Jay broke the rules on oval advert: Libs

PREMIER Jay Weatherill has been accused of breaking rules created by his own government that ban ministers from appearing in taxpayer-funded advertising.

The Opposition has written to Auditor-General Simon O’Neill seeking an “urgent” investigation into recent publications featuring Mr Weatherill promoting the Adelaide Oval and the Riverbank precinct.

Former premier Mike Rann in 2010 announced a ban on images and voices of ministers appearing in taxpayer-funded advertising in response to public and political disquiet.

The State Government’s official marketing communications and advertising guidelines, updated last March, explicitly prohibit ministers appearing in such ads. It also forbids depiction of government members “in a manner that a reasonable person would regard as excessive or gratuitous” in any form of publicly funded communication.

The Opposition claims Mr Weatherill’s appearance in an Experience Riverbank booklet, distributed as a newspaper insert, and an Adelaide Oval redevelopment booklet, reportedly received in North Adelaide and eastern suburbs mailboxes, is a “clear breach” of the rules.

In the Oval publication, Mr Weatherill promotes political- ly divisive policies, including the Torrens footbridge and the Rolling Stones concert.

Each includes a prominent headshot image of Mr Weatherill. “Through construction of a new landmark footbridge... people are rediscovering this city,” he writes.

Mr Weatherill also highlights the economic and job benefits of the Oval project.

Opposition frontbencher Rob Lucas said the Government was using taxpayer funds to campaign.

“Mr Weatherill should now reveal publicly the total costs, including production and distribution of the Riverbank booklet as well as for the Adelaide Oval booklet,” he said.

“Just a massive waste of taxpayers’ money intended to help Mr Weatherill’s re-election prospects at a time when he is cutting essential services.”

Mr Weatherill’s office said the publications were “programs of events” planned for the Riverbank and it was common to feature ministers in material promoting sports or arts festivals.

“This is not the same as the image or voice of a minister being used in advertising,” a spokesman said.

Mr O’Neill has indicated he will consider the complaint.

Scientists tip 4C rise by 2100

GLOBAL temperatures could soar by at least 4C by 2100 if carbon dioxide emissions aren’t slashed, new Australian research warns.

Climate scientists claim that temperatures could rise by at least 4C by 2100 and potentially more than 8C by 2200, which could have disastrous results for the planet.

The research, published in the journal Nature, found that the global climate is more affected by carbon dioxide than previously thought.

“It could also solve one of the mysteries of climate sensitivity — the role of cloud formation and whether the clouds have a positive or negative effect on global warming,” the journal said.

Researchers now believe that existing climate models significantly over-estimate the number of clouds protecting our atmosphere from overheating.

The study suggests that fewer clouds form as the planet warms, so that less sunlight is reflected back into space, driving temperatures up on Earth.

A KEEN interest in her own heritage has led Carissa Young to chase a university degree that will allow her to delve deeper into history.

The Mercedez College student’s maternal grandfather was Aboriginal, while her father moved to Australia from England aged just three.

“I just find history fascinating, and I think it’s really important for people to understand their past because it really impacts on who you are,” she said.

As the highest overall Aboriginal achiever in the SA Certificate of Education in 2013, with a university entrance score of 95.15, Carissa has also been awarded the Governor of South Australia Commendation - Aboriginal Student SACE Award.

The 18-year-old was surprised by her results, which she initially thought must be a mistake. “I was up all night because I couldn’t sleep waiting for my results,” she said.

“I was up at Windsor with a friend, we thought we may as well wait for our terrible results while we at least had a pretty good view.”

Carissa now hopes to study history at university, and is also investigating the possibility of studying overseas, in her father’s native England.

SACE Board chief executive Dr Neil McGoran said it was “pleasing to see so many more Aboriginal students completing their SACE, and moving into further studies and work”.

Carissa is among 29 Year 12 students to be awarded a Governor of SA Commendation, and among 238 Aboriginal students to complete their SACE in 2013 - up from 180 in 2012, the highest number on record.

Her compulsory research project investigated the relationship between Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. Her major history assessment looked at the Stolen Generation and she later discovered her great aunt had children removed from her care.

“Would have the rules been different if she was Aboriginal?” she said.

Carissa is interested in her own heritage and whether the clouds have a positive or negative effect on global warming.

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