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Subject: Election Survey

Dear Ross,

Thank you for seeking the views of Greens' candidates in relation to your election survey based on your "Building Blocks for Growth" document.

As Parliamentary Leader and spokesperson on forestry issues, I am responding on behalf of our candidates.

Your survey poses 28 questions, which seek commitments in relation to funding, policy reform and consultation / accountability measures. Our "in principle" answer to all your questions is "Yes".

As you would appreciate, the Greens are unlikely to form Government and therefore our commitments are to use what influence we have as a balance of power party, particularly in the Upper House. Under our State's constitution, the Upper House cannot initiate "money bills", so we can't legislate directly for some of the spending commitments you are seeking, but this does not stop us for urging the government of the day to do so. All of the initiatives you have identified are worthy of support and we are certainly prepared to work with you to achieve them.

The Greens appreciate the importance of this industry to the South East of our state in particular. The publicly and privately-owned plantation forests provide a long-term resource that provides important employment and economic opportunities for our State. We are also conscious of the many complex resource allocation issues that arise, particularly in relation to groundwater resources in the South East. We support your policy requests for more policy development in this area and greater accountability to Parliament and the community.

Feel free to get in touch after the election to discuss how we might progress forestry issues in South Australia.

Kind Regards,

Mark Parnell

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