

# Budget win for SA roads

## Have Your Say on Council's 2017/18 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has welcomed the Federal Budget announcement to bring back local road funding for South Australian Councils as a huge win for road safety in Mayo.

The announcement means more than \$40 million over two years will be poured back into council-managed roads in SA, including more than \$4.6 million for the Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Kangaroo Island, Barossa and Onkaparinga Councils in Mayo.

The money was originally cut in the 2014 Abbott Budget, creating a huge gap in the funding allocated to South Australian roads compared to other states.

"I have advocated for the restoration of equitable road funding for South Australia since I won office," Ms Sharkie said. "It was

completely unfair that South Australia, which has nearly 12 per cent of the nation's local roads and more than seven per cent of the population, only received less than five per cent of Federal road funding.

"After the funding was cut three years ago, NSW received \$1400 per kilometre; Tasmania received \$2500 while SA received just \$500. I'm so delighted that the campaigning of the Nick Xenophon Team has been heard by the Government, and that our constant pressure has produced results.

"This is a win for road safety, not only for my regional electorate, which has a disproportionate number of casualty crashes due to our challenging terrain, but for all South Australians.

"Well designed, properly maintained roads play such a key role in improving road safety.

"The Councils in my electorate maintain more than 5500km of local roads and lost \$2 million a year when Supplementary Road Funding was slashed, putting enormous pressure on their budgets and their long-term plans to repair critical roads."

Other wins for Mayo in the Federal Budget include: A mentoring program which will support up to 45,000 apprentices. This measure was lobbied for by NXT and is expected to lift apprenticeship completion rates from 50 to 90 per cent. \$9 million for rural, regional and remote mental health services as part of a \$115 million mental health package. \$600 million to upgrade existing mobile phone towers in regional areas across Australia. Black Spot Road funding program to continue past 2021. \$7 million to help the ACCC monitor the roll-out of the NBN. 1200 rural and regional scholarships of up to \$20,000 to assist with education \$1.5 billion to assist the skills training for Australian workers.

Alexandrina Council has released its draft 2017-18 Annual Business Plan and Budget for public consultation - the formal consultation process takes place from Tuesday 16 May to Monday 5 June, 2017.

The Plan, along with details of how to get involved in the formal consultation process, is available on Council's website. "Each year Council has to make important decisions about how to allocate rate payer funds to the vast range of programs and services we provide," said Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes.

"The draft Plan reflects our commitment to supporting growth in the Alexandrina region, while continuing to provide the best possible mix of services, infrastructure and facilities.

"This consultation process is the opportunity for the Alexandrina community to get involved and provide a response on the Plan, which sets out our budget for

the 2017-18 financial year. "I encourage our residents to visit our website or one of our Council offices to view the document and provide feedback."

Council is proposing an average 3.5 per cent rate increase. "In preparing the plan, Council is mindful of the future challenges and continuing economic uncertainty facing our communities," said Mayor Parkes. "Alexandrina Council Elected Members and staff are conscious of the need to provide a responsible and sustainable budget that delivers maximum benefit for the community."

Some of the key initiatives proposed for this year include: The commencement of a new playground in Mount Compass

# Upgrades improve safety of rail and road networks

Five metropolitan railway pedestrian crossings and nine rural road level crossings will be upgraded as part of an initial \$12 million investment in the State Government's Railway Crossing Safety Strategy.

The Government is investing \$2.5 million to install automatic gates at pedestrian crossings in Christie Downs, Brighton and Hope to significantly improve safety, as part of a four-year strategy to improve safety across the rail network.

Another five passive pedestrian crossings which currently pose safety risks will also be closed, with pedestrians directed to nearby, safer alternatives.

Seven rural road level crossings will be upgraded in the Mid North, Flinders Ranges, Callington,

Government to upgrade Oaklands Crossing using savings from the North-South Corridor road projects.

The projects are in addition to the \$238 million Torrens Junction rail underpass which is already under construction at Park Terrace, and the Outer Harbor rail overpass built in January as part of the \$896 million Torrens to Torrens project.

The pedestrian crossings to be upgraded are located at:

Christie Downs Railway Station - Seaford end; Seventh Ave, Hope; Howe Station - Adelaide end; Beach Road, Brighton; A pedestrian level crossing between Dunluce Avenue and King Street, Brighton.

# Farmers warned of deadly risk

A series of incidents involving machinery bringing down power lines in the past week has prompted an urgent warning from SA Power Networks of the deadly threat posed by power lines on rural properties.

"In the past week we have had seven separate machinery and vehicle incidents involving damage to our power lines in rural areas," said Paul Roberts, Manager Stakeholder Relations for SA Power Networks.

On Monday 8 May, about 50 customers lost power when farm machinery brought down eight spans of line on our Loxton South 19,000 Volt SWER (Single Wire Earth Return) in the Riverland.

On Wednesday 10 May, more than 600 customers lost power when a tractor knocked down a power pole on our 33,000 Volt line between Hummocks and Ardrrossan on our York Peninsula, and 74 customers were affected when a boom sprayer contacted the Alma 19,000 Volt SWER in the Mid North.

On Saturday 13 May, a crane working on a wind farm caused another outage, initially affecting 100 customers, when it pulled down lines on the 19,000 Volt Calowie SWER in the Mid North.

On Sunday 14 May, 84 customers lost power when a farmer towing a large aerial brought down a 19,000 Volt SWER line at Marrabel and six customers were affected when a grain header contacted the line on the Hanson 19,000 Volt SWER near

and Providing funding to build a Surf Life Saving Club at Goolwa Beach

The continuation of Stage 1 of the Sandergrrove Road, Strathalbyn project to underground power lines and Development of a new Goolwa Waste Transfer Station

Upgrade of the Clayton Bay Clifftop Lookouts

"We will endeavour to implement efficiency and budget management initiatives throughout the year to improve the overall operating result," said Mayor Parkes.

Council welcomes feedback from their community and invites residents and ratepayers to view and provide comment on the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2017-18, which is on display at Council offices and libraries and can also be viewed on Council's website.

For more information, go to the SA Power networks website

# Four new trade offices set to assist Hammond exporters

Exporters in the Hammond electorate will benefit from four new overseas trade offices in key markets if the State Liberals are elected in March 2018.

The State Liberals have committed \$12.8 million in funding over four years to open new trade offices in Japan, Malaysia, Dubai and the United States to improve South Australia's export performance.

Under a Marshall Liberal Government South Australia will have six trade offices in key international markets complemented by SA trade representatives embedded within AusTrade. With regional

level of engagement, and building brand recognition in foreign markets.

The Hammond electorate is well known for its agriculture and horticulture exports and this announcement by the State Liberals provides local knowledge and market understanding to ensure relationships with our trading partners grow."

"The more Hammond can contribute to increasing South Australia's economic prosperity is in the regions and opening new overseas trade offices allows the development of a longer-term and deeper level of engagement, and building brand recognition in foreign markets.

Tim Whetstone said South Australia must substantially increase what it sells to the world. "Increasing South Australia's trade footprint in countries of the highest potential, by opening four new trade offices, offers the prospect of increased jobs and investment into the state," said Mr Whetstone. "This announcement is a part of a different approach to trade and investment in South Australia for an export-led transformation of our stagnant economy. Regional South Australia will play a key role in unlocking the state's export potential."

When an object or vehicle comes into contact with power lines there is a high risk of electric shock.

If this happens, you should immediately contact SA Power Networks on 13 13 66 and (preferably) do not move from the vehicle until the power is switched off.

If it is necessary to evacuate the vehicle to prevent injury, several steps must be followed to maximise your safety, including:

Jump out and clear of the vehicle, ensuring you do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Calmly walk away using very small steps. Call SA Power Networks immediately on 13 13 66.

Do not return to the vehicle and keep other people well clear until after the area has been made safe.

In a power emergency call 13 13 66. For an ambulance or police assistance, call 000.

SA Power Networks distributes a range of information on the risks associated with power lines on rural properties.

For more information, go to the SA Power networks website