

## TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

### **\$14.6 million to repair storm damage to national parks**

The State Government is investing \$12.7 million over two years to repair and upgrade buildings, bridges, roads and trails within the state's national parks, damaged during the September 2016 extreme weather events.

The majority of the repairs (\$8.3 million) are already being undertaken in 2016-17 to ensure park visitors can benefit as soon as possible from the full park experience.

Another \$1.85 million will be provided in 2017-18 through the Coast Protection Board to repair sea walls damaged by severe weather events. This includes:

- \$1.25 million to the City of Charles Sturt to help repair the West Beach sea wall.
- \$600,000 to the Kingston District Council to construct a new sea wall at Wyomi Beach.

It is anticipated the total \$14.6 million in works will create up to 100 jobs during construction.

#### **Background**

In September 2016, South Australia experienced an extreme weather event that caused widespread damage from flooding, landslides and high winds. The storms were so severe they resulted in a three-fold increase in SES callouts compared to the previous year.

During the storms national parks, the Botanic Gardens and other sites managed by the State Government sustained significant damage to roads, trails, fire management tracks, fences, bridges, signage, creek and river banks, sea walls, buildings and other structures.

#### **Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis**

Most people remember that last September's devastating storms tore electricity transmission towers from the ground and resulted in record SES callouts, but they also caused significant damage to fire tracks, bridges, roads and national park trails.

South Australians cherish their national parks and botanic gardens and as a State Government we wanted to ensure these repairs were carried out quickly so people can get back to enjoying these spaces.

This funding will help ensure public safety and restore fire management capability, and will also create up to 100 jobs as the repairs are carried out.

## **Quotes attributable to Environment Minister Ian Hunter**

South Australians love to use our national parks but have been hampered in some areas by damage caused by flooding, water erosion, landslides and falling trees after the September storms.

We are already at work repairing damage and rebuilding destroyed structures within our treasured national parks so that we can all get out and use the trails, bridges and boardwalks safely.

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