

The Honourable Jay Weatherill  
Member for Cheltenham  
Leader of the South Australian Labor Party

and

Mr Geoff Brock  
Member for Frome

---

Agreement to support stable and effective Government

---

**Purpose**

1. The State Labor Party has committed to governing for all South Australians.
2. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish stable and effective Government which works productively for all South Australians for the duration of this term of Government.
3. In developing this Agreement, the parties have attempted to, as far as possible, respond to the result of the South Australian State Election held on 15 March 2014.

**Acknowledging the independence of the Independent Member**

4. In all respects other than as set out in paragraphs 6 to 8, Mr Geoff Brock MP (the **Independent Member**) will vote on bills according to the needs of his electorate and his conscience.
5. Before voting against a bill introduced by the Government, or in favour of a bill introduced by the Opposition, the Independent Member will give the Premier a reasonable opportunity to consult with the Independent Member before the Independent Member votes.
6. The Independent Member will vote with the Government on all appropriation Bills, money Bills and money clauses as defined in the *Constitution Act 1934* (SA).
7. The Independent Member will vote with the Government on all motions of no confidence unless the motion is moved or seconded by the Independent Member, in which case the Independent Member will give the Premier a reasonable opportunity to consult before the Independent Member moves or seconds such a motion.
8. The Independent Member will vote with the Government on all motions to suspend standing orders (including motions to introduce sessional orders) unless the Independent Member gives the Premier a reasonable opportunity to consult with the Independent Member before the Independent Member votes.

## **Establishing and maintaining a respectful working relationship**

9. The Premier will meet with the Independent Member at least once each sitting week, and more often as may be reasonably required by the Independent Member, when Parliament is in session.
10. The Premier (or a designated member of the Cabinet) will meet with the Independent Member (or his delegate) at least once each fortnight when Parliament is not in session.
11. Senior staff members within the Office of the Premier will liaise with staff in the office of the Independent Member to facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10, and to ensure that the Independent Member has access to the Premier, Ministers, and key agency officers as may be reasonably required.
12. The Independent Member may at any time, by communicating with the Office of the Premier:
  - a. request briefings on Government legislation or policy; and/or
  - b. propose policy for consideration by the Government.
13. Upon receiving a communication from an Independent Member in accordance with clause 12(a) above, the Office of the Premier will provide the requested briefing as soon as reasonably practicable.
14. Upon receiving a communication from an Independent Member in accordance with clause 12(b) above, the Office of the Premier will arrange for an advice on the proposal (including advice on the budgetary implications of the proposal) to be provided to the Independent Member as soon as reasonably practicable.
15. The obligations set out in clauses 10 to 14 above may be amended by agreement between the Premier and the Independent Member.

## **Responding to the State Election**

### *Increased transparency of election costings*

16. During the 2014 State Election, both major parties criticised the costings approach of the other major party. The Government and the Independent Member will work together to establish a process whereby:
  - a. political parties may submit policies to a Parliamentary Budget Advisory Service (PBAS) for costing in the period leading up to and including the election;
  - b. in the event that a political party declines to submit any policy for costing to the PBAS, that fact will be required to be revealed on the release of that policy, and in material referring to that policy;
  - c. a list of the policies submitted by the political parties to the PBAS will be published by the PBAS four days prior to election day to enable proper scrutiny of the parties' costings;

- d. except for the publication under paragraph 16(c) above, advice provided to or from the PBAS will remain confidential to the party submitting the relevant policy.

#### *Election Conduct*

17. During the State Election, there were instances of conduct by candidates and political parties which were not in accordance with the *Electoral Act 1985*, and which were not corrected during the election period.
18. The Government will work together with the Independent Member and the Parliament to establish a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the parts of the *Electoral Act 1985* governing the conduct of parties and candidates in elections, and in particular the parts governing the enforcement of rulings by the Electoral Commissioner, in the context of the 2014 State Election.

#### *Parliamentary Conduct*

19. The Government and the Independent Member agree that there is a justified concern in the community about the standards of parliamentary conduct.
20. The Government will work together with the Independent Member and the Parliament to introduce a code of conduct for members of Parliament.

#### *Regional South Australia*

21. The Government and the Independent Member agree that the election result indicates that the Government must re-establish confidence in regional communities that their concerns are effectively heard within Government and are responded to.
22. The Government and the Independent Member will work together to establish a charter to ensure that the needs and special circumstances of regional South Australia are taken into account by the Government when developing legislation and policy, and in particular, to ensure that regional South Australia benefits from economic development and receives fair access to Government services.

#### *Small Business*

23. The Government and the Independent Member agree that the election result indicates that the Government must re-establish confidence in the small business community that its concerns are effectively heard within Government and are responded to.
24. The Government and the Independent Member will work together to establish a charter to ensure that the needs and special circumstances of small business are taken into account by the Government when developing legislation and policy.

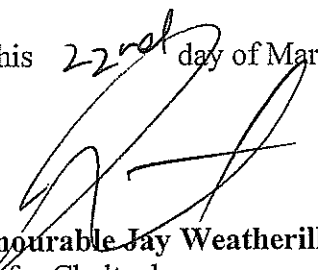
#### **General**

25. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement represents their understanding and intentions but that neither party is constrained from acting in what they consider to be the best interests of the State of South Australia. However, the parties undertake that, in so far as it is consistent with their duty, before taking any action to bring this


Agreement to an end, that party will communicate with the other parties with a view to reaching an accommodation consistent with the intent and purpose of this Agreement.

26. This Agreement will come into effect upon the execution of this Agreement by the parties.

Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2014



**The Honourable Jay Weatherill**  
Member for Cheltenham  
Leader of the South Australian Labor Party



**Mr Geoff Brock**  
Member for Frome