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Title:

Statement from the Premier - Election policy statement - planning and environment

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... July 1, 1975.....
Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT.

The State Government's planning and environment programme would be maintained in order to ensure its lead in this area over all other States in the Commonwealth, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

Mr. Dunstan said that his Government was committed to -

- * providing an attractive and pleasant environment for all citizens wherever they chose to live or wherever they worked;
- * an orderly and planned rate of urban development so that all citizens may share in better transport, lower land prices, full range of amenities and easy access to cultural and recreational facilities;
- * measures to ensure that any development is sensitive to the environment and that the people have a say in the decisions which affect their environment.

The Premier said that in his policy speech the Government's programme included -

- * a land use survey of the whole State to establish its ecological significance;
- * an expansion of the comprehensive park system for public use;
- * dedication of the wetland areas along the River Murray;
- * legislation to provide for environmental impact statements;
- * legislation providing for deposits on non-returnable drink containers;
- * the reduction and control of noise pollution;
- * establishment of a waste disposal authority;

- * the preservation and enhancement of buildings, works and areas of architectural merit or historical interest;
- * development of the regional centres of Noarlunga and Elizabeth;
- * upgrading public transport;
- * sensitive and flexible planning for the new City of Monarto;
- * a special committee to plan for the protection of the Adelaide Hills.

ADELAIDE HILLS :

Expanding this, the Premier said that the Government will establish a Special Committee for the Adelaide Hills region. The Committee will advise the Government on necessary planning to protect the special character of the Hills.

The people of Adelaide regard the Hills area as vital to the environment of the metropolitan area.

Accordingly, they must be protected and any necessary development must be undertaken only after consultation with the residents and with full regard to the sensitivity of the environment.

The Special Committee will have under it a Hills Management Unit containing a group of planning experts to assist its enquiry. Local interests including conservation groups, will be represented on the committee.

Mr. Dunstan said the Government was determined that the unique character of the hills would be preserved. He said that the establishment of this Committee was a necessary first step in ensuring that all people of South Australia would be able to continue to enjoy the benefits of the Adelaide Hills.

PLANNING PROCESSES :

The Government intends to legislate to simplify planning procedures wherever possible and to provide for continuing review of planning processes.

A review of the metropolitan development plan will be undertaken. This will place emphasis on the growth areas of Tea Tree Gully, Elizabeth, Salisbury, Munno-Para in the North and North-East, and Noarlunga, Marion, Mitcham, Meadows and Willunga in the South. In accordance with overall

Government policy, the public will be invited to take part in this review.

Mr. Dunstan said he expected the review would be completed within 18 months.

The Premier said that it was essential for the Government to institute means for planning processes to be flexible, easily understood, innovative and adaptable to constantly changing development needs.

LAND USE :

The Australian Government has agreed to assist the State in financing a land use survey that is to be undertaken for the whole of South Australia.

The object of the survey is to determine the ecological significance of all the land within the State.

"South Australians are conscious of the way the Eastern States have developed with little or no concern for proper planning and environmental control", the Premier said.

"The land use survey is a mechanism which will ensure that in the long term the Government and its agencies will be able to take decisions on the best advice and with all the relevant facts known to them".

The Premier announced that the Government would continue the development of 3,000 hectares of land purchased at a cost of more than \$10M, for recreation purposes.

The first of these recreational areas was the Regency Park project on the site of the old Islington Sewerage Works.

The banks of the River Torrens will be protected and enhanced and if necessary new regulations will be passed to ensure that this takes place.

The Government would continue to protect the South Australian coast line. Since 1972 grants to Local Government for beach protection have exceeded \$2M.

A Metropolitan Beach Study Report had recently been completed by consultants. This was now on public display and provided a basis for a management plan.

Eventually, up to \$12M. could be expended under this plan for the protection of the South Australian coast line.

The Premier has given an undertaking that the Government will legislate for environmental impact statements.

These statements will ensure that a proper examination is undertaken before approval is given for new development.

The legislation will provide for the active participation by the community in these procedures.

Environmental impact statements will ensure that new developments are openly debated with all interested parties having the opportunity to be involved.

HERITAGE COMMISSION :

The Government will revise the Aboriginal and Historic Relics Act, to ensure that the culture of the aboriginal people is protected and enhanced.

The Government will also legislate to provide complementary legislation to the Australian Heritage Commission Act. Under this legislation, buildings and works of architectural interest will be identified and procedures established to ensure that they are preserved and enhanced.

Mr. Dunstan said that the preservation of South Australian historical, cultural and aesthetic heritage was important for the present and future generations of South Australians. The Government was determined that proper safeguards were instituted to ensure that this heritage was not lost.

CITY OF ADELAIDE :

The Government is committed to pursuing a plan for the City of Adelaide which will ensure that the City has a diverse range of employment opportunities -

- * a continuing variety of cultural and entertainment attractions;
- * a clean, gentle, safe and attractive environment;
- * ease of movement particularly for pedestrians and cyclists;
- * and an increased amount of housing stock for a wide range of income groups.