

Mr Wade Dabinett
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Dear Mr Dabinett

I refer to your letter to The Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia, and other ALP candidates, regarding Grain Producers SA's election policy platform, dated 2 February 2018. I thank GPSA for sharing its key priorities for the upcoming State election.

Labor respects and supports GPSA as the peak body representing South Australia's grain growers and the critical role you play in representing and advocating on the sector's behalf. We thank you for your role supporting and empowering the industry to achieve profitable and sustainable growth.

The South Australian Labor Government has a bold and confident plan for the future, one that puts our state, our people, first. Building on our proud record of innovation and progressive reform, we will create new jobs and industries, and make this an even better place to live, work, visit, do business and raise a family. You can read our policies at [Standing Up For South Australia](#) and download our full [2018 Policy Document here](#).

We hope that you will continue to work with us to build upon everything we have achieved, making South Australia more prosperous and harmonious for all.

Please see **attached** the South Australian Labor Government's response to GPSA's key policy issues.

Kind regards
Stakeholder Response Team

06/02/18

1. Create infrastructure efficiencies for lowest-cost delivery to markets

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

A government-led Eyre Peninsula Transport Study to identify the best new multi-user port terminal location for the region. In addition to GPSA, this must be identified in consultation with proposal proponents, state and local governments, exporters and other relevant stakeholders.

As GPSA has reported in your newsletter in February 2018, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and Genesee & Wyoming Australia have partnered to prepare a business case to consider the Eyre Peninsula railway network.

DPTI is also developing an Eyre Peninsula Transport Study in parallel to look at broader issues. The study will investigate:

- The economic viability of the Eyre Peninsula rail network and examine the infrastructure investment required to upgrade the network to support future rail freight operations.
- The potential to rejuvenate the existing rail network to meet export needs, modelling the cost of alternative supply chain options, and the impact of proposed regional port infrastructure projects.

The State Labor Government is committed to delivering this body of work for the benefit of the grains sector.

Labor's Ports commitment

A re-elected Labor Government will inject \$150 million of equity into a new South Australian Ports Authority to oversee the development of ports, including a new multi-user, deep water port in the Spencer Gulf. The new port will create 400 construction and 100 ongoing jobs, boosting exports and unlocking thousands of more jobs in industries such as mining and agriculture. It will drive extra competition to benefit farmers and exporters.

Labor's \$150 million equity injection will allow the new Authority to borrow more than \$500 million to develop the new port, which would be capable of hosting cape-sized vessels.

Labor is getting back into the business of building ports to unlock thousands of jobs for South Australians – because jobs are our number one priority. By better connecting our major export industries to the world we can support our growing mining, agriculture and defence sectors.

We will invest in initiatives to accelerate collaboration, drive innovation across the value chain and support a productive and globally-competitive agriculture, food and beverage industry – all to create South Australian jobs.

Facilitate the use of higher productivity vehicle combinations off-farm to grain transport pathways. This includes working with relevant authorities to grant higher mass combinations, such as road trains and A-B double access, on the most efficient routes to South Australian port terminals.

90 Day Road Transport Project

Primary producers and road transport operators have received estimated industry benefits of at least \$80 million from the 90 day Improving Road Transport for the Agriculture Industry project.

The benefit figure has more than doubled from the original estimate of \$36 million in 2016 and is expected to further rise as route extensions and last mile access issues are addressed across the State.

Following on from the success and momentum of the first project, a second survey was undertaken last year to identify any remaining issues. The survey provided an opportunity for those that were not engaged in the first project, including the forestry, dairy, fresh produce, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, to have their say. Almost 500 people responded to the survey, identifying 90 issues related to road transport issues in the agriculture industry.

South Australia is now providing support for cross-border and national issues related to agricultural transport on behalf of the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee road transport group.

State Labor is working hard to create jobs and reduce the cost of living for all South Australians. We are enormously pleased to see more than \$80 million going back into the agriculture and road transport industry as a result of this project.

We are committed to continuing this body of work and are happy to investigate the use of higher productivity vehicle combinations to improve the efficiency of grain transport through this process.

A re-elected Labor Government is committed to improving efficiencies in the state's agriculture sector and is delivering significant benefits to primary producers and transport operators.

Regional Road Funding

Labor is investing more than half a billion dollars in maintaining and upgrading our road network, with \$341 million being spent in regional areas. By contrast the Liberal Party's promise to restrict country road funding to just 30 per cent of the State's mining royalties represents a 20 per cent cut.

This year the State Government is expected to receive \$251 million from mining royalties – meaning on this year's estimates the Liberal's country roads fund would amount to about \$75 million. By contrast the State Labor Government is spending \$94 million on regional road safety and maintenance projects this year – an extra \$19 million.

This financial year even more roads will be upgraded with approximately 596 kilometres of rural roads resurfaced, and a further 170 kilometres of shoulder re-sheeting and 190 kilometres of shoulder resealing. All of this this work would not be possible under the Liberals' funding cut.

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

Urgently consider the findings of the ESCOSA inquiry that bulk grain supply chain costs are inefficient, and implement measures to address those inefficiencies. These measures will establish a basis for pricing of and access to grain storage and bulk handling facilities (including up-country services) consistent with the requirements of a competitive and deregulated grain export market.

On 16 March 2017, the Treasurer provided the Essential Service Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) with Terms of Reference for an inquiry into the South Australian bulk grain supply chain costs. The purpose of the inquiry is to determine the reasonableness of the costs underpinning the South Australian bulk grain supply chain, specifically:

- In part 1, to inquire into the South Australian bulk grain export supply chain costs over the past 10 years, and
- In part 2, should the Commission find areas where bulk grain supply chain costs are identified as inefficient, to provide options for addressing those inefficiencies.

The terms of reference for the inquiry have recently been varied to require the draft report (Part 1) be finalised by 30 June 2018 and the final report (Part 2) to be finalised by 31 October 2018, to allow the Commission to consider further evidence and information. In particular:

- Evidence and findings of the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre report into supply chain costs across Australia (due for publication in April 2018), and
- Evidence and findings of the South Australian Parliament's Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into Primary Producers final report (released 28 November 2017).

A State Labor Government will consider the findings of the ESCOSA review as a priority once they are available. We are committed to achieving our key objectives in relation to bulk grain supply chain costs:

- a. Providing transparency in regards to bulk grain export supply chain costs in South Australia
- b. Determining areas where future efficiencies may be achieved in the South Australian bulk grain export supply chain, and
- c. Reviewing the appropriateness of mechanisms used for funding road and rail components of the bulk grain export supply chain costs.

2. Increase market access to boost returns to SA's economy

GPSA seeks all parties in this election to commit to:

Commission an investigation on the barriers to entry for our grower-members entering the container grain market. The investigation should comprise analysis of how to compete, enter high-growth and profitable markets and create low barriers to entry, consider competition or regulated models and explain a lack of 20-foot containers and, internationally, reposition those currently available.

The State Labor Government is committed to our *Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World* economic priority. The growing world demand for premium products that are cleanly, safely and sustainably produced creates significant opportunities for South Australia's food and beverage industries to continue to grow and our markets expand.

We are always looking for ways to capitalise on opportunities to realise increased value for our premium food and beverage products in the global marketplace. We would be happy to collaborate

with the grain industry on projects to drive more demand-driven market strategies, and to better understand and overcome barriers to market entry.

3. Invest in plant science research, technologies and biosecurity

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

Retain Primary Industries and Regions SA as a stand-alone department, incorporating the SA Research and Development Institute as a unit. Government reinvestment of industry funds back into PIRSA and SARDI must be in line with the value of the grain industry to the state and its huge potential to grow productivity and exports.

Labor is committed to continuing the role of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) as a key State Government economic development agency, with responsibility for the prosperity of the state's primary industries and regions. We recognise that PIRSA provides significant support to help grow our primary industries, including through increasing trade and investment, engaging with industry associations, developing and implementing policy, legislation and regulation, and delivering scientific research and innovation. PIRSA is the lead agency for the State Labor Government's *Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World* economic priority.

The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) was established by the State Labor Government in 1992 as a dedicated research institute responsible for the state's applied research and development related to primary industries. For the past 25 years, its applied science has helped increase the productivity, sustainability and adaptability of the state's primary industries, food and wine enterprises.

SARDI, as the State Government's principal research institute, is highly valued across both industry and government agencies and accordingly receives strong support from funding bodies. Agriculture-related research receives significant research and development investment from the State Government, reflecting the regional distribution of production systems and the contribution primary industries make to state economies.

In 2016, the State Labor Government and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) entered a bilateral agreement to invest \$50 million in securing the future of grains research in South Australia. As part of this agreement, six regional agronomy researchers have recently been appointed based in key cropping regions. South Australia's grain-growing regions will benefit from this boost to regional research and development capacity and the tailoring of research to regional needs. The new regional research agronomists will be critical in providing research outcomes specifically addressing the priorities in these key regions, including the Eyre Peninsula, Mid North and Yorke Peninsula, South East and the Mallee.

Increase government funding allocations to dedicated research for periods longer than the government's term, ensuring the long-term needs of the industry are put first.

State government agencies already have the capacity to enter into long-term research funding agreements. Examples include bilateral or similar arrangements with projects contracted for periods greater than four or five years, including the GRDC bilateral, Plant Biosecurity CRC, Wine Australia Partnership, CRC for Food Agility and CRC for High integrity Pork.

Use an increase in government investment to stimulate private sector confidence in investing and investigate public/private co-investment opportunities.

A 2016 review by ACIL Allen Consulting confirmed that SARDI has established a strong reputation for its technical excellence and is undertaking significant and important research at a national and state level. Given the growing importance of our food and wine sectors, and therefore the need to support the full value chain, the review recommended SARDI increase its emphasis on 'post-farmgate' research, to complement its recognised strengths in 'pre-farmgate' research focused on sustainable production. It also highlighted the need to explore new funding models and partnerships.

In response to the review's findings, the State Labor Government committed to four key actions in 2017:

- Refreshing the SARDI leadership
- Seeking expert advice through the establishment of a formal reference group
- Developing a research and development strategy and action plan
- Embedding a commercialisation ethos within SARDI's research and development activities.

The first three of these actions have been completed and the *SARDI Strategic Plan 2018-2023* released in November 2017 has established the framework to implement the final action. Supporting SARDI to deliver policy-driven applied research in this way will provide benefits throughout the production value chain across our primary industry sectors. Research outcomes will inform better regulation, reducing costs and impediments where appropriate.

The State Labor Government is committed to ensuring SARDI's traditional role in delivering science outcomes for public good remains as strong as ever, while taking opportunities to drive innovation and development in new products and industries. We will continue working closely with industry, researchers, and research and development corporations on innovative and collaborative projects that will support the competitiveness and productivity of our agribusiness industries.

The State Government has introduced legislation and regulatory frameworks to allow farmers to grow poppies, industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis in South Australia in recognition of the potential for these industries to set up in the state, delivering economic benefit and creating jobs. We are happy to examine any proposal that has the potential for industry development and jobs in the state.

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

An independent review into the marketing advantage or premium purported to result from SA's GM free status, conducted within 12 months of the March 2018 election.

Until findings from the independent review are received:

- Extend the exemption to grow GM canola seed to allow commercial production.
- Invest in the research and market access requirements for SA grain producers to secure the higher value markets that it proposes exist from SA's GM free status. If those markets do exist, the government must ensure SA's grain producers have access to those premiums as well.

Work with other jurisdictions by allowing sealed GM seed to be safely transported rather than to detour through the Northern Territory, when crossing from one side of the country to the other.

South Australia is the only remaining mainland state in Australia to prohibit the commercial cultivation of GM food crops. Our non-GM status is one of the elements underpinning our global reputation as a supplier of premium products, and supporting the State Labor Government's *Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World* economic priority. These credentials give the State's primary producers and food and beverage manufacturers a competitive marketing advantage in the global marketplace.

In 2004 the State Labor Government implemented a moratorium on the commercial cultivation of genetically modified food crops. We recently supported an extension of this moratorium until 2025 because we believe so strongly in realising the opportunities provided by South Australia's non-GM status. Extending the prohibition on growing GM food crops provides greater certainty to our trading partners and industry, enables South Australia to maintain its market position as a producer of premium, non-GM food, and responds to the expected increase in global demand.

The benefits of our non-GM status extend beyond a single crop and are available to the whole agricultural, food and beverage sector, which generated a record \$19.97 billion in revenue in 2016-17. We've been encouraged to see more and more South Australian businesses using their non-GM status and the state's GM food crop prohibition to access new markets and grow sales, such as Tuckers Natural, San Remo, Fleurieu Milk and Yoghurt Co and B-D Farms Paris Creek.

The State Labor Government is committed to realising the global market opportunities for our agribusiness industries and we want to work with the grains industry to help them get the most out of these opportunities for their crops. We consider our collective efforts are best directed at investigating ways for the government to assist industry understand consumer preferences, formulate marketing strategies for South Australia's non-GM food and seek trade opportunities to get premium prices for our premium produce.

We recognise GPSA has a different policy position on this issue and appreciate receiving a copy of the March 2018 report 'Analysis of price premiums under the South Australian GM moratorium' by Mercado. We will consider this report and engage with the industry to continue the discussion about GM food crops.

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to recognising that biosecurity is a shared public good issue and to increase government investment in biosecurity. There needs to be a strong recognition of the public good and also that the public, particularly travellers and importers, create the greatest risks.

A strong and effective biosecurity system is already, and will remain, a priority for the State Labor Government. It is essential for protecting South Australia's status as a producer of premium food and wine from a clean environment, and for maintaining and increasing access to international and domestic markets. As a result of our strong biosecurity systems, South Australia is the only mainland state to be fruit fly free and one of the few places in the world free of the vine destroying pest phylloxera. We are committed to implementing the innovative 'One Biosecurity' program to improve on-farm biosecurity and reinforce South Australia's proven reputation as a producer of healthy, wholesome products.

When biosecurity threats emerge, government acts in liaison with industry to respond quickly and effectively and to minimise impacts on the sector.

In March 2017, PIRSA won an Australian Biosecurity Award for its role in the response to the Khapra beetle detection. The collaborative award, shared with Kangaroo Island Freight Services and Middleton's Distribution, recognised the swift and decisive actions from multiple PIRSA divisions to contain the incursion. While the pest was eradicated and the risk of it spreading was negligible, as a precaution, a national response was instigated under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. PIRSA continues active surveillance activities after completing a thorough tracing exercise and no further detections of Khapra beetle have been made.

To assist South Australian cereal growers respond to the threat of Russian Wheat Aphid, SARDI entomologists are involved in GRDC and South Australian Grains Industry Trust Fund-funded research on Russian Wheat Aphid and present updates at multiple meetings and field days across the state. Existing research is focussed on obtaining better information to establish intervention thresholds for different areas of the state. Future research will focus on an integrated agronomic practices, use chemical sprays when an infestation is detected, and the use of resistant plant varieties.

4. Build a stronger workforce with new entrants and skills development for current participants

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

Promote the development and implementation of programs that encourage a better understanding of the opportunities in agriculture. In particular, GPSA recommends long-term co-investment in Food and Fibre Education SA by the SA Government to improve its effectiveness in attracting students into a career in agriculture.

In late 2017, the State Labor Government implemented an extensive stakeholder engagement process to better understand and respond to industry demand and individual need for jobs and skills in regional South Australia. The engagement process involved 100 events in regional South Australia, reaching more than 1,360 people. In addition, 750 survey responses were received from jobseekers, employers and the general public, through the South Australian Government.

As a result, South Australia's regions will receive a funding boost of \$1.5 million to deliver projects to meet critical skills and employment needs (announced February 2018).

The projects will provide training, skills development and employment opportunities to enable people, businesses and communities to reach their full potential and thrive. These projects, tailored to the unique needs of each region, will provide language, literacy and numeracy support; employability and work readiness skills; more enrolments in vocational education and training; and local jobs for local people.

Projects include the agriculture sector with:

- The **Agriculture Sector - Workforce Attraction Pilot** will partner with Grain Producers SA, Rural Directions, PIRSA and local farmers to develop a model of attracting young people into the industry, and working with farmers to better position and promote themselves to ensure stability of labour into the future. The project will target 30 participants including those transitioning out of other industries, new entrants and migrants.
- **Workforce Attraction in the Yorke and Mid North** to attract people into the industry and work with farmers to better position and promote themselves to ensure sector stability for the future.
- **Jobs 4 Riverland** to provide employment pathways in the agriculture and horticulture sectors for local unemployed jobseekers

We are also happy to engage with education programs such as Food and Fibre Education SA to facilitate better understanding of agriculture and assist in promoting the job and career opportunities that exist in the industry.

Encourage the Department for Education and Child Development and other relevant stakeholders to recognise the opportunities and careers in agriculture, and grain production, and promote them accordingly.

Labor knows that strong public investment in education sets our children and young people up for a lifetime of success and wellbeing. World-class, well-resourced and accessible education is at the centre of our value system. Labor will continue its record investment in South Australian children and young people to set them up for the future.

Creating jobs for South Australia's future generations is our priority, which is why we invested \$250 million to build state-of-the-art science and maths facilities in public schools. The next step is to equip our children and young people with the skills required for employment in jobs of the future.

We recognise there are great job and career opportunities in agriculture and we have over 50 of our public schools specialise in primary industries/rural operations, including Lucindale Area School, Kangaroo Inn Area School, Penola High School, Naracoorte High School, Renmark High School and Millicent High School, and of course Urrbrae Agricultural High School. Labor has committed \$10 million to upgrade Urrbrae Agricultural High School as part of our Building Better Schools program.

Study options and career pathways available for students are increasing across the state, with many students choosing to focus on agriculture and production. VET pathways are also available for

students who want to follow this pathway. Labor has and will continue to support the development and provision of VET courses for students.

It is important that young people graduate from school with the qualifications, knowledge and capabilities valued by communities, tertiary institutions and employers. We will introduce a new Navigating Future Pathways strategy that meets the needs of students and our state's changing economy.

This investment will help schools introduce career development activities; develop partnerships between schools, business, community and the tertiary sectors to help young people do transition planning; and assist parents to help with their child's career planning. There will be more professional development for teachers. Career development will be integrated into the classroom and every school with secondary enrolments will implement a career development strategy.

Only Labor will stand up to the Liberals' and Nick Xenophon's cuts to South Australian schools. A re-elected Labor Government will continue to invest in our schools and our teachers to equip students for the next generation of jobs.

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

Work with the industry to develop leaders and deliver labour levels necessary to meet the industry's current and future demands.

The agribusiness sector – and what it brings to our regions – is enormously valuable to South Australia. The State Labor Government is committed to working to ensure our regional communities and primary industries thrive, prosper, and are sustainable, with strong job opportunities. In doing so we want to make sure the industry attracts the finest, most suitable and passionate people to deliver on this.

We recognise women already play a significant role in South Australian agribusiness and there is enormous potential for us to benefit even more from female industry participation and leadership in the sector. The State Government, through PIRSA, and in partnership with women in industry and the community has developed the 'Women Influencing Agribusiness and Regions Strategy' to exploit these opportunities.

The strategy raises community, industry and government awareness of the important role women play in agribusiness and regions, especially in leadership roles, and the opportunities that exist to promote and inspire the success of women. It ensures work is done to promote pathways, build skills and engage with potential female leaders of the future. It aims to demonstrate the diversity of roles associated with agribusiness, and increase the level of participation of women influencers within the sector.

The State Labor Government will continue to support and encourage other women to join the sector by highlighting rewarding career pathways and opportunities for development.

GPSA seeks a government review into the relevance and value of tools to help farmers to self-manage for times of risk, such as multi-peril crop insurance. GPSA seeks commitments that stamp duty and other government charges for the uptake of such risk management tools be waived.

The South Australian Government is making South Australia the best place to do business through our nation-leading tax reforms, which will return \$2.5 billion to businesses and the community over the next decade.

These reforms included:

- Removing barriers to succession planning for family businesses through an expansion of the stamp duty exemption for family farms to include certain types of trusts, and the abolition of non-real and non-residential stamp duty for other businesses.
- Exempting stamp duty on multi-peril crop insurance premiums from 1 January 2018, to support grain farmers' resilience against extreme weather events such as fire, frost, hail and drought.

Payroll taxes have been reduced seven times since 2002-03. Businesses are now paying about \$230 million less in payroll tax a year than they would be paying under the tax settings of the former Liberal Government.

We reformed workers' compensation, which is saving registered businesses in South Australia \$220 million a year.

We have partnered with businesses to boost job creation through our Job Accelerator Grants, which provide up to \$10,000 for each new employee, or up to \$15,000 for new apprentices and trainees. More than 3,220 new employees have been registered by regional businesses for these grants.

The State Labor Government has committed an annual contribution of \$260,000 to Rural Business Support Service Inc. (RBS) for the three years of its contract to deliver rural financial counselling services. These services and independent support are provided to the primary industry sector to enable them to manage change, risk and business challenges.

An additional \$200,000 was provided to RBS by the State Government in November 2017 for the Grains Industry Farm Business Strategic Review, in partnership with Grain Producers SA and the GRDC. Originally developed for the dairy industry in 2016 following the milk price crisis, the financial literacy programs aims to help farming families make decisions about future investment in the industry, encourage more businesses to grow and create jobs.

We are willing to look at further opportunities to work with industry to improve farmers' resilience and risk management.

5. Balance agriculture with competing land uses

GPSA seeks all parties to commit to:

An independent review of the Mining Act 1971. While the current government has commenced with the Leading Practice Mining Acts Review, GPSA is concerned the rights of producers are being eroded. Until an independent review is established, GPSA will continue to engage with the government and key stakeholders while seeking improved clarity and outcomes when dealing with explorers or miners on their properties.

The State Government has undertaken the most comprehensive review of the three major mining acts in more than 45 years. The public consultation process sought the views of landowners, industry, regional communities, explorers, representative bodies and mine operators on the strengths and shortcomings of the current legislation.

The Bill was drafted based on more than 130 written submissions to the Review and targeted engagement with more than 1,700 stakeholders. It balances the requests from landowners, communities, business and environment advocates in a practical way.

The Bill is the first of several proposed for introduction in the next two years. Ongoing consultation on native title issues, other landowner and environmental aspects and mine rehabilitation funding will continue into 2018.

Community engagement and public consultation have been at the heart of the resource strategies and law reviews undertaken in recent years. Whether it's through YourSAy, open town hall meetings or Country Cabinets, Labor has demonstrated its willingness to engage with members of the public including regional communities so that your voice can be heard and your legitimate concerns taken into account when designing policies or drafting laws.

The South Australian Government aims to ensure that opportunities provided by the demand for mineral and energy resources are balanced with farming and other interests in our rural communities.

An integral part of the plan is sharing the economic benefits with landholders. A new Royalties Return Scheme will provide 10 per cent of royalties to landowners whose property overlies a petroleum field which is brought into production.

In addition, a re-elected Labor Government will pay royalties to farmers who have new mineral deposits discovered and developed on their land. The Royalty Return program would provide freehold and perpetual leaseholders who have a mining lease granted on their land a 10 per cent share of any royalties generated by the mine. This scheme will create valuable new income streams for farmers and allow local communities to share in the economic benefits of new mining developments.

A dedicated, government funded resource to be situated in Primary Producers SA to help farmers access information on their rights when faced with a mining company wanting to explore on their property. This will help lessen the conflict between landowners, explorers and miners by providing

information and support to farmers as well as a direct link to the Department of State Development and other relevant experts.

A *Mining and Farming Roundtable* has been established to provide support should there be conflict between landowners, explores and miners. This was recommended by stakeholders during a widespread consultation process, as part of a review into the Mining Act.

Following this review, the Labor Government introduced reforms to the Act to better balance the needs of farmers and miners, and help to avoid conflicts. (These have not yet passed parliament.)

If given the opportunity we can refresh our policy settings in a way that builds trust, increases transparency and provides certainty for investors, landowners and community.

Effective land use planning that protects existing uses and resources. This will be achieved through establishing buffer zones between areas hosting grain production and areas of development for other land uses. GPSA seeks commitment that a reasonable buffer be imposed on the new land use and not on the existing broadacre farm.

Labor recognises the significant contribution the farming industry makes to the state. South Australia's agriculture, food, beverage and seafood industries are a vital part of our state's economy - they are our largest export sector and a major employer. In 2016-17, these industries generated a record \$19.97 billion in revenue - an increase of \$1.3 billion on the previous year's results.

We also acknowledge the conflict which can arise between farming activities and other uses such as housing or tourist accommodation, or between different types of farming activities. Where farming practices evolve and develop over time, the impact of farming activities on neighbouring land can also change.

South Australia's farming landscape needs to be capable of accommodating a diverse and dynamic rural sector and a variety of primary production systems. When farming practices change, impacts on neighbours can be better managed and the system should be flexible enough to recognise and respond to those changes, so we can make the most of our valuable farming land.

The State Government, in partnership with local government, Primary Producers SA and Grain Producers SA, has investigated concerns about the interaction between agricultural land use change and spray drift risk management through the Buffers Working Group. Following the release of its final report, and in liaison with relevant local government and other partner groups, the State Government has been facilitating an integrated package of initiatives associated with implementing these recommendations.

To assist farmers minimise the risk of spray drift, the State Labor Government recently announced construction of a \$1.46 million State Government-funded network of state-of-the-art automatic weather stations. The Ag Excellence Alliance pilot project will see 40 solar-powered weather stations installed at selected sites throughout the Mid North, Clare Valley, northern Adelaide Plains and northern Yorke Peninsula. This network of weather stations will provide farmers with

unprecedented access to highly accurate and localised data about atmospheric stability, which will allow them to avoid spraying pesticides when weather conditions indicate spray drift is likely.

This project, which is jointly funded from the State Government's Economic Sustainability Program and the Regional Development Fund, is an example of our investment in infrastructure for regional business.

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* legislates the requirement for establishing a new statewide Planning and Design Code. The new Code will provide a fresh approach to creating planning rules that guide land use development in South Australia. The Code will be a single reference book of clear rules for any development assessment. The new planning system will also provide for appropriately qualified and experienced farming sector consultants to provide advice in the assessment of agricultural land use changes which require planning approvals.

Importantly, the Labor Government has also put in place strong protections for our farming land, by legislating to create the Environment and Food Production Areas boundary. This boundary will stop the creep of urban sprawl which puts our farming land at risk of being built out by new houses.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to consider these issues and is open to continuing to work with the farming sector, to look at ways that best address the various restrictions and impediments to farming activities.