

# AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS (WA)

WA STATE ELECTION 2005

PLATFORM

30 JANUARY 2005



## **WATER**

### **Investigating sustainable, long term sources of water supply:**

- Investigate the potential for replenishing Perth's underground water with treated stormwater (as done in Adelaide).
- Conduct feasibility and environmental studies on pipeline or canal from Northern WA.

### **Leading the nation on water conservation and recycling:**

- Mandate grey water reuse for cisterns in new homes and relax restrictions on qualifying for the rebate for retrofitting grey water systems.
- Set target of 50% of effluent for reuse on gardens and agriculture by 2010.
- Mandate minimum water efficiency for appliances in WA by end of 2006.
- Price drinking water based on the true cost and invest in water treatment and recycling schemes.

## **POWER**

### **Achieving sustainable energy supply:**

- Examine feasibility of a second gas pipeline.
- State laws that determine customer service obligations, regulatory matters, the constitution and structure of Western Power, and broad targets, such as for renewable energy.
- Power adequacy reserve obligation as an integral part of the regulators responsibility.

### **Leading the nation on smarter cleaner power use:**

- Provide incentives over and above the Federal Government's photo voltaic rebate program for larger PV systems, as provided in NSW.
- Require new commercial buildings to comply with energy efficiency ratings.
- Mandate minimum energy efficiency and report rating in marketing material for all new dwellings.
- Require government agencies to have leading edge energy efficiency reduction targets.

## **BUSH FIRE**

### **Learning the lessons from fire:**

- Implement recommendations from the Council of Australian Governments bush fire report:
  - Develop a Code of Practice for buildings in fire prone areas.
  - Reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for volunteer rural fire agencies.
- Ban smoking while driving to combat estimated 7% of bushfires caused by discarded cigarette butts.
- Press COAG to move to mandate fire-safe cigarettes nationally.

## **COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Respecting WA's shores:**

- Oppose inappropriate development on WA coastal strip.
- Investigate the creation of a strong state-wide independent development authority overseen by Federal environment laws.

## **MINING**

### **Keeping more nukes out of WA:**

- Oppose the siting of nuclear waste dumps in WA.
- Oppose the Xstrata takeover of WMC.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

- 30% of government fleet vehicles to be hybrid petrol-electric by 2008.
- Move to 100% natural gas buses by 2008.
- Provide ongoing support for the hydrogen bus trial.
- Prohibit sale of weeds of national significance as a matter of priority.

- Negotiate to finalise the WA Biodiversity Conservation Act - (which Mr Gallop committed to doing in the last term of Parliament).
- Continue the watch against any destruction of old growth forests.
- Push for legal protection, through the Federal Register of Critical Habitat for Western Australia's southwest corner - one of only 25 internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots.

## **HEALTH**

### **Giving WA kids a healthy start:**

- Incentives to remove junk food from tuck shops.
- Increase health education in schools.
- Promote WA fruit and vegetables to tackle obesity.
- Anti-bullying programs that work and better sex education to cut teenage pregnancies.
- Anti-smoking messages in cinemas to tackle films glamorising smoking.
- Tackle the marketing and availability of alcoholic drinks to young people

### **Fixing health and hospital problems**

- Reduce waiting lists by tackling red tape and administrative wastage in the system, utilising the natural growth in commonwealth GST revenue for hospitals and providing transition beds for the frail aged waiting for residential aged care.
- More emphasis on preventive health to reduce volumes in the system.
- Provide nurses with more flexible family friendly working conditions and workplace childcare.
- An adverse event reporting system to halve mistakes being made in hospitals.
- Address with urgency the shortage of mental health treatment places.
- Expand Aboriginal community controlled health services.
- Increase public dental care services to reduce delays in receiving treatment.

- Collaborate with federal, state and territory counterparts, on a universal public dental health insurance scheme, similar to Medicare.

## **INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT**

- Publicly audit the use and nature of parliamentary entitlements.
- Introduce transparent contract reporting system to tackle waste of public money.
- Fixed 4 year terms in Government.
- Appointments on merit processes for Government/public posts.
- Controls over post-ministerial appointments.
- Much stronger political donations laws – no foreign donations, no strings attached to donations, disclose who is behind clubs, trusts and foundations that donate.
- Strong controls over type and nature of government advertising, particularly prior to elections.
- Abolish needless and wasteful How To Vote cards.

## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY:**

- Oppose trading hours expansion due to negative impact on small businesses and Australia's already dangerously high concentration of retail power.
- Introduce daylight saving in line with changing community attitudes.
- Cut payroll tax for business employing fewer than 100 staff and businesses creating new jobs, offset by the natural growth in commonwealth GST revenue.
- Encourage employers to fund family friendly conditions such as dependent care via payroll tax incentives.
- Lobby for better federal support for infrastructure and a reformed zonal income tax rebate for regional WA.
- Reject Government decisions that increase poverty in WA.

## **EDUCATION:**

- Increase resources for students with learning difficulties, particularly specialist teachers.
- Urge the Federal Government to agree to a 50:50 share of the cost of preschool to make it free.
- Stop as discriminatory, the current practice of those schools discouraging students who are likely to receive lower scores from sitting their exams.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS:**

- Oppose rollback of age of consent, adoption and IVF laws
- Set targets to reduce the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians exposure to the criminal justice system.
- Return to judicially determined sentencing

## **AGRICULTURE:**

- More funding for regional management bodies for their on-ground efforts to combat salinity in the 1.8 million hectares in the south-west agricultural region already affected.
- A jointly funded State and Federal Government to jointly fund a program to pay farmers to fence off land for conservation and native vegetation (like the successful NSW Enterprise based conservation project)
- Ban live sheep transports and replace with a more humane frozen carcass trade