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S P E I R S

2016 / 2017

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

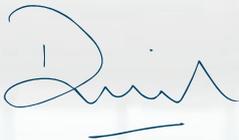
Welcome to my third annual report as the Member for Bright.

I am determined to set a national standard for what it means to be a Member of Parliament, working energetically, creatively and consistently to represent my electorate and develop ideas for the betterment of our community and state.

A foundation of my approach is to be constantly accountable to the people who put me here. My annual report is a key part of this and I use it to highlight achievements from the past year and to report progress against my six community priorities. Knowing that I am required to report publicly on my work ensures that I strive harder to gain outcomes for the communities that I am privileged to represent.

Like many Generation Y'ers, politics isn't something that I get particularly excited about and I often despair at how hopelessly out of touch our politicians can be. But what drives me to continue doing this job is my absolute passion for the community I live in and the people who have elected me as their representative. I won't get everything right and I'm certainly not a perfect politician but I will work tirelessly to be an accessible, accountable, activist Member of Parliament who gets things done!

Thank you for your ongoing support.



David Speirs MP  
Member for Bright



# SIX PRIORITIES

*When I ran for election, I worked with our community to develop six priorities which shape my approach to being your local representative. These priorities are a measurable way to ensure that I am achieving things for you and, each year, I intend to stay accountable by providing an annual report on my progress.*





# ONE



## **Priority 1: Build stronger, healthier communities where people have a sense of belonging and feel connected**

In the past year I have focused on activities which build stronger communities. Some of our achievements include:

- extending the Beach for All access mat at Seacliff to ensure people with limited mobility can get across the soft sand to the water's edge
- hosting a community forum in Hallett Cove Heights to address amenity issues within this development
- working with the community and council to cast a vision and lobby for funding for Hallett Cove's foreshore
- spearheading a campaign to clean up unsightly buildings in our community, resulting in significant action on a number of the sites
- hosting quarterly listening posts at local shopping centres
- supporting five Neighbourhood Watch groups and working alongside Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, surf and sporting clubs and residents' groups to help them make a difference in our community.

## Priority 2: Supporting small business to get off the ground, grow and create jobs

Small businesses are a vital foundation of our economy, creating jobs and sustaining prosperity. I will work to support small businesses whenever I can.

This year my work has included:

- putting my Community Business Directory online to help promote local businesses and provide residents with a way to find local shops and services operating in our community
- running a Christmas 'shop local' campaign to encourage people to use services and businesses in the local area during the festive season
- partnering with businesses on Jetty Road, Brighton to offer a Christmas discount voucher to customers
- working alongside the Hallett Cove Business Association to help local businesses come together to collaborate, network and learn.



TWO 



# THREE



## Priority 3: Fix Brighton Road

Brighton Road is Adelaide's main coastal thoroughfare, yet it is plagued by congestion and its condition leaves a lot to be desired.

My campaign to fix Brighton Road includes:

- working alongside local residents, businesses and other stakeholders to develop a vision for the economic heart of Brighton Road (the precinct between Edwards Street and the Hove railway crossing) in order to enhance the amenity of this road and to create an economic and cultural high street in the long term
- campaigning to improve the condition and visual amenity of Brighton Road
- moving a motion in Parliament condemning the State Labor Government's management (or mismanagement!) of Brighton Road
- putting pressure on the government to prioritise Brighton Road when clearing their \$1 billion road maintenance backlog.

## Priority 4: Create a public transport system that is modern, safe and reliable

The great cities of the world are often characterised by strong public transport systems. Our local transport network has many problems and improving the quality of our train system remains one of my biggest campaigns, with work in this area including:

- persistently pushing for the government to improve the overall aesthetic of the railway corridor, addressing overgrown vegetation, re-vegetating where necessary and tackling graffiti
- staying in touch with the issues faced daily by commuters by using train travel as my mode of transport on parliamentary sitting days
- pushing for improvements to our ticketing system to make it easier for people to recharge their metrocards in real time
- undertaking significant research on people-centric public transport with a view to find low-cost ways to encourage people to use our transport system.





# FIVE



## Priority 5: Protect our precious coastal environment and the character of our communities

I've chosen to live in this community because of its natural beauty, character and precious coastal environment. Preserving this place will always be at the forefront of my work.

This year my achievements have included:

- launching the Liberal Party's vision for Glenthorne National Park – Adelaide's second metropolitan national park located within our southern suburbs
- becoming Shadow Minister for the Environment – putting me at the forefront of environmental policy in our local area and state
- celebrating a decade of involvement with Friends of the Lower Field River of which I am a founding member
- supporting local environmental 'Friends' groups and council environmental initiatives
- promoting and supporting Clean up Australia Day activities in the local community.

## Priority 6: Provide our seniors with the support and respect they deserve

Seniors have given so much to our community over many years and, as they age, they must be given the support and respect they deserve.

My commitment to seniors includes:

- hosting a birthday party attended by over 80 people for everyone in my electorate who turned 90 in 2016
- personally delivering flowers and cards to 32 locals turning 90 or celebrating significant wedding anniversaries
- hosting four seniors forums attended by a total of 475 people on topics including:
  - > healthy minds
  - > elder abuse: what is it? How do we prevent it?
  - > palliative care
  - > your brain matters: dementia prevention.





## Glenthorne national park

A highlight of 2016 was driving the Liberal Party's vision for Glenthorne National Park, a new national park for Adelaide and a concept which would see the permanent protection and revitalisation of large portions of open space in our southern suburbs.

The National Park will encapsulate Glenthorne Farm, O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, Marino Conservation Park, Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Happy Valley Reservoir and the Field River Valley. This is a total area of more than 1,500 hectares, which is bigger than Belair National Park.

If elected as part of a Marshall Liberal Government in 2018, I will be the Minister responsible for making this vision a reality.



*Glenthorne National Park is a unique space in the heart of our city which will be opened up for the enjoyment of all South Australians, our children, grandchildren and future generations.*

Visit [glenthorne.com.au](http://glenthorne.com.au) to find out more.



## **PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

We are committed to preserving and reinvigorating this unique green belt in the midst of Adelaide's southern suburbs.



## **RECREATION & LIFESTYLE**

Recreational opportunities include picnic areas, camping and accommodation facilities, fishing, walking, cycling and horse riding trails.



## **HIGHLIGHTING OUR HISTORY**

Our vision will preserve and give greater access to the strong heritage of the area including Worthing Mine and sites of geological historical significance.



All images are artist's impressions



## Beach for All extension

On Australia Day 2016, Seacliff became South Australia's first accessible beach following a 12-week campaign to 'crowdfund' the money needed to develop and manufacture a unique beach mat. Watching Charlie Rowland, a spinal atrophy sufferer, travel down the mat and reach the water's edge without his family carrying him for the first time in his life was the proudest moment of my career to date.

Following the launch, it became obvious that extra matting was needed to ensure that beach goers could reach the water's edge no matter how far out the tide was and so I approached our local Bendigo Bank branch which generously agreed to sponsor the extra matting.

Since the launch, Beach for All has captured imaginations, with other beaches in South Australia and interstate following Seacliff's lead by installing their own disability access pathways.

In addition to Bendigo Bank's sponsorship, Beach for All would not have been possible without the partnership of Surf Life Saving SA and Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club.



**SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**



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 **Bendigo Bank**  
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# Beach access for all

## NEW RAMP A LIFE CHANGER

Amy Moran

SEACLIFF is set to become the state's first wheelchair accessible beach under a plan disability advocates say will change lives.

A portable ramp is proposed to lead wheelchair users from the cement walkway at the foreshore to the hard sand at the water's edge.

Variety SA chief executive Mark McGill said the move would improve the quality of life for thousands of people with a disability, such as Daniella Mercorolia, 15. Daniella has not been on the beach since she was a baby. "Any positive initiative to open up new experiences for those who rely on a wheelchair will certainly change lives," Mr McGill said.

Continued Page 4

---posed wheelchair ramp to the water's edge at Seacliff.

Picture: BLANCA DE HARZO

ella Mercorolia



Charlie Rowland, 17, of Seacliff Park, pictured with his dad Peter, is looking forward to being able to go onto the beach.

Picture: MIKE BURTON

## Life's a beach with new ramp

Eugene Boisvert

SEACLIFF will become the state's first wheelchair accessible beach after a successful crowd-funding campaign and a donation from a local Rotary club.

A new \$10,000 portable rubber ramp will stretch from the cement walkway at the foreshore to the hard sand at the water's edge near Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club.

It will allow people using wheelchairs or walking frames to reach the sea with-out assistance.

State Liberal Bright MP David Speers ordered the ramp last Wednesday and expects it to be in place by Australia Day. Mr Speers raised \$230 through online donations, since October.

Another \$1000 is coming from Holdfast Bay Council and \$500 from the Lions Club of Hallett Cove and District.

But the largest donation of \$8000 has come from the Rotary Club of Brighton. It closed in June but still had money to distribute.

Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club will roll the ramp out each day it is in use, although the club is still to work out exactly which days this will be.

Club president Andrew Chandler said it would most likely be on duty life-avers patrol the beach between November and April.

He said the club was "over

the moon" to hear the funding goal had been reached so quickly.

"I think it will be absolutely wonderful for the community once this happens," Mr Chandler said.

Seacliff Park resident Peter Rowland and his son Charlie, 17, enjoy going to the beach but Charlie cannot get onto the sand in his electric wheelchair.

Mr Rowland said they were excited about trying out the ramp.

"He's on his computer 24/7 but we like to get him out of the house," Mr Rowland said.

He'll be able to get on the beach with his dog.

Maria Catanzariti, 49, of Mitchell Park, has spinal muscular atrophy and is looking forward to going down the ramp.

She was able to touch the water at Wallaroo thanks to a boat ramp but said she would like to do the same with a purpose-built disability ramp at Seacliff.

"It's relaxing, it's just like what everyone else does," Ms Catanzariti said.

**"I think it will be absolutely wonderful for the community once this happens."**

- Andrew Chandler

Donations can still be made at [mycause.com.au/page/113797/beach-for-all](http://mycause.com.au/page/113797/beach-for-all)



# REPORT CARD

## IN THE COMMUNITY

- attended **230** community events
- hosted **four seniors forums**
- raised over **\$758.15** for charitable causes across four seniors forums
- hosted **11** tours of Parliament House
- hosted quarterly listening posts
- assisted an average of 54 constituents each week with their local and state issues**
- sent over **1,328** handwritten birthday and anniversary cards including hand delivering **32** of these to people turning 90 or celebrating significant wedding anniversaries
- added my Community Business Directory to my website to make it easier for people to shop locally

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- distributed quarterly newsletters to every mailbox in the electorate – a total of **52,000 newsletters**
- sent **51** e-news updates
- engaged with an audience of **3,064** people on Facebook and Instagram
- hosted **17** community events with local stakeholders including seniors, businesses, community groups, churches and schools

## IN PARLIAMENT

- served as the Shadow Cabinet Secretary
- promoted to Shadow Minister for the Environment
- delivered **20** speeches in Parliament and asked **9** questions in Question Time
- served on the Economic and Finance Committee



## Shadow Minister for the Environment

In January 2017 I was privileged to be asked to enter South Australia's Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Minister for the Environment. As someone who has been dedicated to environmental protection for my entire life, this is an opportunity which I have embraced!

South Australia's environment has been let down by the Labor Government who are distracted by ideology and symbolism rather than partnering with community groups and those who work the land to enhance our unique natural environment. I am intent on turning this around, re-focusing the Environment Department's work on practical environmentalism which will be underpinned by a suite of reformist policies I intend to release in the lead up to the 2018 election.



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MEMBER FOR BRIGHT

The electorate office is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. The office is located on the corner of Sturt Road and Arundel Road, Brighton.

You can call the electorate office and speak to David or one of his staff on [\(08\) 8296 9833](tel:0882969833).

To email David, you can send your enquiry to:  
[bright@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:bright@parliament.sa.gov.au)

For more about David and regular updates visit:  
[www.davidspeirs.com.au](http://www.davidspeirs.com.au)