

Indigenous Voice

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has set a time frame for a referendum seeking to enshrine an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in our Constitution. Worth noting for the first time, the current two houses of Parliament have achieved a higher percentage of Indigenous voices than population. This should be a reason for great celebration but strangely seems to be missing from the debate. 4.9% members of our National Parliament identify as indigenous. According to the recent

Census 3.2% of Australians claim the same status. Furthermore, a strong argument needs to be made as to why we should insert legal racial discrimination into our Constitution and set up a second independent political body with an unspecified authority. This would ultimately be determined by the High Court as the interpreters of our Constitution. Regardless, we are having a debate and it is urgent we focus on what it is that is being proposed. At this stage, how such a body would be elected, who would be eligible to be a part of it, what pieces of

legislation it should be consulted on and what kind of pressure the Parliament would be under to comply are all unclear.

There is an additional question as to what it is all likely to cost, given Mr Albanese has indicated he was not inclined to wind up a plethora of existing Indigenous corporations, consultation groups, health, education and employment advisory committees and is instead committed to adding another. While I have been trying to keep an open mind, I will strongly resist any suggestion we should

vote for a general question as to, whether or not we would support "a Voice" on the basis the details to be developed later. Absolutely under no circumstances should Australians vote for this! If the Government wants us to support their proposals, they need to take us with them and answer all of these questions. Up until now when I have seen government ministers questioned on this matter, I have been amazed by the array of opinions they have. Clearly, they do not hold a common view on the ramifications of the proposal.



Labor's Hidden Agendas

Prime Minister Albanese listed some priorities leading into the recent federal election including reducing our power bills (that's going well), fixing aged care, cost of living, fixing the NDIS etc. However, we have also seen numerous announcements we were not informed about before the last election.

- For instance, who would have thought it was urgent, or even a good idea to give New Zealanders a vote in Australian elections?
- When were we told the Government intended to return foreign fighters to Australia, those who went to support the Caliphate in Syria and Iraq?
- Why did Labor not announce before the last election their intention to withdraw recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?
- Whose idea was it to put limits on cow belches and farts by committing to reduce methane emissions produced by livestock by at least 30 per cent by 2030?
- If they had decided before the election they were bringing back Pattern Bargaining, abandoned by Bob Hawke, why were we not told?
- Why were we not told of their plan to extend the Area of Workforce Shortage provisions to our capital cities? This program was designed to recruit foreign trained doctors to country areas. Now with the worst doctor shortages in living memory in rural areas, we have to compete with the city to get an overseas trained doctor.
- Why were we not informed Labor would lock up 30% of Australia in parks and reserves (up from 20%) before the election? Afterall, we can safely assume the Government won't be intent on stopping the sprawl of our capital cities and the expansion of parks can only be in our agricultural and pastoral areas.

All of these decisions reek of pre-meditation and yet the public was not informed before the election. So much for "transparency".

- And another one, through the new Regional Development Minister Catherine King, the Government is trumpeting \$17m in investment for Holdfast Bay Council (Glenelg and surrounds) and Marion Council as examples of regional grants. Spare me!

Beware - Scams on the Rise

We have all seen the high-profile cyber theft stories regarding Optus and Medibank Private, unfortunately that is just the tip of the iceberg and I am receiving increasing reports from people who have been scammed. Losses in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, people losing their life savings and most recently a service business which uses heavy equipment with a designated company platform to manage its purchases and sales, has had the identity of that company stolen.

Consequently, a criminal is selling non-existent machinery to online customers and when the item does not arrive, the victims are tracing the links back to the parent company which was until very recently completely unaware anyone had stolen their identity. You can imagine how stressful this is for them. Don't think this will not happen to you. The scams are sophisticated and completely believable. Many of us have more passwords than we can commit to memory, so we have a little list somewhere. I recently heard a terrific

presentation on these matters at an Adelaide Plains Business Breakfast and was convinced to install a password manager on my phone. It is not hard, just takes a little time transferring information, but nothing like the time and stress which accompanies a theft (either hard copy or cyber) of passwords. Every eight minutes a cyber-attack is reported in Australia, a 13 percent increase on pre-pandemic levels and Australians lost more than \$2bn to scams in 2021.

Scammers are the most opportunistic of all criminals, they pose as charities after a natural disaster, health departments during a pandemic and love interests. If you detect a scam, regardless of whether you have lost money, please for others sake, report it. The office of the eSafety Commission runs a good site- scamwatch.gov.au People can also subscribe to Scamwatch radar alerts to keep up to date with advice for avoiding the latest scams affecting the community.

Apex Postie Bike Ride



Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride's first visit to the Gawler Ranges this year raised \$146k for the Cancer Council's Greenhill Rd facilities. Originating 16 years ago it now attracts around 90 riders including from interstate. The ride has raised \$1.5m and built four holiday units for cancer families at Wallaroo.

Buckleboo



The Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group, commonly known as Big Fig, is 25 years old. Celebrating at a dinner to mark the milestone was the inaugural president Graeme Baldock with Rowan who was inaugural secretary. The BFIG boasts around 90 members and is one of the most progressive groups in the state.

Snowtown Market



Snowtown Community Market is back on the third Sunday of every month. Rowan had an opportunity to drop in and speak with a number of vendors and shoppers. The many markets around Grey add vibrancy to local communities and provide an outlet for local production. He is with Chris Hogan from Bute on her stall.

Copper Coast Council Amalgamation



The 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of the towns of Kadina and Moonta was marked with a reception hosted by Copper Coast Council Mayor Ros Talbot. Quite a milestone! Copper Coast is a much larger council now also including Wallaroo following amalgamation in 1997.

Port Pirie
104 Ellen Street
Tel: 8633 1744

Bundaleer Barbecue Opening



The Bundaleer BBQ Bonfire and Open Mic event acknowledged the efforts of the late Vin Malone in fundraising for the facility, eventually raising \$20k and with another \$11k from the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program. Rowan pictured with Nukunu elder Darryl Thomas, Philippa, Veronica and Michael Malone.

Carrapateena



The crushing plant at Carrapeteena gives some idea of the scale of operations. Rowan visited the Oz Minerals site in September and was very impressed. Currently producing 60k tonne of copper a year, it is no small operation with the still-expanding village accommodating 700 already.

Coffin Bay Wharf Opening



Coffin Bay Yacht Club has a brand-new jetty. The Federal BBRF provided \$600k, with generous support also coming from Bendigo Bank, the Lang Corp and the Lower EP Council. The floating pontoon is open for public use and offers permanent berths.

Eudunda Hospital 100 Years



The 100th anniversary of the Eudunda Hospital was an event to celebrate. A well organised day was a tribute to the wonderful band of volunteers led by Judy Milde. Our hospitals deliver vital services in rural communities and remain essential. Rowan is with Judy and Member for Frome Penny Pratt.

Kadina
43 Taylor Street
Tel: 8821 4366

Burra Wind Farm



Rowan and Angus Stockman at the launch of construction of Neon's Goyder South Windfarm (Stage 1) near Burra. The construction of a new interstate transmission line through to NSW and Snowy Hydro's big new pumped hydro project has provided for new impetus in South Australia.

Port Augusta Business Awards



The Port Augusta Business Awards in mid-October was a packed event. MC Daniel Pizarro from Southern Cross is with Young Employee of the Year Jack Footner who works for the Port Augusta City Council and sponsor Shane Packard from Crossroad Concepts.

Coober Pedy



October's community meeting in Coober Pedy allowed residents an opportunity to raise their concerns including childcare, water supplies, education, shortages of volunteers and the recently announced Westpac closure next February. Rowan has asked Westpac to reconsider. He is with Penny Gale from Dusty Radio.

Fisherman Bay



Shack Owners at Fisherman Bay fought for decades to win freehold title enabling an agreement with council to join the Bay to the Port Broughton wastewater facility. Moving the first dirt, Rowan is with Mayor Leonie Kerley, Hon Patrick Conlon and Darren Foster (Owner and GM of Bardacool). In the background are former Mayors Dean Dolling and Cynthia Axford.

Whyalla
45a Playford Avenue
Tel: 8645 4255

Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey

Grey, a great place to live and work...



Labor's First Budget. No Solutions, Just Get Used to it

Labor Treasurer Jim Chalmers' first Budget predicts lower real wages, higher inflation, rising interest rates, higher unemployment and ballooning electricity prices. It shreds Labor's claim to reduce power prices by \$275, predicting instead a 56% increase.

In government the Coalition had convinced gas producers to keep Australian supplies high, delivering us a heavy discount compared to the international market. However, the new Government has lost control and the gas price has ballooned, taking electricity with it. The problem is exacerbated by Victoria and NSW sitting on extensive land-based gas supplies, but denying access. Before the election Labor said it had a plan, but now it seems its only plan is to tell us to get used to it. Labor inherited a very strong economy with record low unemployment and the subsequently lower welfare bill; most businesses were flat out and looking for workers and they inherited a \$49bn improvement in the budget bottom line. Australia is one of only nine countries worldwide

with a Triple A Credit Rating. Labor had little to complain about, but it sure hasn't stopped them! Identifying challenges is easy, what we do about

Under Labor-

- Your cost of living is going up
- Your power prices are going up
- Your gas prices are going up
- Taxes are going up
- Unemployment is forecast to go up
- Interest rates are going up
- Real wages are forecast to go down

Source: Labor's 2022-23 Budget

them is another thing and it seems the Treasurer has few ideas. The local impact on Grey includes the axing of the \$28.5m we had allocated for the continuing

operation of security scanners at small regional airports.

This decision threatens Qantas services in Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

The cancellation of the Building Better Regions Fund, with the next round already assessed, is a kick in the teeth for all those organisations who worked hard preparing submissions. Increases in childcare subsidies and workers' salaries are welcome, but no value to those without a service and the Budget removes a \$19.7m capital grants pool which our communities target to bring childcare to their town.

In government I was incredibly proud of the billion dollars plus we ploughed back into Grey roads delivering the highest ever spend on infrastructure.

It remains to be seen what will happen under this government.

While the recent Budget allocated \$400m for further works on the Stuart, Augusta and Dukes Highways, fine print reveals a ten year envelope for expenditure which means we may not see a cent of this while Labor is in government.

Local Footy and Netball Take The Field



It was good to get our local football and netball competitions back this year. These are just a sample of the games I attended. Netball at Maitland between Central York Cougars and Bute, Poochera where Elliston Districts hosted Tumby Bay and the SA Country Football Championship in Whyalla where the cream of country footy put their skills on show. Photo is of South-East (the eventual winners)

playing the locals, Northern Areas. A SANFL game between North Adelaide and the Adelaide Crows Reserves was a feature event with Adelaide running out winners.

While in Poochera I was given the privilege of opening the fantastic new changerooms assisted by money from both the Federal Community Drought Program and the Federal Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program.

New Dog Fence a Generational Investment

The new Dog Fence which protects sheep from wild dogs and dingoes, is approaching the 50% completion mark.

It will be a generational legacy of Liberal Governments at both State and Federal level. The 100 year old fence has served us well, but is past its useful life.

It has been degraded by kangaroos, emus, feral camels, wild dogs, weather events and sand erosion.

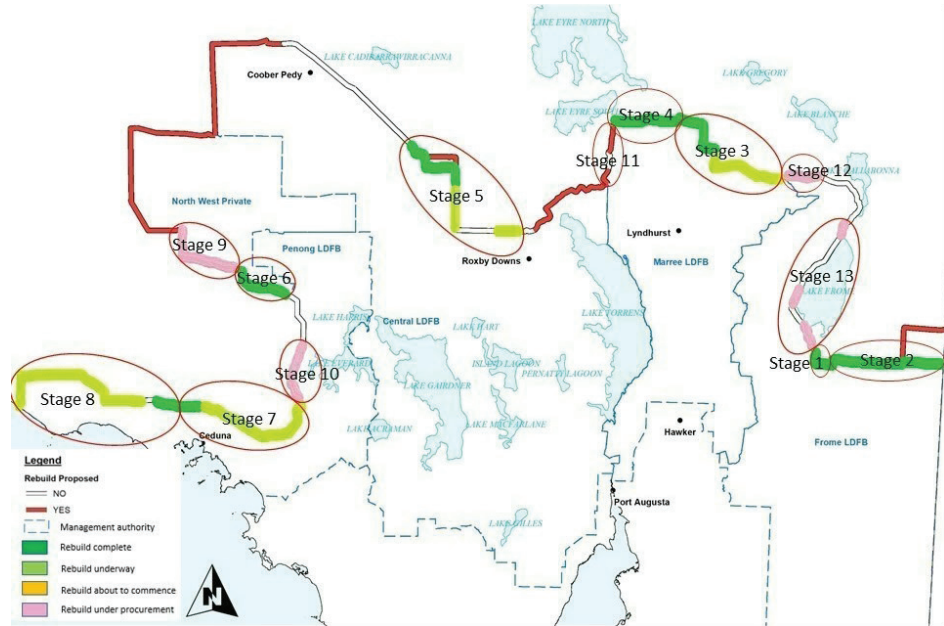
I was delighted to bring the Federal Government to the tripartite agreement with \$10m coming from each government and \$5m from growers with the deal ensuring our sheep industry in particular can continue to prosper.

Most Australians do not appreciate how important our sheep industry remains to the prosperity of the state and the contribution it makes to our rural communities.

Likewise, most will never witness firsthand the cruel ferocity of dog attacks, but be assured that without the fence in time the sheep industry in most of Australia would struggle to survive.

Building a fence in such hostile and remote conditions is incredibly complex and challenging. Across loose sandhills requiring capping with clay, incredibly rocky conditions, salt lakes and dry creeks always just a few hours away from becoming a raging flood, mostly working under the merciless outback sun, it's not a project for the faint hearted. Generous inland rain has produced a huge abundance of feed which will in turn lead to an explosion of numbers of kangaroos, emus and all the little critters living in the understory.

As surely as night follows day we will see wild dog numbers, which feed on all of the above, explode. The timing of this rebuild could scarcely be better.



The progress of the upgraded Dog Fence can be clearly seen from the above map.

Rowan said the structure would protect an industry that has an annual gross revenue of approximately \$2bn in SA.

The fence has a fascinating history - Holding the Line: A history of the South Australian Dog Fence Board, 1947-2012 by Leith Yelland, describes the history of the Dog Fence Board and was commissioned to mark the centenary of the Federation of South Australia.

Agriculture Grows Australia

Weather permitting, South Australia is likely to produce a record crop at a time when international commodity prices are near all-time highs. It is a combination that does not occur all that often. While we never have the crop until it's in the bin, the billions of dollars generated will flow through the economy, including through higher taxation flows and all will benefit.

As such it is incumbent of State and Federal Governments to re-invest in the regions which generate the dividend.

The advances of modern agriculture are a wonder and a credit to all concerned and defying the gloomy prediction of climate alarmists, production, quality and environmental management continue to improve.

Perhaps the only downside of this agricultural revolution is in our rural communities as the highly efficient, mechanised, computerised and robotized sector requires less workforce every year.

That is why it is vital governments invest the increasing taxation receipts generated by agriculture at every level of the economy back into the communities from whence it comes.

Our roads have seen incredible investment in recent times, but there is much more to do and our social services, including doctor shortages require investment.

However, even more important is the identification and support for the establishment of new industries in these areas.

Value adding, building manufacturing plants closer to the resource and removing red-tape blockages on expansion are vital if we want our rural and regional communities to survive and prosper.

Abolishing the Cashless Debit Card is an assault on Communities like Ceduna

One of the Albanese Government's first actions once elected was to axe the Cashless Debit Card (CDC). Apparently, it is more urgent to free up cash for drugs, alcohol and gambling than addressing energy prices, climate change, aged care or the cost of living.

At time when the Government is spruiking a "Voice to Parliament" it has chosen to ignore the voices of the communities in which the card operates. Ceduna was the first community in Australia to take on the card.

It came after the State Coroner found six untimely deaths in and around Ceduna were directly linked to alcohol abuse.

The card was introduced in 2016 following extensive community consultation, especially with the Indigenous leaders who were instrumental in formulating the operating rules including the 80:20 split. Since that time we have had no similar deaths and Ceduna is, or at least was, a much-changed place. Early signs following its abolition are not good, with an increasing number of itinerant visitors on the streets and incidental reports indicate poker machine activity is

significantly higher as is the consumption of alcohol. The consequence of such behaviour impacts not just on the drinker/gambler but on their families.



Unbelievably, the recent budget includes \$217m to get rid of a card that has been working. Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the Ceduna community are proud of their town and care deeply for each other, this decision is a big step backwards.

Useful Links

The Regional Tech Hub is an excellent resource for advice and support for anyone experiencing communication issues. This is a free service funded by the Government. Phone 1300 081 029 to access the service which is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (AEST) weekdays.

The Community Grants Hub delivers simple, consistent and streamlined information around Government grants to the Australian community. People can subscribe for updates on the latest grant opportunities www.communitygrants.gov.au/

Grey Holds Firm in the Election

Certainly the Federal Election was a poor result for the Coalition. Despite having managed Australia through a one in a hundred-year pandemic and the biggest economic shock since the Great Depression in a manner few countries could equal, Australians chose another path. Naturally I was disappointed, however I am grateful for the electorate's confidence in me and will continue to represent you to the utmost of my ability ensuring Grey receives the national attention it deserves. I believe history will judge our nine-years of government well, particularly in the regions where we secured record levels of Federal investment. The "Independent Teals" backed financially by multi-millionaire Simon Holmes à Court targeted Liberal Party seats, winning six and while they have not officially



Rowan with Divisional Returning Officer for the Division of Grey AEC Jacquie Dunlop at the Declaration of the Poll.

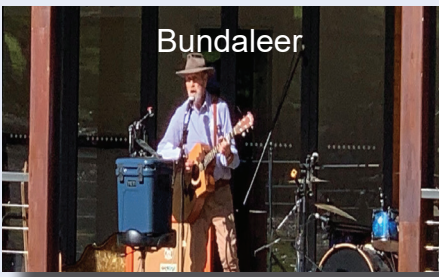
formed a party, thus far they have almost always voted as a block. I retain my position as a Liberal Party Whip which includes a number of duties associated with the efficient running of Parliament as well as a pastoral role checking on members welfare. I Chair the Agriculture, Water Resources, Drought and Environment Backbench Committee and am a member of the Policy Committees for Industry and Resources; Treasury and Finance and Infrastructure, Regional Development and Population. I am Deputy Chair of both the Joint Standing Committee for the Parliamentary Library as well as the Broadcasting Committee. I convene the Rural and Regional Liberal Caucus which works to ensure our regions have a strong voice both in the partyroom and in the Parliament.



Multiple events occurred on the October long weekend including the marking of Laura's 150th birthday. There was plenty to entertain the crowd including this milk separation demonstration. There was a time when most farms had one of these. For the uninitiated the faster you turn the handle, the thicker the cream.



In early October Appila turned 150. The Rogers family, Bailey, Nikki and Charlotte opened the Yarrowie pub for the morning so the public could inspect the famous murals. Great display in the hall and a celebration at Stacey Pavilion made for a full day.



This old rocker turned up at the Open Mike Session on the deck of Maple & Pine in the Bundaleer Forest. It is a fantastic facility attracting lots of wedding receptions. A visionary team led by Greg Boston and Mel Kitschke deserve great credit for their unwavering efforts.



Nelshaby

Nelshaby Agricultural Bureau was one of first in the State and in September celebrated its 100th birthday. Rowan enjoyed a chat with Daniel Joyce, Bart Joyce and Nathan Crouch. The branch looks well-set for the future with currently all of their eight-person committee under 40.



Mallala hosted August's Adelaide Plains Business Breakfast. Terrific presentation from local business McArdle Projects and another very timely presentation on cyber security. Rowan caught up with Anita Mariani and Bridget Kennelly. from RDA after the event.



The Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards was held in Canberra. Rowan is with Kadina's James Easter, Ag Student of the Year. Also from Grey are Dr Kate Gunn, (originally from Port Kenny) winner Excellence in Ag Research and James Venning from Bute - Excellence in Technology Award.

Forty Three Percent (Target vs Legislation)

When you hear the phrase in conjunction with Climate Change "the rest of the world is doing it", put your truth filter on. There are seven billion people in the world with only about one billion (Canada, US, Europe, UK, Japan, and Australia) living in countries actually lowering emissions. Don't believe the rubbish that 'Australia is dragging the chain'. Despite the incredibly unfair and misleading international carbon accounting mechanism, Australia has reduced emissions by more than 23% since 2005 and expected around 33% by 2030 under former Liberal Government policies.

Clearly if the six billion people in the "rest of the world" were doing the same, production of coal and gas would not be at record levels. So now the Labor Government has gone further and instead of setting a 43% target (we have met all of our targets), they have passed legislation mandating the figure.

So, is there a difference? Most certainly! A target allows government to adjust policies to unfolding and unpredictable circumstances, whereas a legislated number is binding. The

unrecognised issue here is the government has ceded judgement to the judicial system which will adjudicate on actions brought by third party activists. For instance, steps are afoot to establish at least one large scale urea plant in Australia.

"When the Prime Minister says that the sun and wind are free energy sources, your power bill tells a different story...."

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton
The Australian Friday October 28

Currently we export gas to other nations who make it into urea (absolutely essential for our agricultural industries) and we buy it back from them. Dumb, not only because it generates huge amounts of extra emissions but dangerous in terms of national security. An Australian plant will significantly decrease world emissions,

however because of the absurd international carbon accounting system, it will increase our emissions. If we are in danger of not meeting our legislated target, any activist group could seek court intervention claiming we cannot meet our legislated target, if the judge agrees it could well derail the project. After all, who is to know what a court would decide? Even a minor victory for activists in court would likely lead to similar actions right across the nation across a multitude of projects.

As a local example, while we are all supportive of the prospects of de-carbonising steel making in Whyalla, what will be the consequences if it can't be done economically in the legislated time frame and legal action is taken under the umbrella of the legislated 43%? This legislated instead of targeted emission goal is an unnecessary encumbrance playing to a political agenda. Either ill-considered or poorly understood it is highly likely to provide considerable obstacles to Australia making the decisions it needs to prosper while transforming our energy usage patterns.

Regional Shows are back.



John Oates receives his Life Membership from President Matt Jacka and Cr Jane Kellock.



They start them young at the Brook! Eddie Tiller demonstrates his "leading ability".



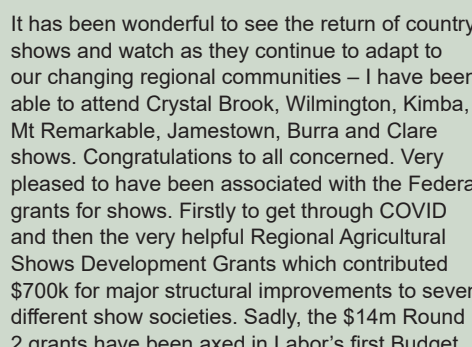
Rowan caught up with exhibitor Steve Sanders from Ballyvaughan Murray Grey Stud.



Opening of the Multi-Purpose pavilion with Peter Hunter, John and Pam Staker.



Wonderful to see top-class sheepdogs in action on a beautiful day at Melrose.



Rowan with Rural Ambassador Lachie Hansen, Vice President Kim Zohs and President Alexandra Dewar.



Ute Muster - This beauty is owned by Mat Robinson from Port Pirie.



Rowan with Rural Ambassador Lachie Hansen, Vice President Kim Zohs and President Alexandra Dewar.



Speed Shear and the one that almost got away.

Doctor Shortage Crisis for Regional Australia

Despite a plethora of supports to entice medical practitioners to the regions, Australia and SA in particular faces the worst doctor shortage in living memory. The reasons are many and far from frivolous, work/life balance, partner employment, prestige, education, housing options and operating a private business amongst them. Under our government there has been an increase in medical graduates but eighty-five percent are rejecting General Practice in favour of specialist careers. This is clearly unsustainable and those training spots should be severely curtailed.

Medicare item numbers are being utilised in our cities wealthiest suburbs at double the rate of our rural areas and doctors' ability to generate "low value" health care is at least part of the problem. I have long supported postcode specific Medicare Provider numbers, or alternatively a differential payment system providing far greater reward recognising the extra challenges and responsibility of providing service in rural and remote areas. The differential payment schedule should reflect the levels of over/under servicing determined by postcode. Prior to the election we committed to forgive HECS debts pro-rata for country service. The new Government should progress this proposal.

For some years Northern EP has been one of the worst affected areas. I brought former Health Minister Greg Hunt to Grey and met with the Northern Eyre Peninsula Health Alliance where

consequently he provided \$300k for them to design a solution. It is an excellent piece of work requiring moderate commitments from State and Federal Governments, unfortunately the State and Federal elections intervened before we could finalise the program. I subsequently provided the report to Health Minister Mark Butler four months ago, but despite numerous contacts, he has not met with the proponents or acted upon the report. We need to work together on this; the number of changes needed to solve an Australia-wide problem, require a collaborative approach.

