



Member of Parliament



# Unley Outlook

MARCH 2007

*A strong voice for our community*

VOL I ISSUE 2

*Welcome to the second edition of my newsletter and the first for 2007. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the course of the year at community events, doorknocking and at functions large and small. I also look forward to hearing from you via my new website and invite you to complete an online survey. The website contains information of all aspects of the Unley Electorate so log on to and give us your feedback.*

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### ETSA in Unley– an update

In my August newsletter I referred to ongoing negotiations with ETSA and the Unley Council to achieve the best outcomes for Unley residents (ie uninterrupted power). As a result of these discussions Council stepped up their foliage pruning, alleviating much of the problem.

New Unley Mayor Richard Thorne has now announced that in order to limit the Council’s liability in this regard, it will be handing responsibility for pruning street trees back to ETSA. Unfortunately in November and December more interruptions occurred. I immediately set up a meeting with an ETSA General Manager Services, Sue Filby and Unley Mayor Richard Thorne to discuss the issue. ETSA suspects the problem to be a small nick in the insulation of part of a 2 kilometre stretch of underground cable. The fault is too small to pick up with visual inspections or a thermographic camera. Power shuts down, a little like a domestic Clipsal switch, when a leak is detected.

We have agreed that the sensitivity of the supply switch be reduced until the cable fault becomes large enough to be detected, isolated and repaired.

ETSA have now also agreed that Unley Road businesses and customers on the suspect cable section will be further split to receive power from 2 separate supplies. So if another fault does occur, only half the previous number will be affected.

I will continue to work with the Council and ETSA to ensure accountability in power provision for Unley and seek solutions to the problems with utilities in my electorate that the Rann government is ignoring.

### Special points of interest

David has been appointed the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary assisting with Multicultural Affairs, Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. In this role he has been actively attending many multicultural events either in this capacity or representing the Liberal Leader and Shadow Minister.

The *Unley Way to Go* is being held on Sunday 25 March at the Unley Oval, 11am–4pm – see your there!

► David Pisoni, Snow Bartlett (LHS) & Les Partridge (RHS) at the Unley Remembrance Day Ceremony



## Rejection of Proposed Hungry Jacks Development—Eastwood

Following a number of enquiries from concerned constituents in Eastwood I doorknocked residents in the surrounding streets—Markey, Main, Matilda, Elizabeth and other affected streets to gauge local views on the proposed development.

I discovered almost unanimous opposition to it on the basis of increased traffic, noise and litter; and the general inappropriateness of a fast food drive-through adjacent to an Historic Conservation Zone.

Although the development site is in the Glen Osmond Road Business Zone, the closest residences are within the Historic Conservation Zone. The concern has therefore been the adverse visual impact of this type of development on its heritage surroundings. Of particular note also was the potential for significant increases in local traffic and pressure on amenities.

Another legitimate concern raised with me was that given our current problems with childhood obesity it would be inappropriate to have a fast food outlet with associated advertising directly adjacent to St Raphaels and Parkside Primary Schools and Grove Kindergarten so close by.

I have previously spoken in Parliament on the issue of childhood obesity and in particular my frustration with the failure of the Rann government to act on many of the recommendations made in the Social Development Committees Obesity inquiry report to the South Australian Parliament (June 2005).

While doorknocking I circulated a petition calling on the State Government to intervene and direct the City of Burnside to deny the application stating that,

*“We feel such a development would be inappropriate given the character of the area and the increased traffic volume would cause disruption to local residents in surrounding streets.”*

This petition was signed by 83 residents and presented to Parliament on 14 November 2006. I gave a speech to the House outlining the situation the same day.

In voicing their opposition to this contentious development local residents should be congratulated on their effective lobbying and proactive stance.

At its meeting on 6 February, the Burnside Development Assessment Panel considered the application and submissions, convincingly rejecting the proposal 6 votes to 1.

## Street Trees—Green Allies in the War on Global Warming

Unley is often referred to in the media as part of Adelaide’s ‘leafy’ eastern suburbs. Although sometimes used as a veiled criticism, the description recognises that the older suburbs of Adelaide do support a significant ‘urban forest’. An important component of this forest are street trees, which add value to our lives by being visually pleasing, creating shade, habitat for wildlife and contributing to a reduction in global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air and reducing energy consumption.

Recently while driving down Unley Road it struck me just how pleasing the jacarandas were looking, in particular those planted around 10 years ago now under the streetscape plan developed through the Unley Road traders and Unley Council. As a businessman active on the Unley Road Main Street Association at that time I was proud to be a part of that process. At that time our main motivation was to create a more attractive environment for shoppers, tourists and residents.

As we have become more aware in recent years of the importance of reducing global warming and energy consumption tree planting programs have taken on even greater significance.



It should therefore be of concern to us all that the Rann government is about to take the axe to 67 mature Plane trees on King William Street and North Terrace.

And why?

To facilitate an unpopular tram extension in Adelaide that will be an expensive misdirection of resources, will duplicate existing services and will create excessive congestion and traffic problems.

Hardly a glowing endorsement of the Premier’s self touted Green credentials.



David circulating a petition opposing the proposed Hungry Jacks proposal.

## Constituent feedback

### Bollards in Duthy St

Thanks for your assistance with this matter. I don't believe it would have been carried out so promptly if not for David's influence. Glad I voted for him!

*S Piper, Unley*

### Tour of Parliament House

The children & parents had a MARVELLOUS time. It was great to meet David. We had THE BEST time of learning.

*B Adcock, Highgate Primary School*

### Realignment of suburb boundaries

Thank you again to David for his invaluable assistance.

*K Barker, Hyde Park*

### Difficulties with Disability Services

David's assistance with solving funding and school placement difficulties for my disabled son was invaluable.

*V Bridgland, Fullarton*

## Unley Electorate Office Gets Signage at Last



One of the targets in Premier Rann's much vaunted Strategic Plan is to reduce bureaucratic red tape by 25%. In particular Mr Rann has boasted in press releases his intention to ease regulatory difficulties in

*'State and Local government planning and regulatory approvals'*

If, as a Member of Parliament, it takes a full **8 months** after the State election to cut through the red tape to have signage erected at my office, I fear the Premier's target is, as usual, more spin than reality.

## Talking to Constituents

## Parliamentary Contributions 51<sup>st</sup> Parliament.

### Questions

Brownhill and Keswick Creeks Flood Mitigation Study  
City of Unley – Basketball SA  
Electricity Blackouts  
Pedestrian Crossings Unley Road  
Public Sector Employment  
Unley Road Upgrade  
SafeWork SA Fine Quotas  
Schools, Classroom Numbers  
Schools, Eat Well Program  
Schools, Technical Studies, Rainforest Timbers  
Schools, Unley Primary, Mother Tongue Program  
Stormwater Management Authority  
Underground Powerlines

### Speeches

Storming of Federal Parliament, 10th Anniversary  
Budget, Address in Reply  
Appropriation Bill  
Brownhill and Keswick creek Flooding  
Throwing Objects at Moving Vehicles Amendment Bill  
Hungry Jacks Development, Eastwood  
Media and Politics  
Multiculturalism  
Childhood Obesity and Fast Foods  
Unley Road Upgrade 1  
Unley road Upgrade 2  
Shop Distributive and Allied Workers Union Newsletter (Wheres Don Book)  
Shop Trading Hours  
Statutes Amendments (Domestic Partners) Bill  
Gatecrashers at Parties Amendment Bill  
Supply Bill  
Training Logo, State Sponsored  
Uranium Mining  
Work Choices Legislation  
Driving Offences

Equal Opportunity

Former Members, Recognition (David Tonkin and Norm Foster)

Mining

Multicultural Events

Work-Life Balance

Rann taking credit for Liberal policies

## Budget Update

### Major Project Cost Blowouts and Increasing State Debt

In my last newsletter I made reference to the opportunities for improving infrastructure and service delivery reform which had been squandered by the Rann Government.

By not making best use of their increased revenues from the GST and windfall gains in State taxes the State Government will be looking at reducing services and increasing debt to fund its unbudgeted increase of over 6000 public servants and major project cost blowouts.

**State debt under Labor is tipped to blow out by \$150 million in the next 18 months and reach \$821 million by the next election in 2010.**

Major Project Cost Blowouts include:

**Northern Expressway:** Estimated at \$300 million, now blown out to **\$550 million.**

**South Rd/Anzac Highway Underpass:** Estimated at \$65 million, now blown out to **\$140 million.**

**South Rd/Port Rd/Grange Rd underpass:** Estimated at \$122 million, now blown out to upwards of **\$250 million.**

**Techport:** Estimated at \$120 million, now blown out to **\$243 million.**

**Bakewell Bridge:** Estimated at \$30 million, now blown out to **\$43.5 million.**

David Pisoni with concerned residents at a property for Auction in Scott Street, Parkside.

David Pisoni with the Hon Stephen Wade MLC and MD, Ian Thomas at Dinki Di Engineering

David Pisoni with Victoria and Thomas Bridgland

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and Stella Carnovale



### Services available at or through the Electorate Office

Tours of Parliament House for student and constituent groups/Justice of the Peace witnessing services (please ring for an appointment)/dealing with government departments/small print run photocopying for local community groups.

**Contact us on 8373 4846**

## Environment Watch!

### Wind Turbines in BackYards –Clean and Green

When in Government the Liberal Party paved the way for the use of wind power in our state by initiating the Starfish Hill Wind Farm north of Cape Jervis, the first wind farm in South Australia. But it's not only the hillsides of the Fleurieu Peninsula that are sprouting windmills. In Mason City, Iowa in the United States they are encouraging the use of electricity-producing windmills everywhere — even in homeowners' backyards.

Mason City recently became the first Iowa town to set rules that allow windmills in commercial, industrial and residential zones. The City Council unanimously approved these changes. This bold step will allow small wind systems in residential back yards: a very sensible option considering increasing electricity prices and the universal issue of global warming.

Mason City requires permits for windmills and regulates where they can be built. Residential windmills placed in back yards can't exceed 30 metres in height. The back yard also has to be big enough so that if the windmill topples it doesn't cross property lines.

A Mason City Architect installed two 10 metre windmills outside his office. Combined with solar-energy panels this renewable energy produced 90% of the electricity used by his business.

The increasing popularity of wind energy is part of a surge in the development of alternative energy sources. Midwest USA is leading a surge in the popularity of



wind energy as an alternative energy source, evidenced by:

- Minnesota passing a law last year that encourages new windmills by cutting red tape and offsetting some construction costs.
- Michigan's public service commission changed its policies last year to allow consumers to sell excess electricity from windmills back to utilities.
- North Dakota last year reduced application fees and made it easier to get permission to build windmills.

Tax credits and low-interest loans are making windmills more affordable. A small home-based system costs about \$AUD 50,000.

South Australia needs to make the use of renewable energy easier and more accessible to the public.

We need more than a few micro wind turbines on government buildings and spin from Premier Rann to make a global difference.

## Desalination-Securing Adelaide's Water Future

Liberal Leader Iain Evans announced a Liberal Government will build a desalination plant to guarantee Adelaide's future water supply. The plant will take pressure off the River Murray and provide greater security against the impacts of climate change.

The desalination plant, based on a similar plant recently built in Perth, would be located on the metropolitan coast and could produce 45 gigalitres of fresh drinking water—about 22% of Adelaide's consumption each year.

Come and taste free desalinated water at the Unley Way to Go, being held on Sunday March 25th at the Unley Oval, Trimmer Tce, 11am–4pm.



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We look forward to your feedback**