



2003 - A YEAR FOR ACTION

23 December 2002

"Visioning the future for Eyre Peninsula is exciting, with many possibilities in a wide range of fields coming to fruition in 2003."

Water: The prospect of desalination plants being given timelines for construction is exhilarating. The millions of dollars of development that are currently being held up will then be able to happen. The collection and re-use of storm water and the recharging of underground aquifers are continuing projects that will benefit individual communities as well as the whole of Eyre Peninsula. The expansion of Port Lincoln's 'grey water' scheme will see it connected to the racecourse and Ravensdale oval sporting complex.

Tourism: Let's develop a mineral and/or hard rock trail similar to the seafood and aquaculture trail launched last year, taking in Cape Carnot where the oldest rocks in South Australia have been identified in Whaler's Way, Cowell jade, granite in central Eyre Peninsula and Calca, kaolin (white clay) deposits at various locations, ochre, and graphite near Port Lincoln. Limestone caves at Koonalda could be opened for tourists to visit. The white sands at Port Neill and Tumby Bay are a beachcomber's paradise.

Minerals: Mining potential may become reality, with coal deposits, iron ore, diamonds and gold all possible mining ventures that could start this year.

Roads: Wouldn't it be great to see the completion of the sealing of the Lock-Elliston, Lipson-Ungarra and Bratten Way roads. Let's get Kimba-Cowell road sealing underway. The Federal Government's support for the widening of Eyre Highway should see work progress from Ceduna to Penong.

Power: The private companies researching the establishment of wind farms on Eyre Peninsula are looking to share installation of power lines to eventually provide triangulation of power and input into the national grid. Off-peak power can be used in desalination plants. The first of the wind turbines should be in place by the end of the year.

Education: I continue to push for a centre for marine innovation, research and education located on Murray Point (Port Lincoln), along with the redevelopment of schools at Ceduna and Port Lincoln. I can see an opportunity to further develop education pathways to employment, and the possibility of encouraging overseas students to study here.

Agriculture: Further development of the Minnipa Research Centre, TAFE and Sims Farm for education and training, thus providing the life-long learning that is needed if Eyre Peninsula is to maintain its aggressive export culture.

Fishing and aquaculture: More training and development of our aquaculture potential. The advantages of these industries are very evident in the improved economies of our coastal towns.

My staff and I will make 2003 another year of hard work to benefit Eyre Peninsula and my constituents. Together we will achieve.