

2. Public access to National Parks should be encouraged but regulated. A user-pays policy could provide funding for increased administrative demands on national parks.
3. Amendments to National Parks legislation and policy should be subject to public discussion and debate. There should be no reduction in the number or area of existing national parks.
4. The management of coastal resources through a centralised planning body is commended. Regional coastal management plans should be developed for Victoria's coastal resources.
5. The issue of land degradation should be given a high priority.
6. Private land owners should be encouraged to adopt effective land management practices. Programs of education, encouragement and assistance in effective land management should precede regulatory controls on the use of private land.
7. The proposed *Land Management Act* should be subject to comment and debate from all relevant sectors of the community, and existing restrictions on the clearance of native vegetation should not be eased.
8. State government conservation and land management policy should recognise and integrate Commonwealth land management initiatives.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The last session of State Parliament in South Australia saw the successful passage of the first part of a comprehensive package of building, environmental and planning legislation.

THE DEVELOPMENT ACT 1993

The Development Act 1993 (together with the Statutes Repeal and Amendment (Development) Bill 1993) repeals and replaces the following statutes:

- *Planning Act* 1982
- *City of Adelaide Development Control Act* 1976
- *Building Act* 1971
- the development control provisions of the *Strata* 1990.

It also makes minor amendments to another five

The Act provides for a new system of development control that integrates building, planning and land division considerations. The criteria by which development applications are assessed is essentially the same as under the old system, with the exception of the formulation of a new State Government policy document called the Planning Strategy, to facilitate strategic planning and coordinated action at a state, regional and local level.

The *Development Act* provides an effective and efficient means of enforcing breaches of its provisions, especially through use of civil procedures. Many of the innovative features of the legislation came from suggestions made by the SA Division in its comprehensive submission on the draft legislation and through personal meetings with staff of the State Government Office of Planning and Urban Development.

The regulations have not yet been drafted. It is anticipated that the Act will come into operation on October 1, 1993. Before then, NELA SA Division, RAPI SA Division, the Planning Education Foundation and the Office of Planning and Urban Development will hold a series of seminars to explain the new system. The Office of Planning and Urban Development is also preparing a guide to the new system, with the assistance of the SA Division.

THE ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COURT ACT 1993

The *Environment, Resources and Development Court Act* 1993 establishes a specialist environmental court to deal with civil and criminal enforcement proceedings under development control and environmental legislation, as well as merit disputes. The Court will also have some general powers to review administrative decisions but its jurisdiction will not affect the Supreme Courts' powers of judicial review.

The Court will be comprised of Judges, Magistrates and Commissioners who will be appointed by the Governor. The Court will be a separate court and hence will not be within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, District Court or Magistrates Court. However, the Judges will be appointed as District Court Judges pursuant to the *District Court Act* 1991 and the Magistrates will be Magistrates appointed under the *Magistrates' Courts Act* 1991. Commissioners will be persons with practical