

# LABOR'S PLAN TO BAN UNSOLICITED ROBO CALLS

**Peter Malinauskas MP** | SA Labor Leader



# Protecting South Australians from invasive and impersonal unsolicited robo-calls.

Robocalls are one of the biggest complaints that come to any Member of Parliament. These artificial or pre-recorded calls are intrusive, they're unwanted, they're frankly a nuisance.

Labor is committed to doing what we can to protect you from these unwelcome situations and will crack down on these calls.

In 2019, South Australians were subjected to early morning unsolicited robocalls from the South Australian Liberal Party for two days in a row.

In 2020 when asked why the South Australian Liberal Party were continuing to use robocalls Treasurer Rob Lucas told Adelaide radio "I get robocalls from a number of different people and if I don't want to answer them, I just don't answer them."

Robocalls are a nuisance, the community is fed up with their intrusive and impersonal nature. The bungled campaign by the Liberal Party drew community anger at the continued use of this intrusive tool by political parties and telemarketers.

That is why Labor will step in where Steven Marshall has failed to act and ban robocalls.

It is important that Governments listen to the community and take action to ensure that their lives are protected from intrusion and disruption. SA Labor is the only party committed to halting these unsolicited nuisance calls.



**South Australian Labor will ban unsolicited robocalls.**

## Even the United States is acting against Robocalls

In the United States, auto-dialled calls to mobile phones are illegal unless a person has given prior consent to their phone being used for this purpose.

The US Telephone Consumer Protection Act 1991 bans all unsolicited calls with few exceptions, has regularly been the subject to challenges from organisations claiming the ban is an infringement on freedom of speech.

As recently as 2020, the US Supreme Court upheld and even went so far as strengthen the ban.


In its judgement the court noted,

"Americans passionately disagree about many things. But they are largely united in their disdain for robocalls. The Federal Government receives a staggering number of complaints about robocalls - 3.7 million complaints in 2019 alone. The states likewise field a constant barrage of complaints."

## FIND OUT MORE

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**ABC**

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## **Robocall survey blunder by SA Liberals causes rude awakening for second consecutive morning**

Robocalls from South Australia's Liberal Party have been made to households across the Adelaide Hills for a second consecutive morning, causing widespread frustration and leading to a call for a ban.

**The Advertiser**

February 14, 2020

## **Liberal Party confirms more robocall surveys to South Australians for feedback on policies and current issues**

South Australians were flooded with more robocall surveys from the Liberal Party last night.



