

Premier's Climate Change Council

Annual Report

1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009



Government of South Australia
Premier's Climate Change Council



Annual Report of the Premier's Climate Change Council 2008-2009
October 2009

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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Hon Mike Rann
Premier
Level 15
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Dear Premier

In accordance with Section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, I submit the second Annual Report of the Premier's Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2009 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.

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

David Klingberg AO
Chair
Premier's Climate Change Council
27 / 10 /2009



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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; to take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community about issues associated with climate change and to assist in disseminating information to business and other groups.
- 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 2008-2009 financial year the Council held five formal meetings. There were also a number of workstream meetings held.

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 membership changed in this reporting period with the resignation of:
- Mr Rob Chapman, Managing Director, BankSA
 - Professor Mary O'Kane, Executive Chairman of Mary O'Kane & Associates Pty Ltd

These two vacancies were replaced by:

- 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 two new members join the inaugural members to comprise the Premier's Climate Change Council. The inaugural members are:

- 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)

- 3.5. Two ex-officio members were also appointed to the Council from 1 February 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. See Appendix A for members' attendance at Council 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
 - Richard Day, Senior Policy Officer, Sustainability and Climate Change Division
 - Oleyssya Vitkovskaya, Policy Officer, Sustainability and Climate Change Division
 - Danielle Kowalski and Kate Joannou provided Executive Officer support

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. Lyn Goldsworthy

- facilitated strategic planning session – December 2008
- facilitated Stakeholder Engagement Forum – May 2008

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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

4.9. The Council was consulted about the release of a presentation delivered by the Chair to the Economic Development Board and its partial release was supported.

5. PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

5.1. During 2008-09 the Council reviewed its five priority areas for concentrated work to improve the Council's capacity for provide independent advice to the Premier.

The Council decided that the overall theme for 2009 would be adaptation, and to restructure the five workstreams into three workstreams that focus on various aspects of adaptation:

- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Science

The new workstream structure was implemented in December 2008.

At the December 2008 planning session, the Council set its targets. Performance against those targets is set out below:

Target	Achieved/ Not achieved	Status
Increasing the frequency of Council meetings to bimonthly	✓	Meetings were held in February, April and May 2009
Hold a stakeholder engagement group session every second meeting (three times per year) Hold three or more stakeholder engagement group events in 2009, with at least one before 30 June 2009.	✓	A stakeholder engagement forum was held on 12 May 2009
Provide the Premier with four or more pieces of advice in 2009, with at least two before 30 June 2009	✓	
Provide an annual report on the activities of the Council during the 2008-09 financial year to the Premier by 31 October 2009.	✓	

5.2. Each workstream was allocated a chair with one to two other Council members to form a working group.

- 5.3. The three workstreams were convened by Council members:
- Adaptation Verity Sanders (Chair)
 - Mitigation Jim White/John Kerr (Co-chairs)
 - Science Barry Brook (Chair)

ADAPTATION

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

- 5.4. A stocktake of all Government adaptation activities that affected South Australia was presented to Council.
- 5.5. In conjunction with the Natural Resources Management Council, the Premier's Climate Change Council commenced work on the development of a South Australian Adaptation Framework to provide a more strategic approach to adaptation and improve co-ordination between the three levels of government.
- 5.6. 30 year plan for Greater Adelaide was released for public consultation. The Natural Resource Management Council and the Premier's Climate Change Council undertook a climate change analysis of the Plan.
- 5.7. A workshop on Adaptation issues was held with stakeholders on 12 May 2009.
- 5.8. National Climate Change Adaptation Research facility and Premier's Climate Change Council workshop planning and coordination. The event was held on 30 July 2009.

MITIGATION

The primary function of the mitigation workstream is to provide advice to the Premier about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mitigation work stream focussed on South Australia adapting to the Commonwealth's mitigation regime, particularly the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and Renewable Energy Target.

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

- 5.9. In September 2008 the Council provided its submission to the Department of Climate Change Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green paper. Further Council work is now on hold pending further clarity regarding the passage of the legislation re the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.
- 5.10. A 2009 Mitigation workstream workplan was developed and endorsed in February 2009.
- 5.11. 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.

The Mitigation workstream assisted with the establishment of sector agreements with large emitters in South Australia. The workstream reviewed the list of largest emitters and identified 10 companies that should be targeted, with an aim to enter into agreements with five companies before the end of 2009.

The budget bid for negotiating and implementing Sector Agreements was successful in the 2009-2010 budget. There are now funds available for progressing Sector Agreements. It is anticipated that these funds will be used to leverage other funding sources for agreements.

- 5.12. In June 2009, the Premier announced the establishment of RenewablesSA, a sub committee of the Economic Development Board. The Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council is represented on RenewablesSA.
- 5.13. The workstream assisted in the planning of a joint forum with the Academy for Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) entitled "*Adapting to Climate Change – Meeting Scientific and Technological Challenges for South Australia*". This forum was opened by the Premier and held on 6 July 2009. This event was highly successful and attracted 150 participants. Future forums open to the public are being considered.

SCIENCE

The PCCC Expert Science Sub Group was established in February 2009.

The goals of the Sub Group are to provide scientific advice to Council, policy makers and Premier; to agree/filter top emerging scientific priorities; and to provide proactive/strategic science advice to Council workstreams on an as needed basis

ACHIEVEMENTS / WORK COMPLETED

- 5.14. A number of abstracts produced by the members of the Expert Science Sub Group were provided to the workstream and the full Council.
- 5.15. The abstracts were published on the Council's website at <http://www.climatechange.sa.gov.au/index.php?page=pccc-expert-science-sub-group>

APPENDIX A: MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

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

Member	Attended	Number of meetings held during period
David Klingberg (Chair)	5	5
Don Bursill	4	5
Rob Chapman – resigned 21 October 2008	0	1
Di Davidson	5	5
John Kerr	5	5
Caroline McMillen – appointed 2 December 2008	3	4
Suzanne Miller	4	5
John O'Brien – appointed 2 December 2008	4	4
Mary O'Kane – resigned October 2008	0	1
Julie Pettett	5	5
Verity Sanders	5	5
Jim White	5	5
Ex officio members		
Barry Brook	5	5
Tim O'Loughlin	5	5