

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
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17 Nov 2015

PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



**Government
of South Australia**

Premier's Climate Change Council
Annual Report 2014-15

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
Website: www.environment.sa.gov.au
ABN: 36 702 093 234
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES	5
OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES.....	5
BACKGROUND & CONTEXT.....	5
OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES.....	6
ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES.....	7
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE	9
OBJECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT 2007.....	9
ROLE OF THE COUNCIL.....	9
FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.....	9
MEMBERSHIP	10
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL	13
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS	13
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.....	13
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS	13
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	14
FRAUD	14
CONSULTANTS.....	14
OVERSEAS TRAVEL.....	14
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.....	14
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	14
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS	15
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993	15
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	15
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT.....	15
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	15



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Climate Change
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 2015.

Yours sincerely

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

Bruce Carter
Chair
Premier's Climate Change Council
21 October 2015

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary function of the Premier's Climate Change Council (the Council) is to provide independent advice to the Minister for Climate Change about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The Council also takes a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community and in disseminating information on issues pertaining to climate change.

The activities undertaken by the Council are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan, in particular the vision that 'South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change'. The Council's actions are also aligned with the objectives of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act) and South Australia's existing greenhouse strategy *Tackling Climate Change* which provides South Australia's planned response to climate change.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

South Australian climate change policy context

In the previous reporting period (2013-14) the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Hon Ian Hunter MLC, requested that the Council develop a compelling vision of a state that has moved to a low carbon economy and that is adapting to a changing climate. In February 2014, the Council provided the Minister with its advice, *South Australia's Climate Change Vision - Pathways to 2050*, which makes eight key recommendations and identifies 29 priority actions, with a focus on action over the next 10 to 15 years. The Council's recommendations include:

- continuing to show strong leadership on climate change
- developing bipartisan agreement for an enduring commitment
- undertaking comprehensive consultation across community, industry, business and government
- reducing emissions by capturing all cost-effective abatement
- identifying funding sources for the implementation of adaptation priorities
- prioritising support for the most vulnerable members of the community
- ensuring the land-use planning system supports adaptation and transition
- government partnering with business to create the settings for an industry led transition.

The Council's advice and the Minister's response were tabled in Parliament in May 2014. This Ministerial response included a commitment to develop a new strategy for climate change action in consultation with the community.

In the 2014-15 reporting period the Premier of South Australia established a new government portfolio for climate change, appointing the Hon Ian Hunter MLC as the Minister for Climate Change. On 10 February 2015, at the opening of the second session of the 53rd Parliament, the Governor of South Australia announced the State Government's ambition for the City of

Adelaide to become the world's first carbon neutral city. This initiative will form part of the State's new Climate Change Strategy being developed in 2015.

During the reporting period, the Minister for Climate Change established a cross-agency group of senior officials to provide oversight for the development of the South Australia's new climate change strategy and the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative. This Senior Officials Group has since become the advisory group to a new Climate Change and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Cabinet Taskforce established by the Premier of South Australia to drive the Government's response to climate change including the preparation of the Climate Change Strategy and initiatives to support delivery of the Carbon Neutral Adelaide commitment. The Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council represents the Council at meetings of both the Cabinet Task Force and the Senior Officials Group.

Boards and Committees Reform

In 2014, the effectiveness of the Premier's Climate Change Council was reviewed as part of the South Australian Government's review of Boards and Committees. On 30 October 2014, the Government announced the outcome of this reform process which included the retention of the Council.

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Following the review of the Boards and Committees, the Council considered its strategic direction for its third term in the context of the State Government's commitment to develop a new climate change strategy for South Australia in consultation with the community.

At its meeting on 18 February 2015, the Council agreed to the following strategic objectives for its third term:

- Maximise the impact of the Council's advice in *South Australia's climate change vision - Pathways to 2050*.
- Fulfil an advocacy and championing role by raising the profile of the Council and influencing key stakeholders.

Aligned with these objectives, the Council agreed on a work program for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year. This work program focussed on contributing to the design and delivery of the engagement program to develop the State's new climate change strategy and to inform a legislated review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

The work program also prioritised engagement with key leaders and climate change champions to build on the State's leadership and identify opportunities and risks; promoting climate change action in the State; and providing further advice to the Minister on climate change matters and in support of the recommendations in *South Australia's climate change Vision: Pathways to 2050*. Council members were also tasked with using their existing networks across the industry, local government, research and environment sectors to progress action on climate change within South Australia.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

Engagement and strategic advice

Throughout 2014-15 the Council has focussed on providing strategic input to the development of the new climate change strategy, with a particular focus on transitioning South Australia to a resilient low carbon economy.

The Council has also provided input to the development of the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative, including providing feedback on proposals developed by government agencies to support this initiative. In May 2015 several Council members took part in a workshop co-hosted by the Minister for Climate Change and Lord Mayor of Adelaide with representatives of State Government and the Adelaide City Council to develop an action plan to deliver the State Government's ambition for the City of Adelaide to be the world's first carbon neutral city.

The Council has contributed to the design of a comprehensive community engagement program to inform development of the new climate change strategy and Carbon Neutral Adelaide commitment. This engagement program included the release of a set of consultation papers for broad public comment and the delivery of workshops in metropolitan and regional areas. A key focus for the Council in the 2015-16 financial year will be supporting the delivery of this engagement program.

The Council considered the key issue of the Australian Government's review of the Federal Renewable Energy Target (RET) and its impact on renewable energy investment in the State. Council members' views on this issue were highlighted in an opinion piece by Council member Kathryn Bellette in The Adelaide Review on 7 October 2014. Furthermore, on 1 December 2014 Council Chair Mr Bruce Carter played a key role as Master of Ceremonies for a Clean Energy Summit hosted by the Premier with industry leaders to promote renewable energy investment in South Australia.

In December 2014 representatives of the Australian Government Department of the Environment met with government and industry representatives in Adelaide to provide a briefing on the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund. Council Member Ros DeGaris fulfilled a chairing role for the briefing with industry stakeholders.

In June 2015 the Council Chair Mr Bruce Carter and Council member Mr John O'Brien contributed to the design and delivery of a Green Jobs Forum hosted by the Premier and the Minister for Climate Change on 25 June to explore economic opportunities from climate change action with representatives from the clean technology and university sectors.

In addition to the Council's key role in these stakeholder events, the Council met with a range of individuals and organisations who attended meetings of the Council during 2014-15 as invited guests. Guest presenters during this period included:

- representatives from Renewal SA presenting on the progress of the Tonsley Sustainability Project.
- project partners for the Southern Adelaide region ('Resilient South') climate change adaptation plan that was completed in July 2015.
- the Principal of Headland Vision presenting on opportunities to reduce emissions.

- the Chief Executive of Zero Waste SA presenting on the public consultation process for the establishment of Green Industries SA.
- the Director of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) on the NCCARF phase 2 program to address the adaptation needs of decision makers and practitioners, particularly in the coastal zone.
- the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information providing a briefing on an online visualisation tool for coastal flooding.
- consultancy Pitt and Sherry presenting its preliminary analysis in relation to the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative.

During the reporting period, Council Members Mr Brian Foster, Ms Nicole Halsey and Ms Michelle Tucker also attended the *Climate Adaptation 2014: Future Challenges* conference hosted by NCCARF and CSIRO on the Gold Coast from 30 September to 2 October 2015. This conference brought together researchers, adaptation practitioners and decision makers to share knowledge and research approaches that inform policy and practice in planning for climate change.

Submissions

- In October 2014 the Council wrote to the Expert Panel on Planning Reform as part of the public consultation process on the Panel's draft reform recommendations *Our Ideas for Reform*, focussing on opportunities in the land-use planning system in reducing South Australia's greenhouse emissions and vulnerability to climate change.
- In March 2015 the Council provided a submission as part of the Government's consultation period on draft terms of reference for the Royal Commission into the Nuclear Fuel Cycle, proposing consideration of whole-of-lifecycle costs and benefits in relation to greenhouse gas emissions for all fuel sources and having regard to potential emissions mitigation opportunities in all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.
- In March 2015 the Council provided a submission during the Government's consultation process regarding the establishment of Green Industries SA, in recognition of the agency's scope to contribute to the State's goals for emissions reduction and transition to a low carbon economy.

Other outcomes during the reporting period:

- In 2012 the Council provided advice to the Government on *Environmental Upgrade Finance for Greening South Australia's Building Stock*. Following extensive public consultation, on 11 February 2015 the Government introduced the Local Government (Building Upgrade Agreements) Amendment Bill 2015 to the Legislative Council.
- In 2013 the Council forwarded advice to the Government on *Opportunities to facilitate appropriate land use decisions in order to adapt to sea level rise and inundation*. The State Government, Local Government Association of South Australia and Coast Protection Board jointly commissioned the issues paper *Defining the Sea Level Rise Problem in South Australia* and this was publicly released on 1 December 2014.
- The Council has continued to play a significant role in championing *Prospering in a Changing Climate: A Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia* ('The Framework'), released in 2012 by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural

Resources and developed in partnership with the Premier's Climate Change Council, the Natural Resources Management Council and other government agencies. The Framework was recognised at an international level in 2014-15, in a speech by the Minister for Climate Change at the event '*Adaptation to Climate Change in the Focus of Companies*' hosted by the Bavarian Government in June 2015, but also as a case study in The Climate Group's report '*Age of experiments: How states and regions are developing the next generation of climate and energy policies*' released during UN Climate Summit in New York in September 2014.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Council is established under section 9 (1) of the Act.

OBJECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT 2007

The objects of the Act are broadly:

- To assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by addressing issues associated with climate change, and in particular by setting targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for renewable energy.
- To promote a commitment to action within the State to address climate change through a number of means.

ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

The role of the Council is to provide independent advice to the Minister for Climate Change about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, and to take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community and in disseminating information.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 11 of the Act describes the functions of the Council which are, in summary, to:

- Provide independent advice to the Minister about 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 and the wider community about 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.
- Undertake any other functions conferred by the Minister; and
- Report annually to the Minister on the Council's activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are appointed in accordance with sections 9 and 10 of the Act.

Subsection 9(2) of the Act requires that the Council consist of at least seven and not more than ten members appointed by the Minister with a view to obtaining a reasonable range of persons from across the following sectors and a balance of expertise that is relevant to addressing or adapting to climate change:

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

Pursuant to section 10(1) of the Act, the members of the Council are appointed for a term not exceeding three years.

During the 2014-15 financial year, the membership of the Premier's Climate Change Council was as follows:

- Mr Bruce Carter (Chair) is a consultant of Ferrier Hodgson in Adelaide. Mr Carter has spent over 30 years in corporate recovery and insolvency. He has conducted work for all of the major financial institutions within Australia and has been involved in a number of government appointed restructurings, consultancies and reviews. Mr Carter is Chair of ASC Pty Ltd (Australian Submarine Corporation), Deputy Chair of SkyCity Entertainment Group Limited and a director of the Bank of Queensland Ltd. He is a Director/Chair of a number of other private companies and government bodies. He was formerly the Chair of the South Australian Economic Development Board, and a member of the Executive Committee of Cabinet. Mr Carter holds a Masters of Business Administration, Bachelor of Economics and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Institute of Company Directors.

Appointed Chair on 1 May 2011; Reappointed Chair from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Kathryn Bellette has a background in environmental science, public policy, stakeholder engagement and education. She has led decision making processes around sustainable development, environment protection and natural resource planning including water allocation. Her work has traversed coastal, freshwater and terrestrial environments across urban, peri urban, regional and remote South Australia. Ms Bellette is the representative for the environment and conservation sector on the Premier's Climate Change Council.

Appointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Ros DeGaris has over 30 years of experience in the operations of manufacturing plants, mostly in the cement and lime industry. Ms DeGaris is a Director of DeGaris Consulting Pty Ltd, which specialises in sustainability programs for industry. Her experience in

management, action planning and reporting on environmental, energy and greenhouse issues has been applied in companies, industry sectors and community consultation groups. Ros has represented both the Australian cement and lime sectors at national and international levels, preparing companies for change to sustainable practices, and contributing to the formulation of cutting edge legislation. Ms DeGaris holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Chemical Technology) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She holds board positions with Environment Protection Authority of South Australia, the University of Adelaide - Centre for Energy Technology, KESAB and SciWorld.

Appointed on 1 May 2011; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Brian Foster is recognised as a leader in rural and regional adaptation to climate change, driven by first-hand experience and understanding as a fourth generation farmer on the Eyre Peninsula. Mr Foster previously co-chaired the Eyre Peninsula Regional Drought Response Taskforce, and was the inaugural Presiding Member of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board. He has had extensive experience at local, regional state and national levels, in local government, catchment water management, natural resource management and climate change. Mr Foster played a key role in establishing the Eyre Peninsula Regional Sector Agreement (known as the Eyre Peninsula Integrated Climate Change Agreement, or ‘EPICCA’) and is currently independent Chair of the steering committee. In June 2013, Brian won the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) National Climate Champion Individual Award.

Appointed on 1 May 2011; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Nicole Halsey is a Director of URPS, an Adelaide based urban and regional planning firm with specialities in climate change adaptation, natural resources management planning, and innovative community engagement practice. Ms Halsey has played a leadership or specialist role in numerous regional and sector based climate change adaptation planning processes around the state. In particular, her work involves designing and delivering stakeholder driven integrated vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans, and implementing processes that engage communities in conversations around adaptation and resilience.

Appointed 1 May 2011; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Allan Holmes is a former Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Mr Holmes has worked in agriculture, environment protection, forestry, park management and conservation and has both an operational and a policy background. He has had extensive board experience in the public and philanthropic sectors and is a fellow of the Victorian Leadership Program and a fellow of the Institute of Public Administration in Australia. Mr Holmes is the former representative of the State Government on the Premier’s Climate Change Council.

Appointed on 31 May 2014. Attended final Council meeting on 22 April 2015.

- John O'Brien is the founder and Managing Director of both Australian CleanTech and Sino CleanTech - research and advisory firms that assist cleantech companies to grow, investors to successfully invest and governments to drive industry development. He works extensively on finance and technology projects between Australia and Asia. Mr O'Brien manages the Australian CleanTech Cluster that connects 300 member companies to industry and the Australian Technologies Competition that finds and mentors Australia's best emerging technology companies. He also facilitates the Australian CleanTech Network, publishes the Australian and China CleanTech Indices and the annual Australian Cleantech Review. Mr O'Brien has lectured in Leadership and Entrepreneurship on the MBA at the University of Adelaide, was on a Committee advising on \$200 million of grants for the previous Australian Government and is a Board Director with a number of clean-tech companies.

Appointed on 2 December 2008; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

- Sandy Pitcher is the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Ms Pitcher was previously the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for five years. She was responsible for many areas, including the South Australian Cabinet Office, the Economic Analysis Division and the Strategic Engagement and Communications Division. In 2012 she was awarded the South Australian Telstra Business Woman of the Year for the Community and Public sector category, and went on to win the national title in November 2012. Ms Pitcher has worked in London, primarily as the head of Corporate and Parliamentary Affairs in the UK's Commission for Racial Equality, and has previously worked in Commonwealth public sector roles in Canberra and Sydney. Educated at the University of Adelaide, Ms Pitcher has degrees in law and the humanities. Ms Pitcher is a representative of the State Government on the Premier's Climate Change Council.

Appointed from 25 May 2015 to 30 April 2017.

- Michelle Tucker currently works as a Strategic Planner for the City of Salisbury. She has over 15 years' experience in environmental and urban planning as well as policy development within the local government sector across Australia. Ms Tucker is the representative for the local government sector on the Premier's Climate Change Council.

Appointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

During the reporting period, the Council acknowledges the time and contributions of outgoing Council member Mr Allan Holmes.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of five general Council meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

No special Council meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance / Meetings held during term	Comments
Mr Bruce Carter	5/5	Chair
Ms Kathryn Bellette	4/5	
Ms Ros DeGaris	5/5	
Mr Brian Foster	5/5	
Ms Nicole Halsey	4/5	
Mr Allan Holmes	4/4	Representative of State Government. Attended final Council meeting on 22 April 2015.
Mr John O'Brien	4/5	
Ms Sandy Pitcher	1/1	Representative of State Government. Appointed from 25 May 2015.
Ms Michelle Tucker	4/5	

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Council by providing a Project Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15. The Council's Governance Statement approved in July 2012, includes the practices that are put in place to assist Council members to act with an appropriate level of care and diligence to meet their responsibilities.

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: \$18,574.08
- Members: \$12,382.72

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from existing DEWNR resources.

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

females from the beginning of the reporting period until 22 April 2015, and three males and five females from 25 May 2015 until the end of the reporting period.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2014-15:

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The 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 2014-15.

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.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Council does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2014-15 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 2014-15 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Council did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2014-15 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Premier's Climate Change Council acknowledges the First Peoples of South Australia; the Aboriginal Customary Owners and the role that Aboriginal People continue to have in purposefully shaping and caring for the area that we now know as South Australia.

The Council would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their relationship with country and their cultural and spiritual beliefs. The Council also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and recognises that Kaurna heritage, knowledge and skills are of critical importance to Australian people and the landscape today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Council is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council would like to thank the Minister for Climate Change and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for the support that it has received over the year.