



ONE RULE FOR THEM AND ANOTHER ONE FOR US
22 October 2004

The Rann Labor government is putting children's lives at risk at Port Lincoln Primary School by avoiding the rules they lay down for others.

By using section 49 of the Development Act two classrooms and a water tank have already been placed over an SA Water easement with the potential for another two classrooms to be placed there in the near future.

This was done without the normal input from the Port Lincoln City Council that would have highlighted the issues.

The easement was required because of a large storm water drain that is located a few centimeters under the ground.

"The storm water drain is in it's 35th year of an estimated 35 year life. Now it has a tank on top that has the potential to hold 90 tonnes of water. Should this tank collapse 1.2 meters into the drain under it, any children within close proximity would be in grave danger," Mrs. Penfold said.

"The tank could collapse without notice anytime. With a shortage of play space at the overcrowded Primary School, there is a high probability of children being close by, should this happen when children are out playing at recess or lunch time."

"The quick fix solutions by this government must stop. The issue of overcrowding at schools in Port Lincoln must be addressed once and for all and rebuilding undertaken to actually solve the problems.

I call on the government, in particular the Minister for Education Jane Lomax-Smith, to release the so called interim report into the Port Lincoln Schools and let the community discuss what can be done to resolve the current unacceptable situations," she said

"If the cost of the proposals is too high perhaps a compromise can be reached. \$250,000 was originally allocated by the Rann Labor Government to look into the problem and less than \$50,000 has been spent so there should be plenty of money to finish the job to decide on a long term solution" she said.

KIDS FIGHTING FOR SPACE ON SCHOOL OVAL
7 October 2004

Children attending Port Lincoln Primary School will be fighting for space to play on the school oval according to Member for Flinders Liz Penfold.

Liz was appalled to hear that two more transportable classrooms will be placed on the rapidly diminishing oval to accommodate increasing numbers of children attending the school.

“Two years ago at a Community Cabinet meeting in Port Lincoln the then Education Minister promised \$250,000 would be spent by the Rann Labor government ‘as a first step’ to find a ‘long term solution’ to the school overcrowding issues in Port Lincoln” Mrs Penfold said.

After considerable community consultation a report costing \$48,535.79 was prepared. However despite repeated calls from the Mayor of Port Lincoln and the local Member this report has never been made public and still no workable solutions have been forthcoming.

Already two classrooms and a large water tank have been placed on the oval with another dual transportable and presumably another large water tank now on its way.

“Do the parents know what is happening and what public consultation or approvals have been obtained that allow this play area to be continually reduced” Mrs Penfold asked.

“The football goal posts have gone altogether and the soccer goals have been placed against the edge of the grounds alongside busy Mortlock Terrace where the new fuel outlet will be opening soon. It may only be a question of time before a child chases a ball onto the roadway with devastating consequences unless something is done,” Mrs. Penfold said.

Instead of providing long term solutions to the overcrowding problems the Government continues with stop gap measures particularly in regional areas.

This government continues to delay the rebuilding of Ceduna Area School and dramatically decreased the amount of funding, and yet have spent almost \$6m for 70 students in the inner city Sturt Primary School. Ceduna’s demac transportable classrooms were put there in 1978 by a former Labor Government as a temporary measure.

Rann’s Charter for South Australians was that his government is committed to attaining the highest standards of openness and accountability and pledged “Better schools and more teachers” but he obviously only meant only for a select few, preferably in the city.