

STATE BUDGET

2019-20

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER HON DAVID SPEIRS MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 18 June 2019

Parks a priority for Marshall Liberal Government

The Marshall Liberal Government will breathe new life into South Australia's parks and improve nature-based tourism experiences through a \$11.8 million commitment in the 2019-20 State Budget.

The picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula is a big winner, with \$6 million allocated over four years to upgrade the Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Deep Creek, build a new day visitor facility and a universally accessible walking trail at Deep Creek Conservation Park and upgrade existing campgrounds and amenities.

A new \$3.3 million Parks Restoration Fund will be created to fast-track upgrades and improvements to activate nature and heritage-based tourism experiences across South Australia and improve accessibility.

A further \$2.5 million will be spent on infrastructure at Glenthorne National Park to support continued development of the park turning 1,500 hectares of open space into a thriving community precinct.

Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs said investment in our state's parks would help build environmentally sustainable recreation areas for all South Australian families and communities to enjoy.

"We have some of the best natural landscapes in the world here in South Australia," said Minister Speirs.

"Under the previous Labor government, the Department for Environment and Water's annual capital works program, which is used to upgrade and maintain our parks and other environmental infrastructure, was cut by around \$7 million per annum, from \$12 million in 2013-14 to \$5 million a year from 2014-15.

"The Heysen Trail on the Fleurieu Peninsula takes in some of our most diverse and breathtaking landscapes and by upgrading facilities we will improve the user-experience and attract more visitors from around the state and across the country.

"We want to increase the number of people who can experience these places and make South Australia a nature-based tourism destination.

"National Parks around South Australia have been under-invested in for far too long and the \$3.3 million Parks Restoration Fund will see much needed works and improvements carried out.

"These upgrades will not only enhance our environment but will improve social wellbeing by encouraging more people to get outside and enjoy what our state has to offer.

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“Glenthorne National Park will be Adelaide’s second major metropolitan national park and thanks to the Marshall Liberal Government we are preserving and revitalising more than 1,500 hectares of open space.

“This will be a thriving environmental and recreational precinct for the southern suburbs for generations to come.

“By investing more money in our parks we will make these natural beauties more accessible for everyday South Australians and tourists alike.”