

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

PREMIER STEVEN MARSHALL MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Department of Premier and Cabinet changes mark new priorities

Two key new agencies will be funded and a renewed focus on veteran's and aboriginal affairs will be delivered under the 2018-19 State Budget.

Annual funding has been allocated by the Marshall Liberal Government to the recently established South Australian Productivity Commission and soon to be established Infrastructure SA.

The SA Productivity Commission, headed by Dr Matthew Butlin, will be allocated an annual budget of \$2.5 million (indexed) while Infrastructure SA will receive \$2 million (indexed) per year.

The Productivity Commission's annual funding includes \$1 million per year which has been reallocated from funding the Department of Treasury and Finance's Simpler Regulation Unit.

"The Government will deliver all of our commitments and ensure we repair the state budget," said Premier Steven Marshall.

"The Productivity Commission and Infrastructure SA will be critical to growing our economy and creating more job opportunities for South Australians."

To ensure South Australia continues to honour and respect our veterans, new funding will be provided for three key initiatives:

- \$300,000 per year to fund grave leases on an ongoing basis for war veterans, as opposed to families having to re-purchase leases every 25 years;
- \$45,000 in 2018-19 to commence the re-memorialisation of Anzac Highway by shifting the memorials which are currently located on median strips to road verges and making them more visible and accessible; and,
- \$10,000 per annum for three years to provide headstones for unmarked graves of World War One veterans who served our nation.

The Government will also be taking a new approach to aboriginal affairs and funding will be directed towards practical outcomes.

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“Last year I announced my intention to discontinue Labor’s aboriginal treaty process and that a Liberal state government would instead develop a state-wide plan for improving services and opportunities for aboriginal people,” said Premier Marshall.

“The State Government confirms that position in the 2018-19 State Budget meaning that \$1.9 million that had been allocated for facilitating the treaty process will no longer be required.

“Following engagement with aboriginal people, the first State Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan will be announced before the end of the year.

“I am the first South Australian Premier to hold the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation portfolio, which reflects the importance this government places on improving outcomes for aboriginal people.”

In order to meet the \$715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government’s priorities, the 2018-19 State Budget includes the following savings measures in the Premier’s portfolio:

- Departmental operating efficiencies of \$25.9 million across the forward estimates, including an estimated reduction of around 41 FTEs;
- Discontinuing the Economic Development Board – saving \$10.6 million across the forward estimates; and
- Reallocating \$20.5 million from the former government’s ‘Fund My Neighbourhood’ program to alternative projects.