



**STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT**  
**5 November 2002**

Eyre Peninsula will continue to under perform until we have sufficient power and water, improved roads, immigration to fill job vacancies, the amalgamation of the southern Eyre Peninsula councils, and stronger clustering of the upper Eyre Peninsula councils.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold made the points in response to the Australian Local Government Association's negative State of the Regions (SOR) report on South Australia.

Mrs Penfold said suggestions on ways to progress were similar to those she has been making over a long period of time.

"If those compiling the SOR report had taken Eyre Peninsula as an example, then the outcome would have been a more accurate report accenting the positives while identifying the things that are holding up our progress," she said.

Mrs Penfold said her views on power and water have been widely reported.

"I am angry that the Labor State Government has supported a regulated power line interconnector from New South Wales – for which all South Australians will pay – instead of putting the same money into a regulated powerline interconnector on Eyre Peninsula.

"The New South Wales power will be generated by dirty coal adding to greenhouse gas emissions, while Eyre Peninsula proposals for clean green power generated by the wind also will provide jobs for South Australians," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the concept of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) initiated by the former Liberal Government were essential to provide the necessary capital for infrastructure development.

"In addition, Eyre Peninsula should be included in the Upper Spencer Gulf Enterprise Zone.

"Payroll tax and stamp duty exemptions for new industries are the kind of incentives provided in such zones where the State Government can make a difference.

"While Eyre Regional Development Board is doing a magnificent job, it is unfair that areas with enterprise zones will receive funding and support while Eyre Peninsula is excluded," she said.

On the issue of roads, Mrs Penfold said all roads abutting National Parks should get State and Federal funding as they are necessary for access.

"Parks don't pay rates to local government therefore they do not contribute to road funding. They are a benefit to all Australians but are a burden on our ratepayers," she said.

Mrs Penfold said about 40 % of Eyre Peninsula is still covered with native vegetation thus road access through and around parks and reserves must be established and maintained for safety.

She said highways and most of the arterial roads on Eyre Peninsula are sealed however only about 5% of local roads are sealed. Mrs Penfold said the cooperation between councils was one of the praiseworthy achievements of recent years. "The clustering of health services in Ceduna and Streaky Bay, Elliston and Wudinna, and Kimba, Cleve and Cowell can be copied for other services such as planning and development.

"Specialist employees can then concentrate on an area of expertise to the overall benefit of participating councils," she said.

She suggested that amalgamation of southern Eyre Peninsula councils should remain on the agenda.

Mrs Penfold turned to immigration as one of the ways to progress Eyre Peninsula, and suggested that the region needs a qualified immigration agent to help identify and fill positions in the region.

"Minnipa, Elliston and Port Kenny have all had successful campaigns to recruit young families to their towns for work in small businesses.

"We have had success in attracting doctors from South Africa, while farmers in Zimbabwe have also shown interest in migrating. Consultations are proceeding with a doctor from Columbia while his brother could be a possibility to fill the second public dentist position on southern Eyre Peninsula that has been vacant for years.

"I have been told that five mechanics could be placed in the region. "No job vacancy should remain unfilled on Eyre Peninsula for an extended time. If jobs can't be filled with locals we should look overseas. "The multiplier effect of a family moving into a district is considerable. It may even mean another teacher and possibly another family coming," she said.