of the State Election Platform document is available from the Council's website.

1. Lead Abatement

The Liberal Party has committed to a 10 year extension of the Targeted Lead Abatement Program (TLAP) in partnership with Nyrstar together with publishing a position on each of the recommendations from the Independent Review of TLAP conducted by Lew Owens, including importantly the establishment of a Community Reference Group. The Government has also committed \$1 million to complete the remediation of the former residential area north of Frederick Road as part of the plan.

Council is seeking a response from the Labor Party and candidates on their commitment to continue this work together with the agreed implementation of the recommendations from the [Owens Review](#).

2. Water

The Liberal Party has committed \$875,000 to reduce the level of dust and the community's level of exposure to lead, comprising

- \$125,000 in small grants for plantings
- \$250,000 to develop a master plan – Council to be a key partner
- \$500,000 for a water supply feasibility study – Council to be a key partner

Actions on all three subcomponents have commenced with as yet no commitment to implementation of the outcomes of the masterplan or water feasibility study.

The Liberal Party has also committed \$6.1m to kick start the Port Pirie Greening Program, specifically:

- \$2.18 million to for the Phoenix Park wetlands, including trees, understory planting and water infrastructure;
- \$1.8 million to vegetate key pedestrian areas;
- \$310,000 to establish native plants in and around Pirie West Primary school;
- \$200,000 for street trees for Solomontown as part of a joint State Government, TLAP and Port Pirie Regional Council effort to provide street trees and pave dusty verges;
- \$1.0 million to vegetate and water the dusty railway land adjacent to Solomontown;
- \$200,000 to provide subsidised plants to households to increase Port Pirie's green space; and
- \$300,000 for to establish a dust monitoring network.

Council is seeking a response from the Labor Party, the Greens and candidates on their commitment to continue this work together and from all candidates regarding commitment to implement the outcomes of the Masterplan and Water Supply Feasibility Study.

3. Workforce

We are keen to hear about support for the commitments included within the Platform document from all parties and candidates.

4. Housing

The current Government has committed \$2.5 million in funding for remediation and upgrade of 43 Housing SA homes at greatest risk of exposure to help reduce lead levels.

Council will shortly release the results of its Housing Survey and a copy will be provided to all parties and candidates.

Council looks forward to future announcements by the parties and candidates in relation to housing and the alignment of any policies/commitments to those sought by Council.

5. Childcare Facilities

The Council and a passionate group of people from Crystal Brook have jointly funded an independent assessment of demand and viability of a child care facility in Crystal Brook. Link to the report [DJMIR-CB-Childcare-Report-Part-A.pdf \(pirie.sa.gov.au\)](#) and [DJMIR-CB-Childcare-Report-Part-B.pdf \(pirie.sa.gov.au\)](#). The Assessment concluded that a 50 place facility is financially viable.

The Office of Early Years (Department for Education) is in discussions with Council and the community regarding supporting the preparation of a detailed business case analysis.

The location and construction cost continue to be an issue requiring support. A press release regarding this was sent after the release of Council's State Election Platform as Council didn't have the information it needed at the time of Platform release. A copy of this press release is available on Council's website.

The current preferred location for the \$1.1m Child Care facility is to be co-located on the same site as the Crystal Brook Kindergarten and Crystal Brook Primary School, with discussions having commenced with the relevant Governing Councils.

Council is seeking commitments from the parties and candidates to support this project.

6. Community Wellbeing

This is a key component of the Council's plan to reimagine the future of Pirie. Further work has been undertaken and it is estimated that a report identifying greater options for collaboration between agencies will cost up to \$100,000 and would look at interventions at the source of health and wellbeing issues. Whilst greater collaboration will result in new initiatives to assist the community to start to become healthier and more active, a further \$200,000 for programs to deliver on the outcomes of the report would begin to change peoples' lives.

Council is seeking funding commitments and support from parties and candidates to secure the delivery of programs consistent with the report outcomes.

7. Clinical Simulation Training Laboratory

The Labor Party's Upper Spencer Gulf Health Plan commits to a hospital upgrade and Council is seeking confirmation that this issue would be considered as part of the further upgrade proposed in Labor's announcement.

The Liberal Party has announced that, subject to re-election, it will invest \$1.1 million to make Port Pirie Hospital the [centre for nurse training](#) across the Upper Spencer Gulf. Health professionals will be trained and skilled in the local community, leading to more local jobs and spending and improved healthcare in the region.

Council is seeking commitments from the Labor Party and candidates regarding support for this project.

8. Hospital Upgrade

The Labor Party's [Upper Spencer Gulf Health Plan](#) includes a \$12 million upgrade to Port Pirie Hospital for emergency department improvements as well as 30 additional paramedics and ambulance officers in the Upper Spencer Gulf region.

The Liberal Party has announced that a re-elected Marshall Liberal Government will invest \$26.1 million into the [redevelopment of the Port Pirie Hospital](#) and a new short stay crisis Mental Health Unit. In particular, the new Emergency Department will be expanded by 50% and staffed 24/7 to enable critical care when people in the local community need it.

Council is seeking commitments from candidates regarding support for the upgrade.

The Liberal Party has also announced that if re-elected it will invest \$7 million into the [upgrade of helipads](#) used in medical emergencies across regional South Australia. Port Pirie's helipad is listed as one of those to be upgraded.

The Liberal Party and Greens SA candidate have provided overall responses to Council's State Election Platform which are appended to this status update.

- Appendix 1 Greens SA candidate's response.
- Appendix 2 Liberal Party's response.

APPENDIX 1

Greens SA candidate's response to Council's State Election Platform

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for providing the Greens SA with the opportunity to outline our positions and commitments on key issues that are affecting the people of Port Pirie and surrounding areas. The Greens SA acknowledge the important role that local councils play, and we appreciate the time and effort that the Port Pirie Regional Council has put into preparing this platform. Please find our responses to your questions below:

1. Lead Abatement

- 1.1.** The Greens SA recognise the importance of the Smelter and are committed to ensuring that the Smelter continues to provide economic benefits for the community and the nation whilst working closely with Nyrstar to further reduce or mitigate the environmental impacts and improve worker safety.
- 1.2.** The Greens SA proudly support employer lead programs that will create secure, long-term employment by upskilling workers and providing them with initiatives. Having secure employment can have a major affect not only on an individual level but also for their families and for the broader community as well. It is in everyone's best interest to take the appropriate steps to ensure that members of the community have access to suitable and secure employment in their community and it is great to see major employers taking the lead in providing this. Major employers also have a responsibility to keep their employees safe at work. Our current Parliamentary Leader, Hon Tammy Franks MLC, has previously raised concerns about worker safety at the smelter and has attempted to get Safework SA to act on some of the workplace accidents that have occurred at the smelter. The Greens SA are committed to ensure that every worker is as safe as possible at work.
- 1.3.** Having secure employment can go a long way in improving one's quality of life but other major factors include access to housing and healthcare and protecting the wellbeing of workers too. The Greens SA recognise that having accessible housing and healthcare is just as important as having a job and that these are necessary to recruit and retain workers to the smelter. The Greens SA are committed to building 40,000 public homes throughout South Australia and re-establishing the South Australian Housing Trust which will ensure that all South Australians have access to affordable housing.
- 1.4.** The Greens SA are supportive of the Targeted Lead Abatement Program and are please to see that there has been funding provided to extend it to at least 2034. The Greens SA will ensure that this commitment is upheld. As mentioned in your platform, there is still much more work to be done. We note that lead levels are indeed worsening and so there is definitely the need for this program to continue and to be expanded to reduce lead levels and protect the community.
- 1.5.** The Greens SA acknowledge that every industry will need to work innovatively to reduce their emissions in the upcoming years in order to appropriately tackle the climate crisis. The science clearly indicates that we need a 75% emissions reduction by 2030. The Smelter faces another challenge in managing the resulting lead levels in blood and soil which will also need to be reduced. The Greens SA will work with industry, council, and government to ensure that adequate steps are being taken to reduce emissions in line with the science and lead exposure.

- 1.6. The Port Pirie Regional Council has a pivotal role to play in supporting the TLAP and the Greens SA would be more than happy to support and utilise this role for the benefit of the local community.
- 1.7. The Greens SA are willing to support the Intergovernmental Panel on Lead Abatements so all levels of government can work together to achieve meaningful action in reducing lead levels.
- 1.8. Ensuring that the Intergovernmental Panel on Lead Abatements has representatives from the relevant areas (such as health and environmental representatives) and is reporting their findings to the Council is key to ensuring that the Panel operates effectively and that decisions made within the Panel will lead to improved outcomes for the local community.
- 1.9. The Greens SA are supportive of this commitment.
- 1.10. The Greens SA would be more than happy to work with the Council to develop a Master Plan that creates a sustainable and thriving city. Whilst urgent action is needed to address the climate crisis, we are presented with a unique opportunity to reimagine many of our cities, towns, and communities and to build them in a way that is better for people and planet. It is entirely possible to have a city that is both sustainable and thriving without sacrificing quality of life, in fact it can improve it in many ways (such as addressing lead abatement, housing, and healthcare). This is something the Greens SA are very passionate about and would gladly welcome the opportunity to work with the Council on such a plan.

2. Water

- 2.1. Providing funding support for a Feasibility Study into the development of a Port Pirie Greening Strategy is something that the Greens SA are willing to support and advocate for.
- 2.2. The Greens SA believe that the safe use of recycled water is critical in managing our environmental impacts but is also critical in managing lead exposure. It is acknowledged that SA Water will need to play a key role in developing and implementing this Strategy which the Greens SA will aim to support their engagement.
- 2.3. If it is appropriate, The Greens SA would be willing to help the Council have the Strategy included in the Northern Water Supply Project.

3. Workforce

- 3.1. As stated above, having gainful employment is a key aspect of one's adult life. This can be a factor in many other areas of life such as health, well-being, housing, and education. Having a plan in place to ensure that not only members of the local community have access to employment and all the benefits that come with it, but that new people are also attracted to the area and will have job opportunities, is highly important to helping an area and community grow. The Greens SA believe that such a plan is highly beneficial.
- 3.2. This investment is an important way to help address unemployment in the area that has already proven to have some success. It would be in the interests of local industries, the community, the State Government, and the Council to ensure that this program is continued and possibly expanded if there is the room to do so. The Greens SA also have a Conversation Jobs Plan which would create almost 3,000 new jobs. More information about this can be found [here](#).

4. Housing

- 4.1.** The Greens SA are strongly in favour of the development of a Housing Strategy and recognise the need for a wide variety of housing options to be available not only for existing members of the community but to attract new members too. In order to attract people to the city and surrounding areas for work there must be houses for them to live in that are affordable to them and suit their needs.
- 4.2.** The Greens SA have a plan to bring back the South Australian Housing Trust and to build 40,000 public homes right across the state. We recognise that public housing at the moment is insufficient, the wait list is ridiculously long, and many of the homes are in dire need of repairs and maintenance. The Greens SA are willing to work with local councils to ensure that these homes are being built where they are most needed and that they will suit the needs of the occupants.
- 4.3.** The Greens SA are more than willing to support this work being done. Every single person deserves a roof over their head, it is a basic human right, and the Greens SA are committing to working with the Council to create innovative solutions to this housing crisis.

5. Childcare Facilities

- 5.1.** The Greens SA acknowledge that having access to affordable childcare can make a considerable difference in the abilities of parents to work and have other roles in the community. It is great to see that the Council have also acknowledged this and are taking steps to ensure childcare is accessible and the Greens SA will support that work how we can.

6. Community Well Being

- 6.1.** The wellbeing of a community is paramount to the community's success and growth and is determined by many factors. It cannot be understated how important having a mentally and physically healthy community is. The Greens SA acknowledge and are supportive of providing funding to review and check the services available and how that can be improved to ensure that the people of Port Pirie and the surrounding areas have ready access to the healthcare they need, they know where and how to access it, and most importantly they can afford it.

7. Clinical Simulation Training Laboratory

- 7.1.** A key strategy in addressing unemployment but also staff shortages within the health sector is ensuring that students can complete their qualifications locally. Many students are forced to make the decision to move out of home, often to Adelaide or Whyalla, to study or to not study at all and it is quite common once students have moved, for them to remain there. Ensuring that students have access to a quality education and do not miss out on key learning opportunities regardless of their postcode is something the Greens SA strongly believes in.

8. Hospital Upgrade

- 8.1.** The Greens SA are aware that the hospital in Port Pirie requires upgrading in terms of not only infrastructure but equipment and services too, and indeed many hospitals in rural and regional South Australia do. Ensuring that all South Australians have access to quality and affordable health care regardless of where they live is a high priority of the Greens SA and we would be happy to help secure funds for this upgrade.
- 8.2.** Of course, if the hospital is to be upgraded and expanded to cater for an expanding community, there will be more staff required. Recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural and regional areas has long been a challenge for these areas with many various options to help combat this. The Greens SA will work with Council and the Local Health Network to put initiatives in place to help not only attract workers to Port Pirie but to retain them. Many of the other commitments will play a role in this retention, such as having affordable housing, childcare, and a welcoming community for them to enter.

9. Road

- 9.1.** The Greens SA are willing to work with all levels of Government to ensure that any upgrades to the Augusta Highway happen, are funded, and are designed in the best way possible to manage traffic, access, and safety concerns.

APPENDIX 2

Liberal Party's response to Council's State Election Platform



**Government
of South Australia**

Treasurer

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Mr Leon Stephens
Mayor
Port Pirie Regional Council
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Dear Mr ^{Leon} Stephens

Thank you for providing Port Pirie Regional Council's *State Election Platform* document.

Please find attached a consolidated response on behalf of the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Lucas".

Hon Rob Lucas MLC
Treasurer

¹⁵ March 2022

2022 South Australian Election

Response to Port Pirie Regional Council

The Marshall Liberal Government appreciates your advocacy on behalf of your community, and the productive working relationship that we have had to deliver many of the initiatives underway in Port Pirie.

The Deputy Premier has secured significant commitments for the people of Port Pirie in Health. This includes \$26.1 million for a redevelopment of the Port Pirie Hospital, with a new emergency department, new medical imaging unit, and new short stay crisis mental health unit. This is a larger commitment than has been made by other local candidates. We appreciate the importance of investing in Health infrastructure in Port Pirie, this includes the training incubator for Upper Spencer Gulf nurses which we support. We have increased employment in health in the region over the last two years to support the community during the COVID pandemic.

The Government is demonstrating our commitment to the people of Port Pirie by stepping up our actions to address legacy lead, with an investment not seen for decades. From new EPA licence conditions on emissions standards for the smelter, to the significant package we have announced to address legacy lead, and rolling out the greening of Port Pirie, we have heard the community's call for a concerted push on addressing legacy lead and to have a seat at the table in the targeted lead abatement program.

The package of measure put in place (over and above existing TLAP funding and projects) includes:

- The extension of TLAP funding to 2034;
- The appointment of Mr Peter Dolan as TLAP Executive Director to increase engagement of the community and provide an ensuring framework to drive the reduction of lead in blood in Port Pirie;
- \$23 million investment by Nyrstar in a recycling facility at the smelter to significantly reduce fugitive lead emissions, whilst creating 75 jobs at the peak of construction;
- \$2.5 million in funding for remediation and upgrade of 43 Housing SA homes at greatest risk of exposure to help reduce lead levels;
- \$875,000 to develop a master plan, undertake a water study and greening strategy to reduce exposure to lead in public spaces; and
- The allocation of \$1 million to complete the remediation of the former residential area north of Frederick Road as part of the plan.

Council have raised a number of infrastructure opportunities which are being further developed through the study being undertaken by SA Water to look at water options.

This initial work shows that the broadscale greening of Port Pirie can be started now by appropriate species selection, water sensitive design which makes better use of rain and stormwater, and some supplemental watering from existing sources in the first years after planting. As such, we have committed to these additional measures:

- \$2.18 million for the Phoenix Park wetlands park masterplan, south of John Pirie Secondary School, including trees, understory planting and water infrastructure;
- \$1.8 million to vegetate key pedestrian areas;
- \$310,000 to establish native plants around Pirie West Primary school;
- \$200,000 for street trees for Solomontown as part of a joint SA Government, TLAP and Port Pirie Council effort to provide street trees and pave dusty verges;
- \$1 million to vegetate and water railway land adjacent to Solomontown;
- \$200,000 to provided subsidised plants to households to increase Port Pirie's green space;
- \$125,000 for community grants for greening projects, which are currently open to applicants; and
- \$300,000 to establish a dust monitoring network in Port Pirie to identify future priorities.

Upgraded water infrastructure may well provide an important role in the future by providing a volume of water— these options will be further developed by SA Water, and we look forward to continuing to discuss this, particularly in light of the outcomes of the master planning process.

The Government's Skilling South Australia initiative has been successful in reversing the decline in trades in South Australia that occurred under the previous Labor Government. A re-elected Government would be keen to work with Port Pirie Council to connect local businesses to this initiative which will allow tailored training packages to be developed and implemented. By providing a stronger conduit for local businesses to Skilling South Australia, that would be playing an important role in supporting their training needs.

Our focus on delivering new jobs, such as through the acceleration of the Port Pirie Hydrogen Project and development of the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub, shows that we are keen to create new and well-paying jobs in the Upper Spencer Gulf. We are also keen to diversify the economy of the surrounding region, and have through the opening up of reservoirs in the region at Bundaleer and Beetaloo as well as development of the Mount Remarkable biking facilities and trails. These, combined with the Silver to the Sea project, highlight an opportunity to increase job opportunities in tourism in the region.

As these projects and others develop, we are keen to work closely with Council on monitoring their impact upon skills and housing. We would also welcome being appraised of the Council's work on childcare needs in the region as it progresses so that we can understand where local pressures exist.

The Government has invested significant funding into improving the standard of public housing in the regions after 16 years of significant neglect by consecutive Labor governments. Since July 2018 we have poured almost \$14 million into the Port Pirie

City Council area, outstripping Labor's spend significantly. We have also significantly stemmed the sale of public housing. In the Port Pirie City Council region, the number of public houses sold on average each year was 9. We have cut this by one third with an average of 3 houses per year. We are also investing in significant improvements to both private and public housing through TLAP and through SAHA – with the remediation of properties with young children in high-risk areas. These are significant improvements to internal and external environments.

The Government is undertaking a once-in-a-generation boost to regional roads, including significant upgrades to the Horrocks Highway, Barrier Highway, and investment in the Augusta Highway Duplication and Port Wakefield junction. We are making significant progress after neglect of regional roads for a significant period. We look forward to working with Port Pirie Council to continue to progress road improvements in the region, and a re-elected Government would be keen to work with Port Pirie Council to understand highest priority projects.