

PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010



Government of South Australia

Premier's Climate Change Council

Premier's Climate Change Council
Annual Report 2009-10

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Mike Rann MP
Premier
Level 15
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Premier

In accordance with Section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, I submit the third Annual Report of the Premier's Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2010 for tabling before both Houses of Parliament.

The Premier's Climate Change Council was established in accordance with Section 9 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, and came into operation on 1 February 2008.



David Klingberg AO

Chair

Premier's Climate Change Council

28 / 10 /2010

FOREWORD: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Climate change will have inevitable impacts despite global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Projections for South Australia indicate warmer and drier conditions across much of the state with an increased risk of severe weather events, including storms, flooding, heatwaves, drought and bushfires. These changes will affect our health and wellbeing, key industries that underpin the state's economy – particularly primary production – businesses and the natural environment.

The nature and extent of impacts will vary across the state depending upon the industries that contribute to regional economies, socioeconomic factors and the surrounding natural environment. We also need to face the very real possibility that these changes may be ongoing and irreversible.

Despite these challenges, I am optimistic about South Australia's future. Our climate has been changing for many years and our community and natural landscapes have adapted quite successfully to these changes. We will need to work together for communities, businesses, species and ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change which will be fundamental to our State's success into the future. South Australia is well positioned to pursue collaborative initiatives to tackle climate change, with valuable connections across universities, business, government and community.

Although climate change will bring many challenges, it will also create significant opportunities for innovation, diversification and leadership across all sectors. It provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to incorporate sustainable development principles into everything we do – enhancing the state's reputation as a clean and green leader.

The Council was established under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act), the first legislation of its kind in Australia. As well as setting an emissions reduction target and renewable energy targets for South Australia, the legislation outlines the role and responsibilities of the Council.

The Council's primary function is to provide independent advice to the State Government on matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, including:

- By achieving energy efficiencies,
- Increasing the use of renewable energy,
- Establishing and achieving relevant targets,
- Consulting on issues associated with climate change, and
- Encouraging the implementation of practices that will assist in addressing and adapting to climate change.

In performing these functions, the Council takes a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement, various sectors and the wider community. The Council considers obtaining the views and ideas expressed by its stakeholders as a vital step to inform independent advice it develops for the Premier.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with stakeholders and across government to effectively advise the Premier about achieving energy efficiencies, finding ways to remove greenhouse gases and achieving relevant targets.

David Klingberg AO
Chair
Premier's Climate Change Council

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The activities undertaken by the Council are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan and the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

South Australia's Strategic Plan, *Creating Opportunity*, is the overarching document to guide the State's future development. The Plan contains numerous targets under six key objectives:

- growing prosperity;
- improving wellbeing;
- attaining sustainability;
- fostering creativity;
- building communities; and
- expanding opportunity.

The table below aligns the Council's activities undertaken in performing its statutory roles of providing independent advice, and taking leadership roles in consulting and disseminating information, with the objectives of South Australia's Strategic Plan.

Table 1. Links between the Council's activities and South Australia's Strategic Plan

Council Activities	South Australia's Strategic Plan					
	Objectives					
	Growing prosperity	Improving wellbeing	Attaining sustainability	Fostering creativity	Building communities	Expanding opportunity
30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide advice	✓		✓	✓		
Complementary Measures Review advice	✓		✓			
Section 21 Review of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> advice	✓		✓			
Accelerating the uptake of low emission vehicle technologies in South Australia advice	✓		✓	✓		
Green Jobs and Training Forum	✓		✓			
NCCARF Collaborative Workshop	✓		✓	✓		
RenewablesSA Forum	✓		✓			
Climate Research Forum	✓		✓	✓		
Council membership					✓	
Development of the Draft Adaptation Framework for South Australia	✓	✓	✓		✓	

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

The Premier announced the inaugural membership of the Council on 18 February 2008 at the 3rd International Solar Cities Congress held in Adelaide.

Section 11 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* articulates the functions of the Premier's Climate Change Council to:

1. Provide independent advice to the Minister about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change,
2. Take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement, the science community, Local Government Association and the wider community about issues associated with climate change,
3. Assist in disseminating information to business and other groups in order to encourage the implementation of practices that will assist in addressing climate change or adapting to the effects of climate change, and
4. Report annually to the Minister on the Council's activities and achievements.

LEGISLATION: Statutory Advice

In 2009-10 the Council provided the Premier with three formal pieces of advice pursuant to Section 11 (3):

- Complementary measures review 27 October 2009
- Section 21 Review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* 20 November 2009
- Accelerating the uptake of low emission vehicle technologies in South Australia 27 May 2010

During this reporting period the Council reported directly to the Premier as the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 9(2) of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* requires that the Council consist of seven to ten members appointed by the Minister from across the following sectors:

- State Government
- local government sector
- business community
- environment and conservation sector
- scientific community
- other sectors of the state's community more generally

For the purpose of appointing representatives from the local government sector and environment and conservation sector the Minister consulted with the Local Government Association of South Australia and the Conservation Council of South Australia. The consultation resulted in nominations from each organisation, which were accepted by the Minister.

Under Section 10 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* the members of the Council are appointed for a term not exceeding three years.

The Membership of the Premier's Climate Change Council during the reporting period comprised of:

- Mr David Klingberg AO (Chair), former Chancellor of University of South Australia
- Ms Julie Pettett (Conservation Council of SA nomination), Chief Executive Officer, Conservation Council of South Australia
- Mr John Kerr, Director, Capital Strategies Pty Ltd, private business consultant
- Mr Jim White, General Manager Business Sustainability, Onesteel
- Ms Dianne Davidson, Managing Director, Davidson Viticulture Consulting Services
- Professor Don Bursill, Director, Playford Trust, Adjunct Research Professor at the University of South Australia, and water industry expert
- Ms Verity Sanders (Local Government of SA nomination), Strategic Planner Environment Policy, City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- Professor Suzanne Miller (State Government nomination), Director, South Australian Museum (Deputy Chair)
- Professor Caroline McMillen, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation, University of South Australia
- Mr John O'Brien, founder and Managing Director, Australian CleanTech

The membership changed in this reporting period with the resignation of:

- Ms Dianne Davidson, Managing Director Viticulture Consulting Services on 25 June 2010. This vacancy is currently in the process of being filled:

There were three ex-officio members of Council during the reporting period:

- Professor Barry Brook, Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change and Director of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, University of Adelaide
- Mr Tim O'Loughlin, Commissioner for Renewable Energy
- Ms Pauline Peel, Deputy Chief Executive, Sustainability, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

See Appendix A for members' attendance at Council meetings held during the reporting period.

ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL REPORT

Section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, requires that the Council provide an annual report to the Minister on or before 31 October each year reporting on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

The Council was allocated a budget of \$230,000 for the 2009-10 financial year.

MEMBERS FEES

Under section 10(4) of the Act, the members of the Council are entitled to fees, allowances and expenses determined by the Minister. As approved by the Premier the fees for the Chair are \$18,574 per annum and the fees for the members are \$12,383 per annum.

Pursuant to *Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016: Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-time Boards and Committees*, government employees are not paid for board membership without the specific approval of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

SECRETARIAT

The Sustainability and Climate Change Division within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided the secretariat support for the Council.

- Stephanie Ziersch, Director Policy, Sustainability and Climate Change Division
- Richard Day, Senior Policy Officer, Sustainability and Climate Change Division
- Oleyssya Vitkovskaya, Policy Officer, Sustainability and Climate Change Division
- Kate Joannou, Executive Officer (1 July 2009 – 28 August 2009)
- Cherie O'Neill, Executive Officer (5 October 2009 – 30 June 2010)

GENDER REPORTING

The gender balance of the Council is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period, the Council consisted of five male and five female members, with the resignation of one female on 25 June 2010.

USE OF CONSULTANTS

Brenton Wright facilitated Council's strategic planning session in April 2010.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No applications were received by the Council under the Freedom of Information Act in the reporting period.

1. ADAPTATION

The Adaptation Workstream has guided the development of a draft South Australian Adaptation Framework. As a result of an analysis of adaptation activities, including the identification of critical gaps, the Council concluded that adaptation activities are not coordinated and there are gaps that may leave South Australia vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On this basis, the Council determined that a South Australian Adaptation Framework would be developed.

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

1.1. Development of the Draft Adaptation Framework for South Australia:

- 1.1.1 raising the priority of adaptation on the state agenda
- 1.1.2 a strategic partnership with the Natural Resources Management Council
- 1.1.3 improved engagement between Council and other State agencies
- 1.1.4 providing leadership and guidance in adaptation
- 1.1.5 supporting the overarching Greenhouse Strategy for South Australia.

It is intended that the Adaptation Framework for South Australia will guide action by the South Australian community to develop well-informed and timely adaptation responses that will maximise opportunities and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

1.2. Submission for 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide:

- 1.2.1 ensuring climate change impacts were adequately highlighted and addressed appropriately in the Plan.

The Plan sets out a range of policies and targets that accommodate population and economic growth, preserving our heritage and character, while enhancing the State's natural environment and responding to the potential impacts of climate change. Given the significance of this Plan to the future of South Australia, it was important to raise matters in the Council's submission that could strengthen climate change adaptation outcomes in the Plan.

Future priorities

Subject to the approval of the Premier, the Adaptation Framework will guide the Workstream's activities for the 2010-11 year, focusing on:

1. *Consultation* on the draft Adaptation Framework within the 12 state government regions.
2. *Building partnerships* within each of the 12 regions in anticipation of developing a regional approach as outlined in the draft Framework.
3. Engaging with the update of *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, considering appropriate state climate change targets.
4. *Mainstream Adaptation in Research*: work collaboratively with the Premier's Science and Research Council to support the development of the State's Research agenda.
5. *Vulnerability assessments*: Identify opportunities through the development of Framework partnerships to progress vulnerability assessments.

2. MITIGATION

The Mitigation Workstream develops advice to the Premier about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the consideration of the Council. During 2009-10 the Mitigation Workstream focused on South Australia adapting to the Commonwealth's mitigation regime, particularly the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and Renewable Energy Target.

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

2.1. Review of South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy:

- 2.1.1 Facilitation of State government agency input through collaborative workshops setting a shared vision for the revised strategy.

South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy, *Tackling Climate Change*, is a framework for all of South Australia's greenhouse targets and commitments to be met in a comprehensive and coordinated way. It is South Australia's planned response to climate change. This review recommended by the Council, has temporarily been put on hold until the direction of the Commonwealth's mitigation policies is clearer.

2.2. Completed investigations into the adequacy of energy planning in South Australia

2.3. Assessed options to progress alternative transport fuels and vehicles:

- 2.3.1 Advice provided on accelerating the uptake of low emission vehicle technologies in South Australia

- 2.3.2 Monitoring development of Biofuels Business Plan by RenewablesSA.

2.4. Recommending that the top 10 emitters in South Australia be targeted for Sector agreements.

Future priorities

1. *Influence the National mitigation agenda*: South Australia can continue to provide leadership and advocate for a national policy position.
2. *Greenhouse Strategy*: continue development of a revised strategy, in light of the Commonwealth Government's mitigation policies.
3. Contributing to the update of *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, considering appropriate state climate change targets.
4. Sector Agreements with a focus on the State's top 10 emitters.
5. Engaging with update of *South Australia's Infrastructure Plan*.

3. SCIENCE

The Science Workstream is supported by an Expert Sub Group who source relevant recently published peer-reviewed papers from their area of expertise or related disciplines, providing a brief summary to assist Council improve the connection between science and climate change policy advice

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

3.1. Agreement to work on advice regarding a standardised climate data set for the state:

- 3.1.1 Initial engagement has commenced with Premier's Science and Research Council

- 3.1.2 Exploring opportunity to work collaboratively with the University Sector Agreement signatories, being the Adelaide University, University of South Australia and Flinders University.

- 3.2. Building relationships between the science community and climate change policy makers:
 - 3.2.1 Bringing researchers and practitioners together via National Adaptation Research Plans workshop and email communication
 - 3.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Climate Research Forum
 - 3.2.3 Sharing Scientific Information through the PCCC Google Group, an online forum where members of the Science Expert Sub-Group post recently sourced relevant published peer-reviewed papers from their area of expertise or related disciplines.
- 3.3. A number of abstracts produced by the members of the Expert Science Sub Group were provided to the workstream and the full Council.

Future priorities

1. *Standardised Climate dataset*: develop advice on the adoption of a common set of state climate data that all agencies use.
2. *Communication of Science*: there is a complex interaction between science and the community that needs to be improved with appropriate communication.
3. *Mainstream Adaptation in Research*: work collaboratively with the Premier's Science and Research Council to support the development of the State's Research agenda, ensuring consideration of adaptation.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Stakeholder Engagement Workstream supports the delivery of the Council's communication objectives, being:

- Facilitate networking and relationship-building between key stakeholders.
- Consult with stakeholders about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change to inform the development of independent advice to the Minister.
- Assist in disseminating information in order to encourage the implementation of practices that will assist in addressing climate change or adapting to the effects of climate change.

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

- 4.1 Facilitated networking and relationship-building through:
 - 4.1.1 Four Stakeholder Engagement Forums
 - 4.1.2 Membership of RenewablesSA, Community Engagement Board.
- 4.2 Consulted with key stakeholders:
 - 4.2.1 Section 21 Review

Under Section 21 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, a review of the legislation and its operation must be undertaken on a four yearly basis. Although the legislation was only in operation for two years, the first review was to be completed before the end of 2009. In accordance with its consultative role, the Council consulted with its Stakeholder Engagement Group, consisting of nearly 100 business, environment and community organisations. The draft review paper prepared on behalf of the Minister was distributed to the Group for a 3 week consultation period.

Based on Stakeholder's views and comments the Council provided advice to the Premier under Section 11(3)(a) of the Act regarding the Section 21 Review.

4.2.2 Stakeholder survey

Council took the opportunity during the reporting period to seek feedback from its stakeholders on how the Council can best obtain their views and those of their sector. Results of the survey indicated that the Council's engagement formats have been desired by its stakeholders. This has been an important mechanism to ensure stakeholders views can be adequately obtained and considered during the development of Council's advice to the Premier.

4.3 Assisted in disseminating information:

4.3.1 Stakeholder Engagement Forums

4.3.2 website

4.3.3 joint state-wide forum with the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering

Future priorities

1. *Key messages:* develop a list of key messages that both the Council and the State Government can utilise to deliver consistent climate change messages to the South Australian community.
2. *Youth Engagement:* Work with the Minister's Youth Council to strengthen youth engagement in Climate Change and Sustainability
3. *A Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* covering:
 - 3.1. Council's communication strategy for engaging with the community, ranging from topical issues to tabling formal advice.
 - 3.2. Council's approach to engaging with stakeholders (including the wider public sector), including reviewing the current list of stakeholders and mechanisms for engaging with them.

APPENDIX A: MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

For the 2009-2010 financial year the Council held seven formal meetings. There were also a number of workstream meetings held.

The Premier's Climate Change Council first met on 1 February 2008. In 2009-2010 financial year it met on seven occasions. The below table details members' attendance at the meetings held during this reporting period of 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Member	Attended	Number of meetings held during period
David Klingberg (Chair)	7	7
Don Bursill	7	7
Dianne Davidson – resigned 25 June 2010	4	7
John Kerr	6	7
Caroline McMillen	4	7
Suzanne Miller	6	7
John O'Brien	6	7
Julie Pettett	4	7
Verity Sanders	7	7
Jim White	6	7
Ex officio members		
Barry Brook	5	7
Tim O'Loughlin	5	7
Pauline Peel Appointed February 2010	3	7