Climate change is already affecting communities and economies around the world. Despite the global commitment to reduce emissions, changes in climate are unavoidable and long lasting. Adaptation is about taking actions to manage current and future risk from climate impacts to protect and strengthen communities, the environment and the economy, and harness the opportunities that arise from changes in climate.

The South Australian government was the first in Australia to introduce climate change legislation. This provided a climate change adaptation focus and targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and renewable energy.

Our approach to adaptation is to encourage local leadership, collaboration and engagement. Adapting to climate change is a shared responsibility that involves a joint effort by all levels of government, business and community.

South Australia has developed a number of overarching strategies and frameworks to support climate change action, including:

- **Carbon Neutral Adelaide** is a joint initiative with the capital city council to make the City of Adelaide the world’s first carbon neutral city.
- **South Australia’s Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050: Towards a Low Carbon Economy** provides a framework for climate change action and sets an ambitious target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- **Prospering in a Changing Climate: a Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia** provides a foundation for developing well-informed and timely adaptation responses.
Towards a Resilient State: South Australian Government’s Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan outlines 15 priority adaptation action areas that are critical to the continued prosperity of South Australia’s urban and regional communities and businesses.

Within the priority adaptation action areas, 65 actions have been identified to strengthen the economy, safeguard the stability and continuity of services, empower individuals and communities to increase their resilience, and maintain the health and wellbeing of South Australians in a changing climate.

15 PRIORITY ADAPTATION ACTION AREAS

- Building knowledge and capacity
- Planning and policy
- Climate-resilient buildings, assets and spaces
- Biodiversity management and restoration
- Emergency management
- Modelling and mapping
- Integrated water cycle management
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Urban greening
- Embedding climate risk
- Water and energy security
- Primary industries
- Health
- Transitioning economies and communities
- Coasts.

The towns, beaches, cliffs and jetties along South Australia’s coastline are among the state’s best loved features and most valuable assets.

South Australia was the first to recognise the importance of the impacts of climate change on those assets through its 1991 adoption of the Coast Protection Board’s Policy on coast protection and new coastal development which included guidance on climate change adaptation.

South Australia’s best practice coastal management was recently demonstrated after a series of extreme storms in the winter of 2016 where storm force winds, extreme swell waves, storm surges and flooding of low lying areas were experienced. On the Adelaide metropolitan coast, which has been actively and intensively managed for over 40 years, total costs for the 2016 storms was only $3.5 million in comparison to a less severe 1953 storm which resulted in $33.6 million (2015 equivalent cost) of damage to foreshore infrastructure and protection works.

To maintain the benefits of South Australia’s beaches and adapt to the projected climate change-induced increased storm impacts we will continue our leadership by developing a long-term coastal management plan. Identified future management priorities include adding sand into the beach system and upgrading soft (such as beach replenishment and living shorelines approaches) and hard protection measures (such as sea walls).
KEY ACTIONS

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC HOUSING
• New construction methods and designs for public housing
• Increased green space and improved integrated water cycle management
• Innovative public housing solutions, including energy and water-efficient materials

INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT
• Water detention, retention, harvest, reuse and water sensitive design
• Incorporation of green infrastructure.

CLEAN AND RELIABLE ENERGY
• Provide reliable clean energy, put downward pressure on prices and create local jobs.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS
• Take account of plant and soil health, livestock productivity, resource protection and farm business management to contribute to resilient farming systems.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
• Embed climate change considerations into emergency management in South Australia
• Prepare a state disaster resilience strategy for South Australia
• Continue to identify, map and assess high-risk areas for bushfire, storm, flood and heat.
DELIVERY OF THE STATE PLAN

The state government will:

- work in collaboration with our regional partners
- incorporate climate change adaptation in the planning and delivery of essential government services and business; and in the design and management of public assets and infrastructure
- work with regional areas to communicate accessible information on local climate change science and adaptation
- engage with diverse stakeholders to ensure understanding of the potential impacts of climate change
- develop innovative working practices to drive employment growth and attract and build new industries
- build the resilience of businesses, industries, and communities
- continue to work towards South Australia’s Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 targets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Climate Change Branch
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Email ClimateChange@sa.gov.au
www.climatechange.sa.gov.au