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MEDIA RELEASE

'Alexandrina Advocates' Council advocacy in lead up to Federal Election

23 April 2019

Alexandrina Council is an active advocate to State and Federal Government regarding issues affecting its residents and environment.

With the pending Federal Election on 18 May 2019, Alexandrina's elected body has taken a collective approach to ensure a range of national issues have been put forward with supporting statements, so as to contribute to an advocacy platform to be promoted before, during and after the elections.

At its meeting on 15 April 2019, each of Council's eleven Elected Members submitted a notice of motion to help shape and prioritise the region's advocacy effort, all of which were supported and endorsed by the Chamber.

Mayor Parkes said, 'Alexandrina Council takes seriously its legislative role to represent the wider interests of the community. This Federal Election is a chance to demonstrate how engaged our community is on issues of national significance and how Alexandrina is impacted.'

The statements cover issues of importance spanning Alexandrina Council's key service divisions and align with the organisation's four aspirations; to innovate our region, activate our spaces, participate in wellbeing, and thrive in clean, green futures.

In line with the aspiration of 'innovating our region', economic development is at the fore of Council advocacy. Maintaining and building upon Alexandrina's \$1 billion economy, through increased financial assistance grants and regional funding programs for new and improved infrastructure and other key projects is viewed as a top priority. Council would also like the Federal Government to demonstrate how the local government sector and its communities will be supported to manage a growing population.

To 'activate our spaces,' Council would like to attain significant federal funding to improve a number of key roads in the region so as to increase safety for road users and accommodate an increasing volume of traffic. Federal funding toward a series of key projects would also activate a range of visitor and tourism services and experiences, while enhancing facilities and services for local residents. In line with the same aspiration, Council would like Alexandrina's

rich arts, culture and heritage sectors supported, acknowledging that they add social capital to communities and also attract visitors to enjoy the region and its offerings.

'Participate in Wellbeing' is an aspiration Council acknowledges as an important advocacy platform. In particular, it would like to see innovative policy and funding provided to support ageing and aged care services, and calls on ideas about how local government and communities can be supported to play a role in regional connectivity in the delivery of disability services. Council will also advocate for the economic and social wellbeing of women, and support for youth in our region in regard to access to training and employment opportunities.

Aligning with the aspiration to 'thrive in clean, green futures', Council will call on the Federal Government to demonstrate how it will support our community to navigate the unfolding 'climate emergency', including their position on global and national action plans and associated emissions targets, as well as specific ideas for funding and policy support at a local level.

Alexandrina Council has been, and will continue to be, a vocal and consistent supporter of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, while also acknowledging areas for improvement. Council will continue to advocate to the Federal Government for the full and timely implementation of the Basin Plan, in the best interests of the communities of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Region.

Glenn Rappensberg, CEO commended the approach taken by Council saying, 'Often you see Councils push for wish lists for project funding and while this is one aspect of our platform – its not the only one. I believe these statements show we are leading the way in engaging with national policy development in the interests of the Alexandrina community.'

With the Federal Election less than one month away, Alexandrina will continue to take a proactive approach to ensure the collective voice of our regions is heard and understood in Canberra. To view Alexandrina's Advocacy Strategy, visit Council's website at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/advocacy

Alexandrina Council will be hosting a Mayo Candidates Forum at Centenary Hall, 12 Cadell Street, Goolwa on Tuesday, 7 May 2019 from 12 noon to 2pm. The forum will be moderated by Leigh McClusky and is an opportunity for the community to hear from candidates on what they can bring to the electorate of Mayo and the Alexandrina community. RSVP is not required as the forum is open to public, however we recommend arrival when doors open at 11.30am, as seating is limited. We welcome the community's attendance.