



**KEEPING POWER HONEST**  
DEMOCRACY WORKS BEST WHEN GOVERNMENT IS HELD TO ACCOUNT

SACOSS  
South Australian Council  
of Social Services

Dear Greg

Thank you for your letter of 18 February on behalf of Dr Catherine Earl, in which you seek support of SACOSS' key asks ahead of the State election.

South Australians are fortunate to have SACOSS advocating for disadvantaged South Australians in these critical areas. We are also fortunate, as a state, to have an outstanding, hard-working not for profit sector. Whether peak bodies, community-based organisations, the Not-for-profit sector punches above its weight and merits long-term funding that will enable it to confidently commit through long-term planning to secure great outcomes for South Australians.

I enthusiastically commit to advocating for the legislative reforms that you seek.

SACOSS' priorities align well with the priorities that I have long fought for – and will continue to fight for – for all South Australian communities.

Regarding your 5 election priorities, I make the following comments:

I support **Rent caps on existing tenancies** to provide certainty and security for tenants.

Housing stress is insidious and can have debilitating impacts on those who live with it.

The impacts on Australians of Federal government decisions which have made housing something to speculate on and to trade for profit have been dire. Both Labor and Liberal/LNP are complicit and neither have successfully (as I will give Bill Shorten some credit here!) had the courage to change our doomed course. Limitations on this housing for greed (not need) approach such as rent caps to tie rental increases to CPI should be the absolute

minimum we have in place to ensure that rent doesn't become an unhealthy burden: rent should only ever be treated as a means to access a basic human right.

The current focus of the **National Energy Objective** is too narrow. Reliable provision of energy for consumers is of critical importance, yet energy supply is about far more than just efficiencies of operation and investment. Access to energy is a fundamental right and impacts every facet of our daily lives. Our capacity to cope with extreme heat or cold is largely dependent on our capacity to pay our energy bills.

We are a wealthy developed nation and we should not have people needing to choose between running air conditioning or putting dinner on the table. There can also be significant health impacts that stem from doing without either of these essentials.

Social equity and protection of consumers should be key platforms of Australia's National Energy Objective, and I would advocate for these reforms.

**Minimum efficiency standards** are key to ensuring the wellbeing of renters. The intent of tax deductions for work done on rental properties was to ensure that these properties are not slums, yet too many properties still fail to meet some basic standards. The ACT has successfully reformed their rental market and renters in that jurisdiction are starting to see the benefits of those standards not only being met but also being transparently stated to the market.

There can be no doubt that fossil fuels continue to drive the climate crisis. Whilst South Australia has an enviable reputation in the uptake of renewables, particularly rooftop solar, government policy that continues not only to allow **new residential gas connections**, but allows developers to dictate the energy source for cooking and water heating in large proportions of new homes is out of step with real action on the climate crisis. Additionally, the burning of gas for cooking in homes is of particular concern, with direct implications for those who live in the home. Additionally, the methane emissions that stem from this contribute to global warming as methane is an 80 times more powerful greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. I would advocate for legislative reform to phase out gas appliances: it's socially and environmentally responsible to do so and a key part of inter-generational climate justice.

I am a long-term supporter of a **Human Rights Act for South Australia**. I have worked in the past for human rights organisations such as Amnesty

International and the YWCA and know just how important human rights mechanism are and how they can really create cultural and practical change.

South Australians can be justifiably proud of our shared history of leading the world with socially progressive reforms. Sadly, we often lag behind other jurisdictions these days. A Human Rights Act would be invaluable, enshrining so many of the fundamentals of a good life. It's time that, once more, South Australian became a state that consistently shows true democratic leadership.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on SACOSS Policy Priorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Franks', written in a cursive style.

Hon Tammy Franks MLC  
24 February 2026