

# **Premier's Climate Change Council**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Premier's Climate Change Council  
Annual Report 2012-13

*For further information please contact:*

Executive Officer  
Premier's Climate Change Council  
C/- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Telephone: 08 8204 9278  
E-mail: [PCCC@sa.gov.au](mailto:PCCC@sa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)  
ABN: 36 702 093 234  
ISSN: 2201 - 0734

20 August 2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PLANS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>OBJECT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS     REDUCTION ACT 2007 .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PREMIER’S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FRAUD .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>CONSULTANTS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>OVERSEAS TRAVEL.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>URBAN DESIGN CHARTER.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993 .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>13</b>



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Premier's Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2013.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Carter'.

Bruce Carter  
CHAIR  
PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL  
20 August 2013

## PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

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

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

South Australia's Strategic Plan is the overarching document to guide the State's future development.

The table below aligns the Council's 2012-13 activities undertaken in performing its statutory roles of providing independent advice, and taking leadership roles in consulting and disseminating information, with the objectives of the 2011 edition of South Australia's Strategic Plan.

**Table 1.** Links between the Council's 2012-13 activities and South Australia's Strategic Plan

Council Activities	South Australia's Strategic Plan					
	Vision					
	<i>Growing prosperity</i>	<i>Improving wellbeing</i>	<i>Attaining sustainability</i>	<i>Fostering creativity and innovation</i>	<i>Building communities</i>	<i>Expanding opportunity</i>
Facilitating Climate Smart Precincts in South Australia - advice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Toward a low carbon economy - forum	✓		✓	✓		
The South Australian Government's role in creating demand for low carbon innovation, while also generating industrial growth opportunities for South Australia - roundtable	✓		✓	✓		
Opportunities to better facilitate climate change adaptation to sea level rise inundation - roundtable	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Parliamentary Select Committee on Pt Augusta Power Stations - submission	✓		✓			
Expert Panel on Planning Reform - submission			✓		✓	

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SEVEN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

South Australia's seven strategic priorities are those areas that the government has chosen to focus on within the South Australian Strategic Plan. Advancing these priorities directly supports the achievement of many of the targets contained in the Plan.

The Council's activities in 2012-13 have aligned with the following strategic priorities:

**Table 2.** Links between the Council’s 2012-13 activities and South Australian Government Seven Strategic Priorities

Council Activities	South Australian Government’s Seven Strategic Priorities						
	<i>Creating a vibrant city</i>	<i>Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods</i>	<i>An affordable place to live</i>	<i>Every chance for every child</i>	<i>Grow advanced manufacturing</i>	<i>Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all</i>	<i>Premium food and wine from our clean environment</i>
Facilitating Climate Smart Precincts in South Australia - advice	✓	✓	✓				
Toward a low carbon economy - forum					✓	✓	✓
The South Australian Government’s role in creating demand for low carbon innovation, while also generating industrial growth opportunities for South Australia - roundtable					✓	✓	
Opportunities to better facilitate climate change adaptation to sea level rise inundation - roundtable		✓	✓				
Parliamentary Select Committee on Pt Augusta Power Stations - submission			✓		✓		
Expert Panel on Planning Reform - submission	✓	✓	✓				

## HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

### PRIORITIES FOR 2012-13

Members of the Council endorsed a forward work program at their 25 October 2011 meeting which aimed to guide their work over their term. From this program, the Council decided that they would consider three main strategic themes during 2012-13: finalising climate smart buildings and precincts advice; green futures; and adaptation incentives for South Australia, with the following possible scope:

- Climate Smart Buildings/Precincts – Some issues that the Council may consider include designing, building and renovating precincts which take into account long term resource efficiencies and climate change resilience, business models for climate smart precincts and new models for community engagement.
- Green Futures - Moving to a low carbon and climate resilient economy in South Australia, which may focus on how South Australia’s existing industries can transition to a low carbon economy. The topic could include consideration of the following:
  - the growth of the CleanTech sector
  - actions to reduce the carbon intensity of South Australia’s mining, manufacturing and primary industries

- assessment of the climate readiness of the South Australian economy both in terms of strategic risk management of climate risks and preparedness for carbon pricing
  - identification of opportunities to benefit from federal funding associated with carbon pricing and from South Australian technology and service developments
  - opportunities for the development of an offsets industry in the State.
- Adaptation Incentives – Models for funding and incentives for investments that improve climate resilience and support adaptation to climate change will be explored, recognising that a significant number of assets are privately owned. In particular, the role of insurance and risk management frameworks and financing institutions in driving adaptation activities would be considered. Some specific priorities are expected to emerge from the adaptation framework and integrated vulnerability assessments which will assist the Council in its consideration of the issue.

Strategic themes have been selected on the basis that they are: important, complex issues with some underlying policy tensions; they fall within the responsibility of more than one Minister and thus require a whole of government solution; and they cannot be solved by Government working alone. Given the large and complex nature of work within the green futures/low carbon economy theme, the majority of the Council's work program for 2012-13 focussed on this area.

As established under section 16 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, 15 sector agreements between the Minister and various industry and regional groups were in operation during 2012-13. This year the Premier's Climate Change Council has engaged with a number of sector agreement participants to gain insight into their progress, achievements and issues. The Council has also continued to engage with sector stakeholders throughout the year, holding a number of roundtable and forum discussions. Key sectors involved include: Local Government Association, Yorke and Mid North Region, SA Water, Urban Renewal Authority (Renewal SA) and the Wine Industry Association of South Australia.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### Advice on Facilitating Climate Smart Precincts

The Premier's Climate Change Council has completed work on advice to the Minister regarding Facilitating Climate Smart Precincts. The advice was submitted to the Minister on 16 July 2012. The investigations undertaken by the Council in preparing this advice has resulted in a vision for climate smart precincts and a set of key principles required for their development, along with recommending further research into ideas raised at the Climate Smart, Affordable Homes Roundtable on 10 February 2012.

Recommendations for the South Australian Government provided by the advice include:

- The Government re-iterate its commitment to a climate smart urban form as made in the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and endorse the climate smart vision and principles proposed by the Council.
- In order to facilitate climate smart development in South Australia, the Council recommended that the South Australian Government adopt a staged approach by firstly conducting a situational analysis of South Australia's performance that involves:
  - Conducting an assessment of the State's performance against key principles developed by the Council such that opportunities for improving Government policies and processes are identified;

- Identifying a preferred partnership arrangement with the broader development sector that will result in an effective collaboration between champions for climate smart development and create a stronger role for all stakeholders in achieving climate smart development;
  - Identifying a preferred approach to driving innovation, tackling barriers and incentivising high performance toward a climate smart built environment, possibly through the partnership arrangement; and
  - Identifying an appropriate timeframe for regular review in order to reassess best practices and community priorities, and measure progress in the State's urban development against the key principles.
- The Council also recommended the following initiatives be investigated further. These could include the ideas listed above in relation to:
- The application of the key principles to upcoming major land divisions
  - The role of the Urban Renewal Authority
  - Pilot projects to demonstrate solutions locally
  - Accelerated planning approvals or other incentives
  - Training and accreditation
  - Financing mechanisms to increase residential investment
  - Planning provisions that encourage small scale and community scale renewables
  - Infrastructure design and delivery of more efficient and resilient precincts
  - Information products or displays to increase consumer awareness.

The advice and the Minister's response to the advice were tabled in Parliament on 1 November 2012, as required under section 11(4) of the Act.

#### Toward a low carbon economy forum

The Premier's Climate Change Council held a forum to begin exploring advice on transitioning South Australia to a low carbon economy. The forum engaged South Australian businesses on their perceptions of the challenges of climate change and carbon pricing.

A key focus for the forum was the work of former Thinker in Residence and Chair of the Advanced Manufacturing Council, Professor Göran Roos, on advanced manufacturing in South Australia. Guests from a range of industries were invited to present, to provide an understanding of some of the businesses and innovations that are already transforming South Australia. Presentations focussed on the sustainability of industry in South Australia in the long term, the challenges and responses offered to carbon and climate change, opportunities, and innovations that may already be happening.

These presentations and the Council's following discussion provided support for further analysis into the opportunities for a green economy in South Australia.

#### The South Australian Government's role in creating demand for low carbon innovation, while also generating industrial growth opportunities for South Australia roundtable

One of the key themes arising from the low carbon economy forum was the role of Government in the use of policy tools, such as procurement, to create demand for low carbon innovation. A



keynote presentation was received from Professor Göran Roos on the roles of advanced manufacturing, and of Government, in ensuring that local businesses innovate and thrive. A number of representatives from across both Local and State Government, and industry peak bodies attended the following roundtable discussion on the subject.

Based on the outcomes of the roundtable, the Council is continuing to engage across Government and with local industry to further develop advice on a transition to a low carbon economy in South Australia.

#### Opportunities to better facilitate climate change adaptation to sea level rise inundation roundtable

To commence research and thinking for the Council's third strategic theme of adaptation incentives, the Council agreed to focus on the issue of: changes in land use planning as an adaptive response to sea level rise into the future. This focus was chosen as a complex adaptation issue with a large number of stakeholders, that will tangibly affect South Australians in the short, medium and long term.

Stakeholders from the Local and State Government, insurance, academic and legal sectors participated in a wide-ranging discussion of the issues and barriers relating to adapting for sea level rise in South Australia.

The Council also received a presentation from the Productivity Commission on their report *Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation*. The results of these discussions have been used for further engagement of key stakeholders by the Council and informed the drafting of advice, due to be provided to the Minister in the second half of 2013.

#### Other Activities

In January 2013, the Council made a submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee into Port Augusta Power Stations. This followed on from the Council's previous investigations into low carbon energy and its role in a low carbon economy in South Australia.

The Chair of the Council also appeared as a witness before the Select Committee in May 2013.

At their meeting on 11 April 2013, the Council received a presentation from members of the Expert Panel on Planning Reform. The Council was asked to provide a submission to the Panel, including their top climate change in planning issues, to help inform their review of the planning system.

In response to the Council's 2012 advice on establishing an environmental upgrade finance mechanism in South Australia, Government completed a business case supporting the proposal in early 2013. Following this, the Council has played a significant role in championing engagement with key Government and industry stakeholders, to further progress the creation of this mechanism.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE**

The Premier's Climate Change Council is established under section 9 of the Act.

### **OBJECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT 2007**

The objects of the Act are broadly:

1. To assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by addressing issues associated with climate change through setting targets.
2. To promote commitment to action within the State to address climate change through a number of means.

## **ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL**

Section 11 of the Act provides the role and function of the Premier's Climate Change Council which, in summary, are 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 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 and/or adapting to the effects of climate change; and
4. Report annually to the Minister on the Council's activities and achievements.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Subsection 9(2) of the Act 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 Act 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 period of 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 comprised of:

- Mr Bruce Carter (Chair), Consultant, Ferrier Hodgson
- Mr Brian Foster, Farmer and Chair, Eyre Peninsula Regional Agreement Committee
- Mr John O'Brien, Founder and Managing Director, Australian CleanTech
- Ms Ros DeGaris, Consultant, DeGaris Consulting
- Ms Nicole Halsey, Director, UPRS

- Dr Prue McMichael, Plant Pathologist and Principal Consultant, Scholefield Robinson Horticulture Services
- Mr Tim Kelly (Conservation Council of SA nomination), Chief Executive Officer, Conservation Council of South Australia
- Ms Verity Sanders (Local Government of SA nomination), Strategic Planner Environment Policy, City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- Professor Jean Palutikof, Director, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Griffith University
- Dr Campbell Gemmell, Chief Executive Officer, Environment Protection Authority.

In November 2012, Mr Fred Hansen, Chief Executive, Renewal SA, was invited by the Minister to attend Council meetings as a special advisor.

### **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of six general Council meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

No special Council meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Bruce Carter	6	
Brian Foster	6	
John O'Brien	5	
Ros DeGaris	6	
Nicole Halsey	6	
Prue McMichael	5	
Tim Kelly	6	
Verity Sanders	6	
Jean Palutikof	4	
Campbell Gemmell	5	
Fred Hansen	3	Invited to attend Council meetings from November 2012.

### **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

DEWNR provides support to the Premier's Climate Change Council by providing a Project Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

### **LEGISLATION: Statutory Advice**

In 2012-13 the Council provided the Minister with one formal piece of advice pursuant to subsection 11 (3) of the Act:

- Facilitating Climate Smart Precincts in South Australia 16 July 2012

During this reporting period the Council reported to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

## **MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Premier's Climate Change Council members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Minister under subsection 10(4) of the Act:

- Chair: \$18, 574 per annum
- Members: \$12,383 per annum

## **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS**

The Premier's Climate Change Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Premier's Climate Change Council from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership was made up of 5 males and 5 females.

### **The following matters are also contained in the DEWNR annual report 2012-2013:**

- Superannuation contribution by the Premier's Climate Change Council
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Premier's Climate Change Council did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

## **FRAUD**

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Council by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

## **CONSULTANTS**

The Council did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

## **OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

It is declared that no member of the Council has travelled overseas on Council business during this reporting period.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

No events occurred in 2012-13 that required the Council to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS**

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au> to view the FOI statement.

## **WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993**

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Council to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2012-13 financial year.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN, GREENING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS**

The Council utilises the services and facilities of the DEWNR. Consequently, these items are reported as part of the DEWNR 2012-13 Annual Report.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The Council did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2012-13 financial year.