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Policy Responses to City of Onkaparinga's Requests

Planning Our City

ALDINGA RAIL – I fully support the extension of the rail corridor to Aldinga. Rail, particularly high-speed, is an excellent mass-transit system.

SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY – I am glad to see some major parties finally committing to duplicating the expressway. Thank goodness we will not have a “world first” one-way freeway any more. I endorse it and would like to see more forward planning similar to the now defunct MATS plan from the 1960s.

LOCAL ROADS – Rather than have the councils go begging to the state for grants for roads, I would like to see fees from car registrations (etc) split so the state government gets a percentage - with the rest going automatically to the councils (according to their populations) for use solely on roads.

A Thriving Economy

I am not a supporter of government subsidization of business. We should have learnt that from the many big businesses the state government gives all kinds of assistance to, and then they leave when the please anyway.

I believe business are over-regulated and taxed. Too often the state government has taken the view of “If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidise it”

By allowing industries space to set up in the south (in ways amiable to the area) we can avoid a centralized Adelaide. This can help families save hours of wasted time in traffic each week.

Our Environment

DE-SAL PLANT - I endorse continued monitoring of brine from the desalination plant. Due to the chance of sustained drought, I do feel that a desalination plant should be part of our mix for water issues. If we find environmental issues, I support investigating having the brine pumped to the faster waters of the Great Australian Bight or to salt pans. I would also like investigation into systems like the CETO system (ceto.com.au) that produces fresh water and energy from wave power.

HOUSEHOLD WATER – If we are serious about saving water, we need to restructure water pricing. I believe in a simple pay per kilolitre rate, and remove farcical methods of trying to control when people water or if they use it indoors or out. In this way, saving water will have real financial incentive.

WATER QUALITY – All individuals and businesses will be responsible for any by-products and not be allowed to pollute streams etc

Vitality and Connection

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY - I reject the call for urban planning laws that have greatly stifled land supply. I can think of few policies that have had such a detrimental effect on the young and poor in the south as the urban boundary, which has caused hyperinflation on new housing. Simply compare the square metre price of land in and out of the boundary. Adding \$100,000 onto a mortgage is easily the equivalent of 2 years of an average person's working life.

With cheaper land prices, young families then have greater means to get homes fully insulated, or install solar panels or rainwater tanks.

If we don't act on this there will be greater and greater flow-on effects for Adelaide by the noose of the Urban Boundary. Things like childhood obesity (shoebox backyards), urban infilling in our neighbourhood, more and more flats, financial stress via inflated mortgages etc

COMMUNITY SAFETY – I would increase significantly the number of Police available. I believe a fair portion of crime are by repeat offenders. Punishment should fit the crime – a “slap in the wrist” sentence is an insult to the victims and

doesn't promote respect for the law by criminals.

Community Leadership

LEADERSHIP ONKAPARINGA PROGRAM – Though I think training for future leadership is a noble goal, I believe government (at any level) are the wrong organization to be involved in it.

CENTRALISATION VS LOCALISATION – As a rule of thumb, I would like to see the state government only have powers for things that affect us as a state (ie intra-state roads). I prefer decisions and revenue to be kept at the most local level possible ie. to councils or individuals themselves.

Regards

Stewart