



**Cost shifting cuts tourism
16 May 2007**

Tourism is likely to be the latest casualty of the Labor state government's cost shifting exercises, Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said.

Mrs Penfold said councils have expressed their disappointment and concern about the state government's lack of support for Tourism Eyre Peninsula.

"Due to state government funding not being increased in line with increased costs and expectations, local councils and thereby ratepayers are being asked to contribute the shortfall," she said.

Mrs Penfold said Lower Eyre Peninsula District Council's contribution, for example, would rise more than 44% in three years.

She said the Labor state government is the wealthiest in the state's history but is continually shifting costs to local government to the detriment of services and ratepayers.

"The decrease in real terms of state government funding demonstrates a lack of vision and long term commitment to regional tourism," she said.

Other examples of cost shifting are the EPA waste levy increase and natural resource management costs.

Mrs Penfold said the Eyre Peninsula region has world class unique attractions such as swimming with the tuna in Port Lincoln and swimming with the sea lions at Baird Bay.

"What Labor appears not to understand is that the whole state prospers when rural and regional SA prosper," she said.

She called on Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith to ensure that funding for regional tourism is increased in the state budget in June. ENDS