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Title:

Election policy statement by the Premier, Don Dunstan. No. 3. The Environment

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ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN.

3639

NUMBER 3. THE ENVIRONMENT.

Labor is determined to ensure that South Australia achieves the highest possible environment protection and planning standards.

In the Government's policy speech we undertook to continue our established programme of environmental protection and planning. We have already achieved standards that are the envy of all other Australian States.

We intend to continue to lead Australia in this way.

This statement amplifies some of the environment policies touched on in the policy speech.

LAND USE SURVEY.

The Government has undertaken to conduct a land-use survey of the whole State.

On completion of this survey, we will have a detailed and accurate knowledge of land throughout the State, and of its value to the community in all respects.

This will enable a proper assessment to be made of the value or otherwise of proposed changes in land use, or in the continuance of current patterns of use.

The survey will cover both undeveloped and developed lands and will specifically detail areas of natural bush, grassland, seascapes and coastal areas.

It will allow for the assessment of proper environmental protection standards throughout the State.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

The State Planning Office has for some years been carrying out broad land use surveys upon which development plans for the various planning areas of the State are based. This programme will be extended to include rural areas and the Far North. Progressive returns from the Land Use Survey will assist this process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

Labor has undertaken to introduce a system of Environmental Impact Statements to provide South Australians with a positive method of assessing the likely effects of proposed development on the environment.

NATIVE FLORA PARK

LAND USE SURVEY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER DON DUNSTAN NO.3 THE ENVIRONMENT

The Statements will ensure that environmental effects are taken into account whenever a new Government, Local Government, or private development is being planned. They will allow the establishment of methods for the control of environmental disturbance, and for a basis upon which possible adverse environmental effects can be balanced against anticipated developmental advantages.

The Government believes that attempts to make environmental considerations automatically over-ride all other considerations in development planning are unsound.

Some adverse effects, even if only of a minor nature, are an unavoidable consequence of any developmental alteration to the natural environment. Housing developments are an obvious example.

In view of such considerations, the Environmental Impact Statements will include

- * an examination, analysis and assessment of the environmental effects of a development

and

- * an assessment of ameliorative programmes such as alternate site selection, pollution control methods and equipment, and the alternate types of industrial processes or structures to be used.

The statements would be made public, and public comment would be sought and considered by the Environmental Protection Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

The Government has undertaken to establish an environmental research institute.

This will be a new 'brain industry' for South Australia.

The Institute will be an independent organization operating under statute, and its task will be to undertake highly specialist research and development projects relating to the environment and to industrial processes which affect the environment. Its clients will be both governments and private organizations.

The Institute will have as a major objective the achievement of inter-disciplinary approaches to environmental projects, to ensure that specialist knowledge in any one area is taken into account by all disciplines involved in a project.



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The Institute will be encouraged to extend its activities throughout the Australasian region, and to seek the best scientific talent available for participation in its work.

NATIVE FLORA PARK.

In the Government's rural policy speech, we undertook to research ways by which economically viable native soft and hard wood plantations can be established in South Australia.

The environmental and ecological advantages of native Australian forestry are immense, and would help to redress the imbalance that over-clearing has created in rural areas.

In line with this general approach, the Government intends that a major conservation park will be established in the Blackhill area of the Adelaide Hillsface Zone, at Athelstone.

The park will include areas already acquired by the Government as part of the process of reserving open space areas under the Metropolitan Development Plan.

Its eventual total area will be in the vicinity of 1910 acres.

The Blackhills Park will be developed as a major native Australian flora reserve and bird sanctuary.

Large areas would be left in their native state, while at the base of Blackhill itself the reserve land will be intensively planted with Australian wildflowers and trees.

The Park will contain its own nurseries to service its requirements, and to propagate and cultivate native trees and shrubs for the use of Government bodies, private organisations and home gardeners.

It will be associated with the nearby development of a new recreation reserve in the Athelstone area, which is part of the 5000 acres of metropolitan land the Government will develop for sport and recreation.

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