

STATE BUDGET

2022-23

HON SUSAN CLOSE MP

DEPUTY PREMIER

MINISTER FOR CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

HON STEPHEN MULLIGHAN MP

TREASURER

Thursday 2 June 2022

DELIVERING CLIMATE ACTION AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

The Malinauskas Government's first State Budget will put climate action and nature back on the agenda, investing heavily in the future of our state's environment.

Our \$593 million Hydrogen Jobs Plan is the centrepiece of this effort and will help us achieve our bold target of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, but we need to be doing more now to combat the changes we are already seeing in our natural environment.

The budget contains funding for all of Labor's environment election commitments, including:

- \$3m for Friends of Parks groups to work on weeding, planting, seed collection and other nature restoration activities.
- \$6m for private landholders to preserve and improve existing natural environments.
- 15 new Aboriginal rangers as part of a suite of measures to give Aboriginal people greater say over our natural environment.
- The creation of a new Biodiversity Coordination Unit within the Department for Environment and Water to work with university researchers on management of the environmental impact of pests, weeds and abundant species.
- A \$2 million Citizen Science Fund to harness the power of South Australians who contribute to the knowledge we collectively have about environmental conditions.
- \$1m increase in funding for the RSPCA to enforce animal welfare laws.
- \$1m increase in funding for the Pastoral Board to get through the land condition assessments needed to give certainty to leaseholders in the pastoral lands.
- Funding for the Conservation Council and Landcare SA to continue their work in advocating for and actively protecting nature.

The budget also provides \$2.1 million to establish a Commissioner for the River Murray in South Australia. The Commissioner will report annually to parliament, deal with the

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Murray-Darling Basin Authority and will be someone who irrigators, environmentalists and communities can work with on their challenges in in water management.

Unlike the previous Liberal government, and Water Minister David Speirs who capitulated to the eastern states, South Australia will now have a strong voice on the national stage when it comes to ensuring the water legally written into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is delivered.

Quotes attributable to Susan Close

We are making good on our promise to be a government focussed on protecting, expanding and future proofing our natural environment.

This budget is a clear shift from the previous government and ensures the effort of the Department for Environment and Water is focussed on its core business.

The people who make up organisations like Friends of Parks groups and others who work towards delivering a greener and more sustainable future are invaluable, and I'm proud that this budget also provides them with long-term funding to increase the work they are able to undertake.

Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

The importance of investing in our environment cannot be understated.

Our focus on the environment is both ecological and economical – these investments will create more jobs and stimulate our economy.

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