

# **Summary of Ministerial Achievements**

**1993 - 2002**

**Hon. Wayne Matthew MP**

## **Minerals and Petroleum Resources**

- Oversaw changes recommended by the Resources Task Force (established by the Premier) which identified increased exploration activity to \$100 million per annum by 2007 as being fundamental to achieving minerals and processed mine product output valued at \$4 billion by 2020.
- Called tenders and issued licences to facilitate the building of the SEAgas pipeline to bring gas from the Victorian Otway Basin to Adelaide to guarantee the State's security of gas supply.
- In an Australian first (through the "right to negotiate" process under the Commonwealth Native title Act 1993), signed a multi-tribal, multi-company Native Title Agreement on 22 October 2001 facilitating new petroleum production in the Cooper Basin.
- Significantly boosted the funding for the Targeted Exploration Initiative South Australia (TEISA) acquiring and delivering new, high quality geoscientific information and services designed to facilitate future exploration in target areas of the State.
- Allocated \$1.7 million of TEISA funds to digitally capture and archive petroleum data over a 4 year program.
- Guided the Petroleum Act 2000 through parliament. The new Act was the result of the first thorough review of petroleum legislation for 60 years. It provides a more effective, efficient and flexible regulatory system for the petroleum and geothermal resources industries than the previous Petroleum Act 1940. The legislation also facilitates geothermal energy opportunities.
- In 2001 announced new exploration expenditure of up to \$135 million over five years on three Geothermal Energy Licences, for Scopenergy Ltd, SAGE Pty Ltd and Geodynamics Ltd.
- Oversaw the implementation of the innovative State Government South Australian Resources Industry Geoserver (SARIG) project, providing on-line access to information and services relevant to exploration and development.
- Signed documents to enable Southern Cross Resources Australia to develop the Honeymoon Uranium mine.
- Encouraged the development of a heavy mineral sands industry.
- Opened up the South Australian portion of the Otway Basin to new petroleum exploration.
- Facilitated the establishment of the Stone Industry Association to concentrate on the promotion of South Australian Dimension Stone to potential overseas and interstate markets.

## **Energy SA**

- Established Energy SA as the Government's one stop shop for sustainable and renewable energy, energy safety and conventional energy market policy and programs and the creation of the Energy SA website.
- Encourage the establishment of a South Australian Wind Power industry. More than 35 proposals for wind farms totalling over 2,000 megawatts were before the Liberal Government at the time of the 2002 State election.
- Implemented a \$500 – \$700 Solar Hot Water system rebate scheme in May 2001 to encourage greater use of solar energy.
- Facilitated grants to install renewable power generation in rural and remote South Australia.
- Established the Sustainable Energy Advisory Centre
- Amended the Gas Act 1997 to improve handling of gas shortfalls before and during an emergency.

## **Services SA / DAIS**

- As the Minister for State Government Services, created the Department for State Government Services (trading as Services SA) as a new agency from the amalgamation of the Departments for Building Management (formerly SACON) and State Services.
- Achieved significant savings as a result of amalgamation, \$500,000 for example through the collocation of the corporate services of the two former departments.
- Outsourced building maintenance to 3 private sector companies and 1 public sector staff bid.
- As the Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Information Services, together with the Minister for Infrastructure, in 1997/98 created the Department for Administrative and Information Services (DAIS) by adding Information Technology and Workplace Services to Services SA.
- Retained the name Service SA for a concept created and implemented to provide a single contact point with Government through strategically placed service centres, a centralised telephone call centre and central Web site. When fully implemented, this will significantly simplify contact with Government.
- Jointly with the Treasurer, achieved the sale and lease back of the State light motor vehicle fleet to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for a total of \$195 million. The lease facility was expected to result in annual savings of more than \$2.5 million per year.
- Contracted out building maintenance services and minor works.
- Restructured the Government Office Accommodation Committee (GOAC), to provide a greater focus on the strategic management of office accommodation. Following the restructure, initiatives resulted in benefits to Government in the order of \$3.7m.
- Introduced an electronic Procurement System to manage the Government \$3.3 billion a year expenditure on goods and services, of which \$2 billion was spent on services and \$1.3 billion on goods.
- Provided Seed Funding that assisted the development of the first web sites for many agencies.
- Established the highly successful Tenders and Contracts website. There were over 379,352 hits, 24,284 visits with 1,372 Government tenders advertised and 4,127 tender documents downloaded from the site in its first 12 months of operation.

- Created and implemented the Ministerial and Parliamentary Information and Communications Services (MAPICS) project to provide Ministers, Parliamentarians and their staff with the tools to enable them to improve information access and communication with others. Today this is known as PNSG (Parliamentary Network Support Group).

This included the rollout of Internet and e-mail access to electorate offices of all Members of Parliament, Internet access for all Ministers and upgrades of desktop PC's, development of Hansard on-line and Legislation on-line to enable convenient public access.

- Coordinated electronic messaging across all Agencies to achieve a secure, reliable and easy to manage system.
- Resolved all outstanding issues in relation to the complex EDS Contract. The contract, a world first involving the outsourcing of the entire Government information technology requirements, resulted from a policy concept developed by me in 1992;
- Oversaw the conversion of the State's lands titles into the Torrens Automated Title System (TATS) which was developed for the creation and maintenance of computerised titles.
- Oversaw the initiation of the Government Radio Network Contract (GRNC).

### **Year 2000 Compliance**

- Established a dedicated "Year 2000 SA" office to drive changes to Government and private sector systems to ensure that the Year 2000 Date problem was corrected in all critical Government systems prior to 1 January 2000.
- Oversaw the identification, correction and testing of potential Year 2000 problems within Government Agencies.
- The attention to the promotion and co-ordination of Year 2000 readiness for the State Government, Business and the general community and the success of the public information and awareness campaign at all levels culminated in a smooth changeover and a 'Business as Usual' outcome for the State.

## **Correctional Services**

- Conducted the most significant restructuring of the Department in its history
- Entered into a contract to privately manage Mount Gambier Prison with Group 4 Corrections Services.
- Reduced the cost of keeping offenders behind bars by \$16,000 per prisoner in real terms or by 29 per cent in just 3 years. This represented a reduction in dollar terms per prisoner from \$54,000 per annum to \$38,000. With a then prisoner population of approximately 1,400, this equated to savings of \$19.6 million per annum.
- Signed an Australian first – a contract to privately manage the total prisoner and youth offender transportation operations. The contract with Group 4 Corrections Services covers the movement of prisoners previously undertaken by four agencies – Police, Correctional Services, Courts Administration Authority and Family and Community Services. The contract removed considerable overlap and duplication of the previous government run services.
- Abolished Labor's automatic early release system from prison. Took Truth in Sentencing legislation through the parliament that came into effect on 1 September 1994 resulting in longer prison terms for serious offenders.
- Significantly changed the conditions of Home Detention. Prisoners convicted of serious offences such as rape, murder, robbery with violence, assault or child sex offences were made ineligible for Home Detention.
- Made major changes to the Prisoner Assessment Committee allowing victims of crime the opportunity to voice their concerns/views through the appointment of a Victims of Crime expert.
- Introduced MOW Camps (Mobile Outback Work Camps) through which prisoners have been put to work on projects to benefit the community.
- Increased opportunities for fine defaulters to participate in projects that were otherwise too expensive to be undertaken. These can now be achieved using community service offenders.
- In partnership with the University of SA, the Department for Correctional Services established a professional Chair in Forensic Psychology in a bid to reduce the recidivism rate of prisoners.
- In similar partnership with the University of SA, introduced a Diploma of Correctional Administration – a tertiary course specifically tailored for prison officers thereby establishing a university level program of professional development.

### **South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS)**

- Conducted a significant restructuring of the Ambulance Service following a very public removal of the then inefficient Ambulance Board.
- Introduced a specialised Patient Transport Service for non-emergency situations. This reduced the cost of elective carry by more than 20 per cent and provided a more efficient non-emergency transport service.
- Introduced Paramedics to improve the quality of service and introduce a more skilled Ambulance Service.
- Introduced the Diploma of Applied Science in Ambulance Studies, a professional qualification to achieve higher standard, better qualified and better trained ambulance officers to implement high patient care standards to ensure that the best possible care is provided to patients.
- Progressively introduced a change to green livery, the internationally recognised colour for ambulance and paramedic services to avoid confusion with the blue livery of other emergency services.

### **Country Fire Service**

- Extensive restructuring of the CFS reduced permanent staffing numbers by 20% enabling savings to be used to fund equipment and training for volunteers.
- Implemented a debt reduction strategy to repay \$14 million in debt incurred by the CFS under the Labor Government.

### **South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS)**

- Initiated the State's first purpose built co-located fire/ambulance station at Brooklyn Park.
- Obtained Cabinet approval to amalgamate the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and the South Australian Ambulance Service over a three to five year period, with some administrative units amalgamating in early 1997.
- This initiative had the potential to reduce the cost of emergency services through money saved on buildings, reduce duplication and increase the efficiency of the two services. It also could have improved response times, increased training opportunities, enhanced skill levels and ultimately the life saving ability of personnel. Unfortunately it was put on hold.

## **Police**

- Commenced the progressive redeployment of Police from non-operational duties back to the crime front.
- Created the Police Security Services Division to assist in freeing up police officers for operational duties.
- Commenced the removal of Police from, transport, driving, mechanical and carpentry duties to put more operational Police on the beat.
- Replaced Police behind speed cameras, on guard duties at Parliament House and Government House with Police Security officers, freeing up police officers for deployment to operational duties.
- Closed and sold the Novar Gardens Workshop and outsourced Police vehicle fleet management, freeing up 18 more Police for operational duties. This also saved an estimated \$750,000 per annum.
- Opened the first shop front community Police Station at Aldinga within the first six months of Government.
- Gave Regional Commanders more financial and operational autonomy.
- Introduced changes to increase the implementation rate for Neighbourhood Watch programs.

## **State Emergency Service**

- Legislated to separate the SES from the Police Department to make them a separately funded stand alone service
- Boosted SES funding by \$200,000 in the 1996/97 budget. This equated to about \$100 for every SES volunteer in the State and enhanced existing subsidy arrangements.