

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER DAVID SPEIRS MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Environmental recreation gets big boost

South Australians will have better access to environmentally sustainable recreation areas with significant funding allocated in the 2018-19 State Budget.

The Marshall Liberal Government's first budget delivers \$34.4 million of funding over four years for the environment, which will also deliver all its election commitments, including a new national park and opening up of reservoirs.

The creation of the 1500-hectare Glenthorne National Park in Adelaide's southern suburbs, will receive \$10 million in funding over four years.

Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs said the new Glenthorne National Park is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a significant environmental protection and recreation area for generations to come.

"Glenthorne National Park will be Adelaide's second major metropolitan national park and will see vast areas of open space preserved and revitalised for the South Australian community," said Minister Speirs.

"The vision includes significant recreation opportunities such as walking and bike trails, picnic areas, camp grounds and 200 hectares of native revegetation which will all be considered as part of extensive community consultation."

Another key election commitment to open-up reservoirs for public use will receive \$5 million of funding over two years.

"A cross-government taskforce is developing a strategy to progressively open up reservoirs across the state for recreation activities including walking, cycling, kayaking, sailing and fishing," said Minister Speirs.

"Many of the reservoirs across the State are in areas of outstanding natural beauty and by opening them up for recreational activity we can maximise the amount of people that get to experience this in a way that will have no negative impact on the quality and security of our drinking water supplies."

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Additionally, one of Adelaide's premier walking trails from Waterfall Gully to Mount Lofty Summit will receive a further \$2.9 million to improve durability and increase safety for the public.

"The Waterfall Gully walking trail suffered significant storm damage in September 2016 and these upgrades will make sure the track can withstand similar weather events going forward," said Minister Speirs.

"This new works program will sustain the trail for future use as visitor numbers continue to grow to over 600,000 per year."

The Wirraparinga Loop Trail in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park will also undergo upgrades thanks to \$100,000 in funding.

In order to meet the \$715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government's priorities, the 2018-19 State Budget includes the following savings measures in the Environment and Water portfolio:

- \$27.2 million over three years from the reshaping of the department's programs, functions and workforce to focus on the efficient delivery of the government's priorities. This is the equivalent to 115 full-time positions in 2021-22.
- \$8.6 million over three years through additional sales of Crown land that is surplus to requirements. The government is committed to making more Crown land available for private sector projects to promote economic opportunities in the state.