

FLINDERS electorate report

SUMMER
2009



Liz Penfold & her office team working for you

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.

www.lizpenfold.com
scoring 28,000 hits for December, '08
Worth a look!

Our website wins for Eyre Peninsula

Email and internet are the major communication vehicles for today. If proof were needed then the contacts that came through my website just during the Christmas break can provide it.

A group in Sydney working on global warming was excited when they found details about thorium and South Australian contacts through my website since they believe (as I do) that thorium could provide much of the world's clean energy.

Thorium is a radioactive mineral that occurs on Eyre Peninsula. It can be used in the same ways that uranium can be used in power generation, however it has the advantage that the residue cannot be made into plutonium and hence the danger that residue will be used to make nuclear weapons is avoided.

An Adelaide man in contact with **Chinese companies** wanting to build **desalination** plants in South Australia used my website to gather information and hopes to bring a delegation here. We may yet see desalination plants as part of the answer to our water supply shortage. Using the latest technology, desalination is competitive in price and can be totally sustainable for the environment by using green power and dealing with the 'waste' on land.

A **Malaysian company** is interested in our **granite** and made contact.

Other contacts that have been made are **immigration**, and international children's **sports clinics**.

My submissions also attract notice, recent ones being on **electric cars, peak oil, the \$20 billion Infrastructure Australia Fund, Gawler Craton, Northern Infrastructure Plan, and National Aviation Policy**.

The world is now on our doorstep. Distance is no longer a barrier to information, communication and opportunities.

A fast, reliable **broadband** service is increasingly essential not only for business but also for the education and health industries.

The Labor federal and state governments have sold the country short on the issue of broadband.

A South Australian company which thought they had a contract to roll out improved broadband on Eyre Peninsula is still waiting.

In the meantime, my website is a window on the region that is looked at by interstate and overseas people to our long term benefit. Have a look at www.lizpenfold.com and you will see some of what my staff and I do.

Our 14th trainee joins the Flinders team

We welcome Penny Will to the Flinders electorate staff in the Port Lincoln office.

Penny who started in January, is the 14th trainee in this position.

She comes from a farming background at Butler Tanks and has worked in hospitality.

She is looking forward to serving the electorate while learning office administration as the first step in a commercial career.



How to double your money

Fold your notes over once and put them in your pocket. - from *The Wudinna Granite*

Quarantine and Biosecurity

The federal government has agreed in principle to all recommendations from the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review's report.

The report and government response can be accessed at www.daff.gov.au/publications/quarantine-biosecurity-report-and-preliminary-reponse

A 'must' website Keep up to date! www.martin2010.com.au

A few facts about Labor

How long is never?

21 August 2002 Minister Patrick Conlon announced a \$32 million desalination plant for Eyre Peninsula.

On ABC radio **4 June 2003**, the then Minister for Government Enterprises said the desalination plant was "written in blood".

9 March 2005, when Liz Penfold asked SA Water Minister Michael Wright if the government had reneged on its promise, Mr Wright replied, "I thank the Member for Flinders. As she knows full well, **this government never reneges on a promise.**"

Five years after committing to a desalination plant for Eyre Peninsula, the Labor government is still planning and consulting while Western Australia has a desalination plant delivering 50 gegalitres of water to Perth which Liz mentioned in her 2005 question. The cost then was \$350 million and one the same size for Adelaide is now \$1.3 billion. Meanwhile a privately funded desalination plant for Ceduna has not been facilitated.

Poor decisions affect country health

Following the release of the new Country Health Strategic Plan, I heard **Health Minister John Hill on radio** in mid-December reassuring our communities that the changes will come about through consultation with communities and local advisory councils. I was disturbed to hear him say, and I quote, "**We're also trying to arrange for purchasing to be done at a State level**, rather than a local level, and there are efficiencies and cost savings by doing that." I ask the Minister what he is referring to because, as board members, **we were confronted some years ago with this very same proposition and**

were able to put a stop to this idea, which was the centralised purchasing of meat, food, chemist lines, and linen services.

Local businesses at all levels rely on, and must be supported by, local health services who are also a big part of the job creation in towns - not just as nurses/carers but as cooks, gardeners, maintenance workers, cleaners and laundry services to name a few.

I hope that the Country Health board will urgently address this issue and get some clarification on it.

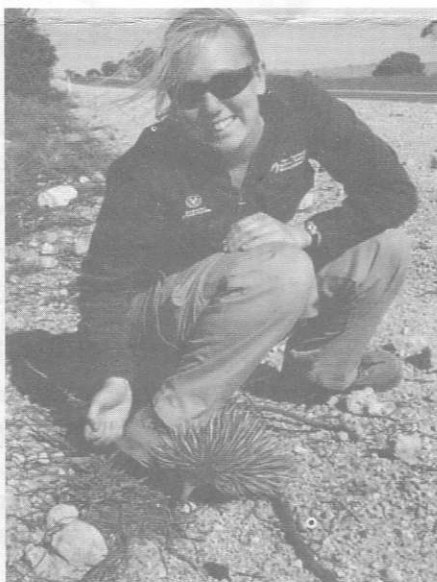
We need policies that support all communities.

Josie Williams, Streaky Bay

Have your say on our environment

The Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board is preparing a comprehensive plan that brings together all aspects of managing our natural resources. We must protect our environment but where owners are deprived of the use of freehold land they must be fully compensated.

To print off a feedback form, go to www.epnrm.sa.gov.au and click on "Our Plan". All forms **must be received by close of business on 27 February 2009 to be included.**



EPNRM officer Jessica Frahn of Ceduna with an echidna. -EPNRM photo

Did you know SA Water is totally SA owned?

SA Water has NOT been sold.

Management of the metropolitan region only was leased out to United Water. This resulted in a substantial increase in efficiency.

Our Eyre Peninsula water system is - and has always been - owned and controlled by SA Water and the state government.

Liberals turned debt to profit

SA Water, the state owned water monopoly, was turned by the last Liberal Government from a taxpayer funded liability into a profit-producing instrumentality. Unfortunately, no provision was made for competition.

The annual debt of about \$50 million a year in the early 1990s was paid from general revenue. By 2002, SA Water was turned around to a business which today not only is weaned from those taxpayer subsidies but returns up to \$300 million a year in dividends to the state treasury.

Labor Treasurer Kevin Foley vigorously opposed the changes but has not once complained of the about \$2 billion which he has creamed from SA Water in seven Budgets.

The Government now takes 95% of SA Water's 'profit' and puts it into general revenue. Labor's contributions are to charge the River Murray levy and to increase the price of water to pay for a desalination plant at Port Stanvac.

The money came - and went

The final State Budget Outcome for 2007-2008: Increases included:

- + Revenues were \$739 million **more** than expected.
- + Payroll tax \$51m **more** than expected.
- + Property tax revenue \$244m **higher** than expected.
- + GST revenues \$59m **higher** than expected
- Employee **expenses** \$112 million **more** than forecast.
- Budget's **overspend** was \$304 million (overspend masked by the higher revenues).

What price for a promise?

Prior to being elected, Mike Rann pledged to reduce the number of 'fat cats' (public servants paid more than \$100,000 per year) in the public service. Hard to understand therefore how the number of 'fat cats' has risen from 782 when Labor was elected to 4073 in 2008. **This is a rise of 560%.** It is no wonder that Labor's financial management of the state is a **disaster.**