

Premier's Climate Change Council

Annual Report

1 February – 30 June 2008



Government of South Australia
Premier's Climate Change Council



Annual Report of the Premier's Climate Change Council 2007-08
October 2008

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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The Hon Mike Rann
Premier
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Dear Premier

In accordance with Section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, I submit the inaugural Annual Report of the Premier's Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2008 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.

The members of the Premier's Climate Change Council are committed to collecting accurate and timely information regarding climate change impacts on South Australia in order to build the Council's capacity to provide independent advice to the Premier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Klingberg'.

David Klingberg
Chair
Premier's Climate Change Council
29/10/2008



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Earlier this year the ten members of the Premier's Climate Change Council were pleased to accept the Premier's invitation to become the inaugural members of the Premier's Climate Change Council.

The Council was established under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, 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 main role of the Council is to provide the Premier with independent advice on reducing the State's greenhouse gas emissions to meet the legislated targets and the possible impacts of climate change on South Australia, to assist with developing mitigation and adaptation policies.

In order to meet our objectives we have been assembling information and developing the Council's capacity to advise the Premier. To that end, the Council has engaged with South Australian Government agencies to collect information on State climate change initiatives; begun the process for engaging with other boards and committees; and developed a communications strategy for implementation next financial year.

The focus of this activity has been on the opportunities for action at the business and community level. The Council considers there is a risk that the potential for meaningful contributions from the community may be overlooked at a time when the development of national responses is commanding so much attention

The Council considers that the provision made in the climate change legislation for formal agreements between individual sectors of the economy represents an effective mechanism for collaboration. For that reason, the Council is particularly keen to assist the Government in progressing these agreements.

In the first five months of its operation, the Council has set itself an ambitious agenda as set out in this report. We look forward to progressing that agenda in 2008/09.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Klingberg'.

David Klingberg
Chair

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Premier's Climate Change Council (the Council) was established under Section 9 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act), which was enacted on 3 July 2007.
- 1.2. The Council was created to provide advice to the Government on reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change in order to meet the state's legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets.
- 1.3. The Premier announced the inaugural membership of the Council on 18 February 2008 at the 3rd International Solar Cities Congress held in Adelaide.
- 1.4. For the 2007-2008 financial year for which this annual report applies the Council was in operation for five months from 1 February to 30 June 2008. During this period the Council held an introductory session on 1 February, two formal meetings on 25 March and 17 June 2008 and nine working group workshops.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- 2.1. Section 11 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* details the main functions of the Council including:
 - Providing independent advice to the Minister regarding
 - matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change
 - achieving energy efficiencies, increasing the use of renewable energy, developing methods to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and establishing and achieving relevant targets
 - the impact of climate change on business and the wider community
 - the impact of the operation and implementation of the legislation on business and the wider community
 - costs associated with reducing or limiting climate change or greenhouse gas emissions
 - commercial or other opportunities associated with climate change or reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions
 - effectiveness of the targets within the legislation
 - Take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community about issues associated with climate change
 - To 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
- 2.2. During this reporting period the Council reported directly to the Premier as the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. 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
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. The inaugural membership of the Council for the duration of the reporting period of February to 30 June 2008 was:
 - Mr David Klingberg AM (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 Rob Chapman, Managing Director, BankSA
 - Mr Jim White, General Manager Business Sustainability, Onesteel
 - Professor Mary O'Kane, Executive Chairman of Mary O'Kane & Associates Pty Ltd
 - 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
 - Dr Suzanne Miller (State Government nomination), Director, South Australian Museum (Deputy Chair)
- 3.5. Two ex-officio members were also appointed to the Council for the duration of 1 February to 30 June 2008:
 - 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, Deputy Chief Executive Sustainability and Workforce Management, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- 3.6. During this reporting period, the Council held an introductory session on 1 February and then officially met twice on 25 March and 17 June 2008.
- 3.7. See Appendix A for members' attendance at meetings held during the reporting period.

4. ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1. Section 13 of the Act, 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

- 4.2. The Council has been allocated a budget of \$200,000 every year for three years beginning in the 2007-2008 financial year.

MEMBERS FEES

- 4.3. 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 \$18,574.08 per annum and the fees for the members are \$12,382.72 per annum.
- 4.4. 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

- 4.5. 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
 - Danielle Kowalski, Executive Officer, Premier's Climate Change Council

GENDER REPORTING

- 4.6. 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.

USE OF CONSULTANTS

- 4.7. No consultants were engaged by the Council during the reporting period.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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

5. PRIORITIES FOR 2007-2008

- 5.1. At its first meeting the Council members agreed to set five priority areas for concentrated work in between their meetings to improve the Council's capacity for provide independent advice to the Premier. Each priority area was allocated a convenor with one to two other Council members to make up a working group. Through out the period of 1 February to 30 June 2008 the working groups worked with the Secretariat on various tasks. In addition to the five priority areas a working group was also established to create a communications strategy for the Council.
- 5.2. The five priority areas and the convenors were: sector agreements (Rob Chapman and David Klingberg); emissions trading and offsets (John Kerr); education (Verity Sanders); adaptation (Di Davidson); and renewables, new business and major projects (David Klingberg). Julie Pettett was the convenor for the communications strategy.
- 5.3. Below is a summary of actions undertaken by each working group during the period 1 February to 30 June 2008. In addition the working groups' future priorities are also summarised.

SECTOR AGREEMENTS

- 5.4. Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change is able to enter into voluntary sector agreements with a particular person, entity, industry or business group. The purpose of these agreements is to recognise, promote or facilitate strategies to meet targets set under the Act.

WORK COMPLETED

- 5.5. The Council considers that these agreements offer a unique and productive collaboration between the Government and business and community groups. They also tap learnings which the Council can use in discharging its advisory role. For like reasons, the Council intends to take a particularly active role in this area.
- 5.6. The Council members agreed that the existing program of sector agreement negotiations should be extended with the assistance of the Council members to twenty sectors.
- 5.7. Each Council member agreed to 'sponsor' one or more of the sectors to work in collaboration with the Industry Partnerships Unit within the Sustainability and Climate Change Division, in a high-level negotiation role.
- 5.8. Several members of the Council met with the Natural Resource Management Council (NRMC) on 23 May 2008, where it was agreed that the members of the NRMC would also assist in negotiations for sector agreements.
- 5.9. During the reporting period the South Australian Government announced three sector agreements; local government, wine industry and property sector. The

Division had assistance from a member of the Council on the local government sector agreement.

5.10. In addition, since the establishment of the Council, initial negotiations were undertaken for the following sector agreements, with the involvement of Council members:

- Adelaide Brighton Cement
- Anglican Church
- Barossa and Light Regional Development Board
- RAA
- South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy
- Universities Sector
- Waste

FUTURE PRIORITIES

5.11. That the members sponsoring the various sectors will be engaged by the Industry Partnerships Unit within the Sustainability and Climate Change Division to assist with high-level negotiations.

EMISSIONS TRADING AND OFFSETS

WORK COMPLETED

5.12. During the reporting period the Emissions Trading and Offsets Work Stream investigated the significant activity occurring at the national level to implement an emissions trading scheme by 2010.

5.13. The Council hosted an information/consultation event with South Australian businesses potentially affected by National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) and a national emissions trading scheme to collect feed back on the potential impacts of the NGERS and a national emissions trading scheme on South Australian businesses/industries.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

5.14. It was intended that the information session on NGERS be held prior to the release of the Commonwealth Green Paper and as close to the commencement date of registrations for reporting under NGERS as possible. This session was scheduled for 9 July 2008.

5.15. In addition the Council agreed to hold a emissions trading scheme consultation event post the release of the Commonwealth Green Paper, to discuss with South Australian businesses the implications of the national emissions trading scheme on South Australia. It was agreed that this consultation session would assist in informing the Council's submission to the Commonwealth Green Paper. This session was scheduled for 19 August 2008.

EDUCATION

5.16. It was agreed at the initial meeting of the Council that education was a key theme and priority which reflects the Council's role as described in the Act.

WORK COMPLETED

- 5.17. During the reporting period, the Education Work Stream considered the range of issues related to the Council's potential role and input in relation to climate change education and promotion.
- 5.18. Professor Barry Brook was nominated to liaise with the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) to discuss climate change and South Australian schools' curriculum. It was agreed that when available the Council members would comment on the trial of the *Sustainable and Attainable* program being developed by DECS.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- 5.19. The members agreed that in order to provide expert advice to the Premier that the Council will concentrate on advising on:
- Climate change education for business
 - Climate change education for schools
 - Community climate change education, including in regional and rural areas
 - Union climate change education
 - Climate change education program evaluation

ADAPTATION

WORK COMPLETED

- 5.20. Council representatives involved with the Adaptation Work Stream explored the potential role for the Council in relation to adaptation focussing on information needed to build the Council's capability for providing advice to the Premier on adaptation to climate change in South Australia. In particular, activities being undertaken at a national level were investigated, including the implementation of the National Adaptation Framework by the Council of the Australian Governments as well as various State and Local Government initiatives.
- 5.21. The Council members agreed to focus on four areas in relation to adaptation:
- Education and awareness-raising of adaptation issues
 - Undertaking an audit of current adaptation programs
 - Facilitating the development of a capacity-building program for primary producers
 - Regular briefings regarding the status of national and state water initiatives
- 5.22. The members agreed that it is imperative to raise the profile of adaptation issues within the community and amongst decision makers.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- 5.23. At the Council meeting on 17 June 2008, it was agreed that an audit be undertaken of all Government adaptation activities that affected South Australia. This audit will be presented to the Council members in December 2008.
- 5.24. The audit will include programs at Commonwealth, State and Local Government levels in the following areas:
- Building Understanding and Adaptive Capacity
 - Water resources

- Coastal regions
- Biodiversity
- Agriculture, fisheries and forestry
- Human health
- Tourism
- Settlements, infrastructure and planning
- Natural disaster management

RENEWABLES, NEW BUSINESS AND MAJOR PROJECTS

WORK COMPLETED

5.25. The Renewables, New Business and Major Projects Work Stream investigated the potential for the Council in providing advice to the Premier on the following issues:

- The important role for Government in the innovation cycle
- The impact of a national emissions trading scheme on South Australian businesses/industries
- New business opportunities and challenges
- New infrastructure

5.26. The Council members agreed that the Council will need to have substantial involvement in the development of a South Australian Renewable Energy Industry Plan, which is required under Section 14 of the Act.

5.27. In addition, the Council members agreed to work collaboratively with the Economic Development Board on sustainable development and the Water Security Council on the significant impacts of climate change on the available water resources in South Australia. David Klingberg agreed to give a presentation to the Economic Development Board on the impacts of climate change on South Australia in September 2008.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

5.28. It was agreed by the Council members that the Renewables, New Business and Major Projects Work Stream would continue to collect information on the following areas to inform the Council's advice to the Premier:

- Renewables
- Research and development
- Water
- Economic Development

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

5.29. The communication objectives of the Council are clearly outlined in the Act and are broadly to:

- Provide independent advice to the Minister regarding matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change
- Take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement, the science community, Local Government

Association and the wider community regarding issues associated with climate change

- 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
- Report annually to the Minister on the Council's activities and achievements

WORK COMPLETED

- 5.30. The Communications Work Stream recognised the need for a Communications Strategy for the Council, to ensure that the Council is in a position to provide independent and expert advice to the Premier on climate change.
- 5.31. A Communications Strategy for the Council was drafted and agreed to in principle with the understanding that as the Council evolves so may some of the communication actions within the strategy, however the objectives, target audience and stakeholders will generally remain the same.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- 5.32. The main priority of the Communications Work Stream in the next reporting period will be the to implement the Council's Communications Strategy, including reviewing the actions on a regular basis.
- 5.33. The first communications action to be implemented by the Council will be the establishment of a series of consultative/networking events with a selected core group of representative stakeholders (forming the Premier's Climate Change Council Stakeholder Reference Group) that the Council can regularly meet with to discuss ranging issues affecting South Australia in relation to climate change. This series of events will begin in late 2008 and continue for the whole of 2009.

6. VISION FOR 2008-2009

- 6.1. During this first reporting period, in order to build the Council's capacity to provide advice to the Premier, the Council undertook to gain a firm understanding of the implications of climate change on South Australia and those priority areas where the Council could be of assistance. One strategy used by the Council was to engage extensively with government agencies to collect information on climate change actions that are already being undertaken.
- 6.2. The next step for the Council is to move from 'understanding' the issues to a position where the Council has a firm capability to provide advice to the South Australian Government and finally to influencing policy decisions in a way to benefit all South Australians. This will be the clear goal for the next reporting period of 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.
- 6.3. This will evolve through the existing work of the Working Groups, continuing to work with other South Australian boards/committees/councils and the engagement of the representative stakeholder group who will be invited to meet with the Council on a regular basis to discuss the 'hard issues' surrounding climate change.
- 6.4. In addition the Council will be monitoring the State's progress in climate change by assessing progress against the Greenhouse Strategy.

6.5. The Council also aims to prepare a Strategic Plan to reflect on the work that has been undertaken by the Council and to map out the future priorities for the Council. It is likely that these future priorities will take the shape of:

- Buildings
- Major emitters
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable energy security
- State greenhouse plan
- State economic issues

APPENDIX A: MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

The Premier's Climate Change Council held an introductory meeting on 1 February and then officially met twice on 25 March and 17 June 2008. The below table details members' attendance at the meetings held during this reporting period of 1 February to 30 June 2008.

Member	Attended	Possible
David Klingberg (Chair)	3	3
Don Bursill	3	3
Rob Chapman	3	3
Di Davidson	2	3
John Kerr	3	3
Suzanne Miller	3	3
Mary O'Kane	2 via telephone	3
Julie Pettett	3	3
Verity Sanders	3	3
Jim White	3	3
Barry Brook	2	3
Tim O'Loughlin	3	3