

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

Friday, 8 July 2016

2016-17 State Budget

Adrian Pederick, Member for Hammond is disappointed with the 2016-17 State Budget as it fails to provide already struggling South Australians with much needed jobs and cost of living relief.

“Cost of living measures are lacking in this year’s State Budget, however the State Liberals have committed \$360 million to provide South Australians with cost of living relief,” said Mr Pederick.

“South Australia is experiencing the nation’s highest unemployment rate sitting at 6.9%, with youth unemployment in our state hitting 13.5%.

“By 2016-17 the Treasury Department forecasts a 0.75% increase in employment, this is less than half the Federal Government’s prediction which is 1.8%.

“With no cost of living relief, the Weatherill Labor Government are increasing the Solid Waste Levy which will go from \$62 per tonne to \$103 per tonne by 2019-20.

“Another rise will consist of a \$1 increase on all metro-ticket, taxi and chauffeur fares as well as any future services yet to come.

“The State Labor Government will also be introducing specific school fees for those holding a 457 visa, this fee will affect many throughout the Hammond Electorate.

“The charge will apply from Term 1 2017 for dependents of new visa holders who arrive on or after the 01st January 2017 and will extend to existing enrolments of children of current visa holders from Term 1 2018.

“A per annum indexed fee of \$5,100 will be charged for primary students and a \$6,100 fee for secondary students,” said Mr Pederick.

“The \$500 million in which the State Government has committed to both government and non-government schools consists of two different funding options.

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921

www.adrianpederick.com

“\$250 million will be offered over three years to refurbish and redevelop 139 public schools, both primary and secondary for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs.

“I acknowledge that out of these 139 schools, Murray Bridge High School, Murray Bridge North Primary School and Mannum Community College will be the recipients of some funding, but 370 State schools will miss out.

“It also needs to be noted that the majority of the funding will be for schools within the metro area.

“As for the other \$250 million, this will be provided as a low interest loan for non-government schools.

“In terms of Agriculture, the Weatherill Labor Government aren’t offering much and are instead reducing funding for the vital research conducted in the sector.

“Over the next 4 years the State Government will be taking \$4 million from the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics,” said Mr Pederick.

The State Budget 2016-17 target indicates its intention to release a Domestic Violence discussion paper, consulting on particular matters regarding reform and informing the community on current initiatives.

“Initiatives to reduce Domestic and Family Violence are extremely important and it requires a bi-partisan approach. One of the 2015-16 highlights reflects on the collaboration with Commonwealth and other State and territory Governments to develop and implement the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children,” said Mr Pederick.

“Other aspects of the budget which I feel need to be highlighted are in relation to the Mobilong Prison as 70 extra beds are to be implemented across the South Australian prison system, with 26 of those being placed at Mobilong.

“Finns Law was mentioned as it is scheduled to be implemented in September of this year and the budget also has a 2016-17 target to increase the number of Other Person Guardianship carers which fits the eligibility criteria for the Finns Law Act.

“A total of \$3 million has been committed to the Federal Government’s Mobile Blackspot program, this is a poor investment in comparison to the contributions made by other State Governments in the last round of funding.

“No major road projects have been identified in the budget for regional South Australia, even though it is vitally needed.

“The Weatherill Labor Government has failed to provide a budget that adequately supports our regions, they have failed a budget that provides all South Australians with cost of living relief, and have again failed South Australia,” said Mr Pederick.

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921

www.adrianpederick.com