

STATE BUDGET 2020-21

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER HON DAVID SPEIRS MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget reveals record investment in SA's parks

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing more than \$130 million in South Australia's parks in the State Budget 2020-21 – the most in the state's history.

There is also more than \$50 million to improve environmental outcomes in the Riverland and support flood risk mitigation at key South Australian rivers in Adelaide's western and northern suburbs.

The parks funding will revitalise national parks and reserves in regions across the state, including the Flinders Ranges, Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula, Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley, which will increase visitation and create jobs.

The State Budget 2020-21 provides \$45 million over four years to rebuild tourism attractions on Kangaroo Island such as Flinders Chase National Park and Kelly Hill Caves visitor precincts, which were destroyed by last summer's devastating bushfires.

The Marshall Liberal Government's *Parks 2025* initiative will receive \$44 million over four years to improve park infrastructure and conserve our natural landscapes and wildlife across South Australia.

Adelaide Botanic Gardens is also set for a \$9.2 million upgrade including roof and building works for the heritage-listed Goodman and Tram Barn A buildings as well as night lighting and utility upgrades to make the gardens more accessible.

In response to last summer's devastating bushfires the State Budget 2020-21 is investing an historic amount to significantly increase fire hazard reduction across South Australia.

The \$28 million over four years (and \$9 million per annum thereafter) will allow the Marshall Liberal Government to increase prescribed burns by as much as 50 per cent in the coming years.

Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs said the Marshall Liberal Government wants to enhance South Australia's reputation as a world-class eco-tourism destination.

"We know how much South Australians value the natural environment which is why the Marshall Liberal Government is investing record amounts to encourage more people to visit our pristine landscapes," Minister Speirs said.

"We are investing more than \$130 million to revitalise parks across South Australia - from the Flinders Ranges to Kangaroo Island as well as opening up our reservoirs which were locked away under the previous government.

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“This once-in-a-generation investment will attract more visitors, support regional communities and create local jobs. It will boost nature-based tourism and protect our precious environment for future generations.

“This is part of our plan to keep South Australians safe and strong by creating jobs, backing businesses and building what matters.

“The Marshall Liberal Government wants South Australia’s tourism industry to thrive – with the aim of doubling the state’s nature and heritage tourism expenditure to \$3.4 billion over the next decade, creating 4,000 new jobs,” Minister Speirs said.

“These new investments will fund a range of projects, from new visitor facilities and campgrounds to adventure experiences such as mountain bike and hiking trails across the state and improved water access at South Australia’s reservoirs.

“These upgrades will not only enhance our environment but will improve social wellbeing by encouraging more people to get outside and enjoy what our state has to offer which we have seen is so important during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Minister Speirs said the State Budget 2020-21 committed more than \$50 million to improve outcomes around key South Australian rivers.

“There is \$37.6 million provided over two years to improve environmental outcomes at the Riverland as part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, including boosting native fish habitats and increasing river connectivity.

“We are also investing \$16 million over three years to support flood risk mitigation projects at the Patawalonga and Gawler rivers in Adelaide’s western and northern suburbs.

“The State Budget 2020-21 is a watershed moment for South Australia’s environment with record amounts of funding which will encourage more people to visit our regional communities and improve conservation at the same time.”