



### **A letter from Nick**

As we head into the winter months we are all looking to the skies for much needed rain. Farmers are spending enormous amounts on buying feed to keep their stock alive or are resorting to selling stock to stay afloat. There's no doubt – it is a difficult time.

The State Government has announced its second round of drought funding – but the question remains – is it enough – and is it the right type of support?

Many people I speak to are looking for basic help, to buy feed and fodder or assistance with low interest loans that are easy to access. They would also welcome council rate relief. I have written to the Premier and the Primary Industries Minister with my feedback on what has been offered. I have also invited the Premier to the region so he can see for himself how tough the conditions are.

The information on the drought funding being offered is outlined in detail below, so I urge you to follow the links provided to see how the package can help you. I'd also appreciate your feedback on what **you** believe should be offered. Respond to this email with your solutions that will assist farming communities.

The State Budget will be handed down on the 5th June – I will report back on what measures have been delivered that will assist the MacKillop electorate.

In the meantime, enjoy the following information, and as always – please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any issues that I may be able to assist with.

Regards, Nick

Always Here for MacKillop



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### **In Parliament**

During Question Time I asked the Government about funding for the Beachport Primary school – which is in urgent need of upgrades. I have also asked about the Naracoorte police station build, regional health scholarships and concerns around safety for students using a public bus service to get to schools in Murray Bridge.

Head to my website at [www.nickmcbride.com.au](http://www.nickmcbride.com.au) to check out all the answers.

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### **Telstra Information Sessions**

Poor mobile coverage since the switch off of the 3G network has been a recurring complaint to my office. Next month - Telstra representatives will be visiting the Limestone Coast, and I urge you to attend one of their information sessions. Their visits will give you the opportunity to ask questions about recent mobile upgrades, Starlink and the latest devices and plans available to consumers.

Drop in and see them at:

**Keith** – Heritage St between IGA and Henry & Rose – **Tuesday 3rd June, between 10am – 3pm**

**Penola** – Foodland Car Park, Church Street - **Wednesday 4th June, between 10am – 4pm**

**Cape Jaffa** – Cape Jaffa Wines car park – **Thursday 5th June, between 9am – 12noon**

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### **Drought Assistance**

The State Government is investing \$73 million to support farmers affected by drought in SA.

The package has been designed in direct consultation with primary producers, including a roundtable with farmers and key industry bodies.

The following is a snapshot of some of the new assistance measures on offer. However I urge you to visit [https://pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies\\_and\\_recovery/drought](https://pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies_and_recovery/drought) to read up on the entire package and eligibility.

- A further \$13 million for On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants for rebates that assist with projects to manage drought conditions and strengthen drought preparedness
- An additional \$4 million to assist charities with freight costs to transport donated fodder to assist farmers with feeding livestock
- Immediate financial relief by providing rebates for Emergency Services Levy and commercial vehicle registration fees for primary producers receiving the Commonwealth's Farm Household Allowance

- \$2.5 million for an immediate and comprehensive strategy to boost mental health and resilience in drought affected areas
- \$1 million for Rural Financial Counselling Support
- \$3.5 million in additional supports for rural small businesses

These measures build upon the \$18 million in support measures outlined in November 2024, which included an initial round of [On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants](#), [donated fodder transport assistance](#), health and wellbeing support, grants for the [Connecting Communities Events Program](#), mentoring and counselling.

I also welcome feedback on what the Government is offering - and what more can be done to assist farmers during these tough times.

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### **Suicide Prevention Action Plan**

Department for Education Draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2024-2027

The Department for Education (the department) is seeking community feedback on their first Suicide Prevention Action Plan (Action Plan).

Suicide has a significant impact on our people, reflecting its impact on the broader South Australian community.

It's encouraged people with lived experience of suicide to provide feedback. This includes people who have experienced suicidal thought, survived a suicide attempt, cared for someone through a

suicidal crisis, been bereaved by suicide or having a loved one who has died by suicide.

Your feedback will be considered and used to inform the final Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

Consultation closes 6th June 2025

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/dept-education-suicide-prevention-action-plan>

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### **Public Transport Review**

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport is developing a Public Transport Strategy.

This will also involve a review of public transport in the regions to ensure that the needs of those living in rural communities are being met.

Public consultation is now open – and closes on June 27.

I urge you to have your say on this important review.

Please visit: [www.dit.sa.gov.au/public-transport-future](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/public-transport-future)

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## More Support for South Australia's women entrepreneurs

The Government is supporting more women to grow their start-ups, with round two of the Fearless Innovator Grant Program now open.

Designed to address the long-standing gap in access to early-stage capital for women, the program supports female-led innovative businesses to grow and scale into national and international markets with new products and services.

Delivered by Women in Innovation (WINN) in partnership with the Fearless Females Network (FFN), the program offers two funding streams to support women entrepreneurs at different stages of business growth:

- **Scale-Up Grant:** One \$60,000 grant for a business with established product or service sales, ready to scale and expand into national and international markets.
- **Accelerate Grants:** Two \$20,000 grants to help early-stage businesses fast-track growth and build their market presence.

Applications close Sunday, 8 June 2025 at 11:59pm ACST. Successful recipients will be announced at an awards night in September 2025.

For more information, please visit

<https://business.sa.gov.au/programs/women-in-business>

## Out and About





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## **Advance Care Directives**

Did you know that our office is now an approved provider of the Advance Care Directive Kits?

What is it you may ask? It is an in-depth information guide about Advance Care Directives and a step-by-step guide on how to complete it.

ACD is a legal form for adults to record their wishes and instructions for future health care, end of life, preferred living arrangements and other personal matters. It can be used to appoint one or more adults to make particular decisions for you, if you are unable to make a particular decision/s yourself.

If you would like a do-it-yourself kit, please feel free to pop into our office at 146 Smith Street Naracoorte or alternatively give us a call and we would be happy to post one to you.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia can give advice and witness your Advance Care Directive for free. Phone: 1300 366 424.

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**Connect with me**

Email - [mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Phone - (08) 8762 1211

Address - 146 Smith Street, Naracoorte, SA, 5271

Website - [www.nickmcbride.com.au](http://www.nickmcbride.com.au)

**Visit my brand new website**

