

# Seeing red at schools saying 'I do' to purple

# Deny SA cash for solar at own peril

**LUKE GRIFFITHS  
ADAM LANGENBERG**

PREMIER Jay Weatherill has dared the Federal Government to block a \$110 million loan banked on to finance Port Augusta's \$650 million solar thermal plant.

Mr Weatherill said the Port Augusta community would have the Federal Government "for breakfast" if it did not deliver the loan, despite Federal Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg saying the Government had not received an application for SolarReserve's new project.

Mr Frydenberg said announcing the deal before the loan had been approved was "the sort of gamesmanship we've come to expect from Jay Weatherill".

"We're committed to \$110 million, we're waiting on the company to put the paperwork, but as I've said repeatedly, it is more than passing strange that both the company and the State Government sought to make this announcement without coming to the Federal Government first," he said. Mr Frydenberg was in Whyalla yesterday as he launched a \$30 million battery storage for Yorke Peninsula.

"We don't claim to have the biggest battery or the biggest system; what we do claim is to be putting in place practical, cost-effective, needed policy solutions and practical solutions to the challenges SA faces," he said, before presenting at the Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf conference.

Former treasurer Kevin Foley also stepped in to defend SA this week. On Tuesday, he issued an extraordinary social media rant accusing banking industry chief and one-time Queensland premier Anna Bligh of destroying Labor in her state and now wanting "a crack" at the party in SA.

In a two-part blast on business-oriented site LinkedIn, Mr Foley also accuses Finance SA of wrecking confidence by siding with the banks.



**EVENT:** The school sign.

Australian Conservatives upper house MP Robert Brokenshire said Education Minister Susan Close should prevent the event from going ahead.

Mr Brokenshire said schools shouldn't be politicising students.

"Why don't they have a blue day for heterosexual students," he said. "Why don't they have a special day for people with

learning disabilities? Where does it start and stop? Their role is to educate students not to politicise certain viewpoints within that school or indeed try and influence young people in a debate."

Dr Close said it was up to individual schools to decide if they would participate in Wear It Purple Day.

"Individual schools decide if they would like to be involved in events such as Wear It Purple Day and Participation among students is voluntary," she said. "The day — which has been endorsed by the Australian Human Rights Commission, is about celebrating diversity."

Brighton Secondary School Deputy Principal Barbara

Richards said the event was student-driven and participation was voluntary. A small group of students would sell purple pancakes to "celebrate diversity".

A spokeswoman for the Coalition for Marriage, which opposes same-sex marriage, said parents had every right to raise concerns about the event.

"Wear It Purple Day, however well-meaning, is being used by some as a gateway for activism, particularly as we approach the postal vote on the redefinition of marriage," the spokeswoman said.

The Association of State School Organisations said it would support the event as long as it wasn't compulsory.

**PETER JEAN  
BEN HARVEY**

A ROW has broken out over the celebration of "Wear It Purple Day" at some public schools in the lead up to the national postal vote on same-sex marriage.

An electronic sign outside Brighton Secondary School is urging students to participate in the event tomorrow, which is held annually to "celebrate diversity" and support gay, lesbian and transgender young people.

Some supporters of traditional marriage have criticised the event — which is held in many high schools around Australia — for politicising the education system.

# Mission complete as navy turns tide

**PETER JEAN**

THE start of construction work on a \$535 million naval yard at Osborne is being hailed as proof the South Australian shipbuilding industry will no longer be scorned the "valley of death."

The first sod of dirt will be turned today at the site of the Osborne South naval shipyard when new surface vessels — including the Future Frigates — will be built.

The *Advertiser* can reveal the new yard has been designed so that most work can occur indoors and will use the latest technology, including robotic welding to increase accuracy and efficiency.

Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne said the facility would be an asset to the state for generations.

"The plans released today are an exciting look into the future of shipbuilding in our state and shows just how vast this undertaking will be," Mr Pyne said.

"This massive investment in the Osborne South Infrastruc-



**VICTORY:** Artist's impression of the new navy shipbuilding yard.

ture proves the end of the so-called valley of death in shipbuilding is imminent."

The new facilities will include a steel fabrication and unit assembly hall, new blast and paint building, block out-fitting and hi-tech workshops.

Mr Pyne said the facility would support the Government's continuous shipbuilding plan, starting with two offshore patrol vessel's before work begins on the Future Frigates in 2020.

The Government will also announce the board of the

newly formed Australian Naval Infrastructure company, which has been split off from the Australian Security Commission. The new company will be chaired by businessman Lucio Di Bartolomeo.

**PAGE 16: EDITORIAL**