

# SA Government Election Commitments

In order to protect South Australia's land and sea wilderness, giving native species their best chance of surviving climate change, The Wilderness Australia South Australia managed to secure many significant policy commitments from the current SA Labor Government prior to the March 2022 state election.

These commitments will help guide some of our work through to the 2026 state election and beyond.

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1. Carry out a wilderness assessment to determine the extent of the state's remaining large intact ecosystems and a climate refugia assessment to inform an expansion of the protected area estate and the creation of wildlife corridors that allow species to move and adapt to climate change.
2. Commit to working with First Nations communities in SA to care for Country, by: Expanding and securing initiatives such as Indigenous Rangers and Establishing a First Nations Advisory Group to provide advice directly to the Minister for Environment on matters including the protection of Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites.
3. Ensure that the Department for Environment and Water use best practice to ensure the prescribed burn program adequately addresses community safety concerns while being based on best practice and available science.
4. Manage dingoes in a manner that recognises the vital role of the dingo as a valuable apex predator in South Australia's ecosystems, including: Instituting science-based measures and triggers for control underpinned by rigorous, long-term monitoring and evaluation programs that are adequately resourced before baiting is authorised north of the fence.
5. Review recommendations contained in a report of the Natural Resources Committee from June 2020 relating to vehicle access to sensitive environments, including beaches, which have yet to be acted on by the current government.

6. No further extensions to be granted for Petroleum Exploration Leases currently held by Tri-Star within and adjacent to the Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert National Park and the immediate retirement of the leases if/when Tri-Star withdraws.
7. Investigate further protections for important biodiversity hotspots in the Lake Eyre Basin, including Goyder Lagoon, the Kallakoopah Creek region and Coongie Lakes Ramsar site.
8. Investigate the possibility of World Heritage protection for the terrestrial freshwater ecosystems of the Lake Eyre Basin catchment.
9. Support World Heritage protection for the Great Australian Bight.
10. Explore establishing Whale Nursery Protection Areas where whales come close to shore with their young.
11. Ensure the Department for Environment and Water works closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate protections are in place for vulnerable populations of Australian Sea Lions.
12. Investigate the possibility of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for Kangaroo Island.
13. Ensure the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board works with local organisations to continue the current efforts to eradicate cats from Kangaroo Island.
14. Ensure the allocation of resources by the Department for Environment and Water and PIRSA, as well as other enforcement agencies, is adequate to enforce the relevant legislation in parks and for on water activities.
15. Review heritage agreements to confirm they are structured in a way that best facilitates conservation outcomes and enables landholders to generate income from biodiversity and carbon farming.
16. Retain safeguards which ensure the sustainable management of the rangelands including stock maximums and a duty for leaseholders to prevent degradation and recognise the need for the rangelands to be managed for climate change.
17. Appoint a Commissioner for the River Murray and prepare for High Court action to defend our state's water rights against upstream states' greed.

**This is part of a six-point action plan for the River Murray, which also includes:**

- Acting on every recommendation of the Murray- Darling Royal Commission.
- Reversing the Marshall Liberal government's endorsement of complex criteria restricting the funding of water efficiency projects up-river.
- Engaging with Traditional Owners on cultural flows.
- Presenting a series of demands to the Australian government and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to ensure the health of the river, including that a South Australian be appointed to the Murray Darling Basin Authority Board.

18. Investigate the possibility of a 'Super Park' within the Coorong & Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar site, including the Coorong National Park and the Lawari Conservation Park at the Murray Mouth to better protect and help showcase this vital river habitat.