

Media Release

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Shadow Minister for Regional Development

Rebekah Rosser
Liberal Candidate for MacKillop

Lamorna Alexander
Liberal Candidate for Mount Gambier

Safeguarding the Limestone Coast

If elected in March, a Hurn Liberal Government will commission a fully independent vulnerability assessment into the impacts of rare earth strip mining on the Limestone Coast, within its first 100 days.

Local farmers, community groups and residents in the Limestone Coast have been calling on the Labor Government to undertake this independent assessment; however their calls have gone unanswered.

Under our plan, a Hurn Liberal Government will:

- ✓ Commission a fully independent vulnerability assessment into the impacts of rare earth strip mining on soils, groundwater, ecosystems, public health, and long-term regional economic and social outcomes on the Limestone Coast.
- ✓ Place a precautionary pause on new rare-earth strip-mining licences and approvals in the Limestone Coast until the independent assessment is completed and publicly released.

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries Nicola Centofanti said a truly independent assessment needs to be conducted to understand the true impacts which strip mining might have on land and groundwater.

“A Hurn Liberal Government will stand up for regional South Australia by safeguarding South Australia’s most productive agricultural land and groundwater.” Mrs Centofanti said.

“Only a fully independent, transparent assessment can give the community confidence that decisions about mining are based on science, not politics.”

“We understand the important part rare earth minerals play in our local and global supply chain, but we also understand that the impacts of strip mining have not been properly and independently explored, nor has the scope of approvals considered the long-term economic and social impacts it might have.

Media Contact: Scout Carmichael 0422 206 023

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“Primary production is the backbone of South Australia’s economy, supporting thousands of jobs and regional communities, and we must ensure we are not putting that vital economic contribution at risk into the future.”

The Limestone Coast produces around one third of South Australia’s agricultural exports from just two per cent of the state’s land mass, through its world-class beef, dairy, forestry, wine, potato and lucerne industries.

Liberal candidate for MacKillop Rebekah Rosser said local producers, families, and businesses deserve clear answers about how rare earth mining could affect groundwater, soil quality, and regional livelihoods.

“Decisions made today will shape the region for decades. It is essential that we fully understand environmental, economic, and social risks.” Mrs Rosser said.

“The region’s economy relies on stable, secure natural resources - especially groundwater. It is vital we fully understand any risks before new approvals are granted.”

Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier Lamorna Alexander said only the Liberal Party is determined to protect South Australia’s most productive agricultural land and groundwater.

“This is an important issue for our community, and we want people to know that their concerns are being heard.” Mrs Alexander said.

“Only a Hurn Liberal Government will ensure responsible development and long-term regional prosperity for our state.”