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14 Nov 2017



**Government
of South Australia**

Premier's Climate Change Council **2016-17 Annual Report**

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To:
The Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Climate Change

This annual report is presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* and meets the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Premier's Climate Change Council by:

Bruce Carter

Chairperson



Signature

24 October 2017

Date

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Section A: Reporting required under the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*

Agency purpose or role

The Premier's Climate Change Council (the Council) is established under section 9(1) of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act). Its primary function is to provide independent advice to the Minister for Climate Change about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, including by achieving energy efficiencies, increasing the use of renewable energy, developing methods to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and establishing and achieving relevant targets.

Objectives

Pursuant to the Act, in the performance of its functions the Council should seek—

- to provide advice to the Minister on—
 - the impact of climate change on business and the wider community, and the development or implementation of policies or programs relevant to addressing climate change, including by the initiation of specific projects and plans; and
 - the impact of the operation and implementation of this Act on business and the wider community and, as appropriate, any amendments to relevant legislation (including this Act) that, in the opinion of the Council, should be considered or promoted by the Minister; and
 - costs associated with reducing or limiting climate change or greenhouse gas emissions, or with mitigating the effects of climate change or greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - costs associated with failing to take action to address climate change; and
 - commercial or other opportunities associated with climate change or reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions, with mitigating the effects of climate change or greenhouse gas emissions or with increasing the use of renewable energy sources; and
 - the effectiveness of any determination or target under section 5 [of the Act], and the need to revise any such determination or target; and
 - any other matter on which the Minister requests the advice of the Council; and
- 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 in order to encourage the implementation of practices that will assist in addressing climate change or adapting to the effects of climate change.

In 2014, the Council set three strategic themes for its third term that commenced 1 May 2014 and expired on 30 April 2017. These themes were: *South Australia's Adaptation Framework*; *the low carbon economy*; and *influence across State Government*.

Under these agreed themes, the Council set strategic objectives for its third term to:

- maximise the impact of the Council's 2014 advice to the State Government in *South Australia's Climate Change Vision – Pathways to 2050*; and
- fulfil an advocacy and championing role by raising the profile of the Council and influencing key stakeholders.

Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives

The Council identified the following strategies in 2016/17 to achieve its objectives.

Key strategy	SA Government objective
Implement the Council's inaugural SA Climate Leaders Awards and promote the stories of climate change action in South Australia in the post-Awards period	South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy
Provide advice about the consideration of climate change in the land-use planning system	SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change. South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy Prospering in a Changing Climate – South Australia's Adaptation Framework South Australia's New Planning System under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i>
Provide advice during the review of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> pursuant to section 21	SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change. South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy Prospering in a Changing Climate – South Australia's Adaptation Framework

Key strategy	SA Government objective
Engage with State Government Ministers and agencies through the Climate Change and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Cabinet Task Force and its Senior Officials Group, represented by the Council Chair	<p>SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change.</p> <p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy</p> <p>Carbon Neutral Adelaide – A shared vision for the world's first carbon neutral city</p> <p>Carbon Neutral Adelaide – Action Plan 2016-2021</p> <p>Prospering in a Changing Climate – South Australia's Adaptation Framework</p>
<p>Support community and business engagement processes in relation to the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Upgrade Finance implementation • Carbon Neutral Adelaide – partnership program and community activation • South Australia's role in Climate-KIC Australia • Developing the State Government's whole-of-government state-wide adaptation action plan. 	<p>SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change.</p> <p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy</p> <p>Carbon Neutral Adelaide – A shared vision for the world's first carbon neutral city</p> <p>Carbon Neutral Adelaide – Action Plan 2016-2021</p> <p>Prospering in a Changing Climate – South Australia's Adaptation Framework</p>
Consider state-wide communication about climate change adaptation in the context of the State Government's development of the state-wide whole-of-government adaptation action plan.	<p>South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change.</p> <p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy</p> <p>Prospering in a Changing Climate – South Australia's Adaptation Framework</p>
Consider the development of policy advice on a just transition to net zero emissions economy.	<p>SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change.</p> <p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy</p>
Consideration of the voluntary sector agreements mechanism pursuant to the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> .	<p>SASP Vision: South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change.</p> <p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy</p>

Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
SA Climate Leaders Awards 2016	<p>The objectives of the awards were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise individual, organisational and community achievements in South Australia in adapting to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting low carbon transition, and raising awareness of climate change issues and actions; and - recognise projects and achievements that demonstrate innovation, collaboration, and beneficial impacts and outcomes. <p>The awards initiative was evaluated using a range of performance data, including awards entry data, survey data from awards participants, media coverage of the awards, social media engagement and web page visits.</p>	<p>The Council received 43 entries to the awards, across three categories of <i>Individual, Industry and Business, and Community and Regions</i>. The Council announced eleven finalists across the categories, and awarded a winner in each category. The Council also awarded an overall winner of the Awards, drawn from the category winners.</p>
Consideration of climate change in the land-use planning system	<p>The Council considered the draft update to the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, released by the South Australian Government for public consultation. In October 2016, the Council provided a written submission with recommendations relating to the consideration of climate change in the updated Plan.</p> <p>In February 2017, the Council responded to an invitation from the Minister for Planning to submit nominees for a new Community Participation and Sustainability Advisory Committee for the implementation of the State's new planning system. The Minister for Planning appointed Council member Ms Nicole Halsey to this new Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>There is public value in the Council providing its expert view on the consideration of climate change in the planning system, including the consideration of challenges and opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation and the associated environmental, social and economic benefits for the community.</p>

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
Legislated review of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i>	<p>The Council identified a number of issues and opportunities that could be considered in the course of the next review of the legislation and its operation, pursuant to section 21 of the Act.</p> <p>To inform its recommendations, the Council considered the outcomes of public consultation on the review of the Act that formed part of broader consultation led by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in 2015 for the development of South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050.</p>	Pursuant to section 21 of the Act, there is a requirement to consult with the Council in the conduct of the review of the Act and its operation.
Engagement with the Climate Change and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Cabinet Task Force and its Senior Officials Group	<p>The Council Chair, Mr Bruce Carter, attended one meeting of the Climate Change and Carbon Neutral Adelaide Cabinet Task Force during the reporting period.</p> <p>Council member Mr John O'Brien attended one meeting of the Senior Officials Group.</p>	Participation in these forums supports engagement between the Council and government agencies.

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
Engagement with the South Australian community and business sector	<p>In July 2016, the Council held a cross-sector networking event alongside the Climate Adaptation 2016 conference, focussing on the social and economic opportunities of adaptation.</p> <p>In September and October 2016, the Council Chair participated in targeted events led by the South Australian Government in partnership with the Property Council of Australia (SA Division) to increase awareness and understanding of the Building Upgrade Finance mechanism among financiers and South Australian property owners.</p> <p>In October 2016, several Council members attended a briefing event hosted by the Minister for Climate Change regarding the European Climate Knowledge Innovation Community (Climate KIC) and the progress to develop Climate-KIC Australia.</p>	Pursuant to section 11 of the Act, the Council takes a leadership role in consultation on climate change issues and in disseminating information.
Consideration of state-wide communication about climate change adaptation	Not finalised or assessed in this reporting period, pending completion of the South Australian Government's state-wide adaptation action plan.	

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
Just transition to a net zero emissions economy	<p>During the reporting period, the Council discussed opportunities for policy and planning for the fair and equitable transition to a net zero emissions economy for South Australia's workers and communities.</p> <p>In February 2017, the Council received a briefing from the Australian Council of Trade Unions on its advocacy for a just transition framework at the national level.</p>	<p>South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050 includes a commitment to appointing a representative of the union movement to the Premier's Climate Change Council, to ensure the views of workers are represented in climate change decision-making. During the reporting period, the Minister for Climate Change appointed Mr Joseph Scales as this representative.</p>
Consideration of the voluntary sector agreements mechanism pursuant to the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> .	Not finalised or assessed in this reporting period.	

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
Other Activities of the Council	<p><i>International engagement:</i></p> <p>In September 2016, the Chair of the Council formed part of the South Australian Government delegation to Climate Week in New York City.</p> <p>In November 2016, Council member Mr John O'Brien formed part of the South Australian Government delegation to the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech, Morocco, and the annual General Assembly of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance held alongside the COP22.</p> <p><i>2017 Review of Australia's Climate Change Policies</i></p> <p>In April 2017, the Council provided a written submission during public consultation for the Australian Government's Review of Climate Change Policies in April 2017.</p>	These international engagement activities enable the exchange of expertise and knowledge in building resilience to the impacts of climate change and in making a transition to net zero emissions, and contribute to further development of South Australia's relationships with international leaders in business, other sub-national governments and the non-government sector.

Legislation administered by the agency

The Council is responsible for complying with the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, which is administered by DEWNR.

Organisation of the agency

In accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, the Council consists of at least seven and not more than ten members appointed by the Minister.

The Council membership and remuneration is reported in the South Australian Government Board and Committee Information Annual Report.

Other agencies related to this agency (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR)

Employment opportunity programs

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 2016-17.

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

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency
Government employees supporting the Council's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers.	Two sessions are held on an annual basis. This is considered to be effective.
Number of Council meetings held during the reporting period.	The Council held four meetings during the reporting period.

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs of the agency and their effectiveness

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs	Effectiveness
This Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEWNR to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council in this reporting period.	0

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/premiers-climate-change-council-annual-report-data>

Whistle-blowers' disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistle-blowers' Protection Act 1993* 0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/premiers-climate-change-council-annual-report-data>

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/premiers-climate-change-council-annual-report-data>

For further information, the [Office for the Public Sector](#) has a [data dashboard](#) for further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Consultants

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken and the total cost of the work undertaken.

Consultants	Purpose	Value
All consultancies below \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Consultancies above \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Total all consultancies		\$0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/premiers-climate-change-council-annual-report-data>

See also <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/tenders/index.do> for a list of all external consultancies, including nature of work and value. See also the Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance <http://treasury.sa.gov.au/> for total value of consultancy contracts across the SA Public Sector.

Financial performance of the agency

The Council is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

The costs associated with the administration of the Council are met from within existing DEWNR resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with a recommendation by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in line with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

Other financial information

Nil to report.

Other information requested by the Minister(s) or other significant issues affecting the agency or reporting pertaining to independent functions

Nil to report.

Section B: Reporting of public complaints as requested by the Ombudsman

Summary of complaints by subject

Public complaints received by the Premier's Climate Change Council	
Category of complaints by subject	Number of instances
All complaints	No specific complaints have been received by the Council.

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/premiers-climate-change-council-annual-report-data>

Complaint outcomes

Nature of complaint or suggestion	Services improved or changes as a result of complaints or consumer suggestions
All complaints	No complaints have been received or acted upon.

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2016-17

Financial services are provided to the Council by DEWNR. Finances are audited annually as part of DEWNR's financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the [DEWNR](#) website.