

The Honourable Jay Weatherill
Member for Cheltenham
Leader of the South Australian Labor Party
("Premier")

and

Mr Geoff Brock
Member for Frome
("Minister")

Agreement

- (A) The Premier leads a Labor Government, after the State Election held on 15 March 2014, and is in a position to form a minority Government.
- (B) The Premier and the Minister agree that it is in the best interests of the people of South Australia that the Minister be appointed as a minister within the Labor Government.
- (C) The Minister is neither a member of the Labor Party nor the Liberal Party ("the major parties") and will remain unaffiliated with the major parties.
- (D) The purpose of this Agreement is to record the political understanding reached between the Premier and the Minister as to how the Minister can be a member of the Labor Government whilst remaining unaffiliated with the major parties.
- (E) The Premier and the Minister agree that the Minister will have a special position in Cabinet in that, by reason of his non-affiliation with the Labor Party, there is a class of issues in respect of which it will not always be possible for the Minister to be bound by a Cabinet decision (the class is defined in clause 3 and are referred to in this Agreement as "**Issues**"). The agreement reached between the Premier and the Minister is intended to reduce to a minimum any matters where the Minister will not be able to agree to a decision of Cabinet, but acknowledges that when such a circumstance arises, the parties will seek to identify it as early as possible and the Minister will absent himself from the Cabinet discussion at the earliest time.

1. APPOINTMENT AS PORTFOLIO MINISTER

In the event that the Premier is able to form a minority government, the Premier will advise His Excellency the Governor to appoint the Minister to a ministerial portfolio to be determined by the Premier.

- 1.1 The Minister will have authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the State for the purposes of his portfolio.
- 1.2 In each of his Ministerial capacities, the Minister will be serviced by and may give directions to the Departments to which his ministerial capacities relate in accordance with the *Public Sector Act, 2010*.
- 1.3 The Premier will, at the request of the Minister, engage personal staff selected by the Minister, in consultation with the Premier, to assist the Minister.
- 1.4 In performing his portfolio responsibilities the Minister must give effect to (in order of priority):
 - 1.4.1 Any applicable laws or directions, instructions or orders having legal effect;
 - 1.4.2 Any decisions of the Executive Council;
 - 1.4.3 Any decisions of Cabinet;
 - 1.4.4 Any policies agreed between the Minister and the Premier;
 - 1.4.5 Save as specified in para 2.7 of the Agreement, any relevant policies announced by the Labor Party in the 2014 South Australian election (“Labor Policies”).
- 1.5 Where the Minister is unable or unwilling to perform his Ministerial responsibilities in accordance with 2.4, the Minister must immediately inform the Premier of that fact, together with his reasons, and will meet with the Premier as soon as may be convenient in order to seek some accommodation between them.
- 1.6 The Minister must make every effort to provide the Premier with as much notice as possible when the Minister is unwilling or unable to perform his Ministerial responsibilities in accordance with 2.4.
- 1.7 It is understood that the Minister may not have to comply with Labor policies in relation to:
 - 1.7.1 significant matters affecting the small business and regional communities; and
 - 1.7.2 issues believed to be matters of conscience.
- 1.8 The Minister will be bound by the Ministerial Code of Conduct except as provided for in this Agreement.

2. ATTENDANCE AT CABINET

- 2.1 The Minister will be provided the same Cabinet papers as every other Minister.

- 2.2 The Minister will peruse those Cabinet documents at his earliest opportunity.
- 2.3 If, after reading a Cabinet document, in the opinion of the Minister, it would be inconsistent with the Minister's non-affiliation with the major parties for the Minister to be bound by a Cabinet decision in relation to an Issue, the Minister must immediately upon reaching that opinion, inform the Premier of that fact, together with his reasons, and will meet with the Premier as soon as may be convenient in order to seek some accommodation between them in relation to the policy and/or procedure to be followed.
- 2.4 The Minister must make every effort to provide the Premier with as much notice as possible when the Minister believes a matter for decision in Cabinet will be inconsistent with the Minister's non-affiliation with the major parties.
- 2.5 The Minister agrees that in this Agreement, the Issues will be limited to:
 - 2.5.1 issues with direct and immediate effect upon the Minister's electorate;
 - 2.5.2 significant matters affecting the small business and regional communities;
 - 2.5.3 such other matters as the Minister has advised the Premier from time to time in writing.
- 2.6 If, after the meeting referred to in clause 3.3 of this Agreement, no other accommodation can be reached then the Minister will:
 - 2.6.1 immediately return to the Cabinet office all copies of the relevant Cabinet documents and all notes or other records relating to the relevant Cabinet documents or copies; and
 - 2.6.2 absent himself from that part of the Cabinet discussion where the relevant matter will be or is being discussed.
- 2.7 Even where the Minister has absented himself from Cabinet in accordance with this clause, the Minister agrees that he will not criticise, comment on or disclose the relevant policy until the policy has been publicly announced by the Government.
- 2.8 The Premier agrees that the Minister, having complied with the arrangements in this Agreement, is not subject to the usual rules of Cabinet solidarity in respect of that particular matter. In particular, the Minister, whilst remaining a member of the Cabinet, may criticise the particular Government policy in relation to which the Minister

absented himself from Cabinet after the policy has been publicly announced.

2.9 The Minister may not divulge any of the material in any Cabinet documents and is bound by Cabinet secrecy in the same way as any Minister notwithstanding, anything in this Agreement.

2.10 Except as provided in this Agreement:

(a) The Minister will be a full member of Cabinet with the same entitlements to take matters to Cabinet, to discuss matters within Cabinet and to vote on matters in Cabinet as any other Minister.

(b) The Minister will be subject to the usual rules of Cabinet solidarity.

3. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

3.1 The Minister agrees that he will not provide advice directly to the Governor except with the prior approval of the Premier.

3.2 The Minister agrees that he will not attend an Executive Council meeting where there is on the agenda a matter upon which he absented himself from Cabinet in accordance with clause 3 of this Agreement.

5 VOTING IN PARLIAMENT

5.1 Save for a matter on which the Minister has absented himself from Cabinet in accordance with clause 3 of the Agreement, the Minister agrees to support the Government in the Parliament and to vote with the Government on any matter raised in the Parliament which has received the prior approval of Cabinet.

5.2 The Minister is not obliged to support the Government in the Parliament nor to vote with the Government in relation to:

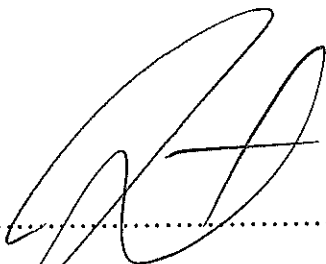
5.2.1 matters about which he has absented himself from Cabinet or

5.2.2 votes concerning Issues about which he has given notice to the Premier (unless he has voted in Cabinet in relation to that Issue).

5.3 The obligation on the Minister to vote to support the Government in the circumstances set out in clause 5.1 above, is in addition to any other obligations the Minister has entered into with the Government regarding support for the Government on matters of appropriation, money bills and clauses, and confidence.

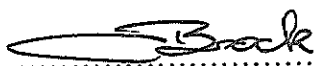
6. EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

The parties acknowledge that this Agreement represents their understanding and intentions, but that neither party is thereby constrained from acting in what they perceive to be the best interests of the State of South Australia. However, both parties undertake, so far as is consistent with their duty, that before taking any action to bring this Agreement to an end that party will communicate with the other with a view to reaching some accommodation consistent with the intent and purpose of this Agreement.



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

22 March 2014



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Geoff Brock
Member for Frome

22nd March 2014.