

Report on the review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (South Australia)

Prepared under **Section 21** of the
Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (South Australia)

October 2025



Government of South Australia

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Report on the review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* – October 2025, Government of South Australia, through Department for Environment and Water, Adelaide.

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Executive Summary

South Australia's [Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007](#) (the Act) provides a framework for government to work with business and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Section 21 of the Act requires a review of its operation, including the extent to which: the Act's objects are being achieved; climate adaptation measures implemented by state government are being implemented; and additional legislative measures may be required to achieve the targets set by the Act; and any other relevant matters determined by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (the Minister).

On 27 March 2025, the Act was amended to strengthen requirements around government planning, risk assessment and action on climate change and reflect updated targets for South Australia to:

- achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (SA target)
- reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% below 2005 levels by 2030 (2030 target)
- achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027 (renewable electricity target).

This is the fifth section 21 review and covers the period 2022 to 2025.

This section 21 review has found that progress is being made towards achieving the objects of the Act.

Some key highlights over the reporting period include:

- Declaration of a climate emergency by the South Australian Parliament in May 2022.
- Progress on emissions reduction with a 55% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels, based on the latest data (2022-2023).
- Achievement of 69.7% net renewable electricity generation in 2023-24.
- Release of [South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2030](#) to guide the state's transition to a net zero emissions future.
- Updates to [South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions](#) outlining government led actions to better prepare for, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Introduction of the [Climate Ready Government initiative](#) that requires South Australian Government public sector agencies to manage climate related risks and opportunities and reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions.
- Passage of a new [Biodiversity Act 2025](#) to help conserve, protect and restore biodiversity in a changing climate.
- Amendments to the [Environment Protection Act 1993](#) to clarify the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) regulatory authority for climate change mitigation and adaptation and support development of a climate change environmental protection policy.
- Introduction of the [Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023](#) and regulations for a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for large scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects.
- Development of an [Urban Greening Strategy](#) for metropolitan Adelaide to increase tree canopy, cool the city, increase biodiversity and help adapt to the changing climate.
- Support for over 800 businesses to consider sustainability measures and transition to a circular economy, through the [Small Business Sustainability Support Program](#) and [Business Sustainability Program](#).
- Delivery of the [Growing Carbon Farming Demonstration Pilot](#) to support the uptake of carbon farming in the state.
- Launch of the [SA Health Climate Change and Health Framework](#), to deliver an environmentally sustainable, low carbon and climate-resilient public health system.

- Release of [South Australia's Transport Strategy](#) to enhance the connectivity, accessibility, safety, prosperity, and sustainability of the state's transport system including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change over the next 30 years.
- A review of the [implementation of the state's planning system](#), and development of the [Greater Adelaide Regional Plan](#) that will contribute to climate resilience in Greater Adelaide.
- Release of updated [climate change science and knowledge resources](#), including a Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan for South Australia 2022, Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia (2022), and an online climate projections viewer.
- Development of the draft 'Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030' setting out key priorities and actions that will support our path to a more circular and sustainable South Australia.
- Introduction of new planning regulations to provide further protections to a greater number of trees across Adelaide and better preserve urban tree canopy.

Consultation on the draft section 21 report was undertaken with relevant business, environment groups, and community organisations. Feedback provided will be considered by the government in delivering future measures to progress the objects of the Act.

Consultation

Section 21(3) requires the Minister to consult with the Premier's Climate Change Council and relevant business, environment groups, and community organisations in the conduct of the review.

Targeted consultation was undertaken during September 2025 with the Premier's Climate Change Council and other relevant business, environment groups, and community organisations. A summary of the feedback is provided below and where appropriate has been considered in this final report. Much of the feedback raised matters for consideration in design and delivery of existing and future climate adaptation and mitigation measures, Act amendments and reporting including:

- a more ambitious 2030 emission reduction target
- establishment of clear sector emissions reduction pathways and interim milestones including for 'hard to abate' sectors such as transport, agriculture and industry
- assessment of risks and gaps to inform the need for future legislative amendments
- exploring legislative standards for energy efficiency, industrial emissions and adaptation funding
- opportunities to collaborate further with local government on delivering climate related outcomes to local communities.
- investigating government's role in insurance risk linked with climate change
- recognising the connection between waste and resource recovery and reduced emissions
- addressing challenges with increasing uptake of zero and low emissions vehicles
- incorporation of metrics/indicators in future reports
- clarifying the electricity accounting method used.

Introduction

The Act provides for measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, foster the use of renewable sources of energy, and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

In 2025, the Act was amended to include the following updated targets:

- achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (SA target)
- reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% below 2005 levels by 2030 (2030 target)
- achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027 (renewable electricity target).

The amendments also included changes to some of the objects of the Act, including a new object regarding transparency (object ba) and the inclusion of a reference to consultation with First Nations people (object g).

Other amendments strengthened requirements around government planning, risk assessment and action on climate change. Further information is provided under *Additional legislative measures to meet targets* (see page 25).

Section 21 of the Act requires a review of the operational performance of the Act on a four-yearly basis. In particular:

- (a) the extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved
- (ab) insofar as is reasonably practicable, the extent to which measures adopted by the state government to facilitate climate change adaptation have been implemented
- (b) the extent to which additional legislative measures (if any) are considered necessary to achieve the targets set by the Act within the periods contemplated by this Act, including by the introduction of performance standards and other mandatory requirements
- (c) other matters determined by the Minister to be relevant to a review of this Act.

The objects are outlined in section 3 of the Act. Section 14 of the Act provides for the setting of policies that will assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting or facilitating adaptation and achieving the objects of the Act.

This is the fifth section 21 review and covers the period 2022 to 2025.

Reports of past reviews are located at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/climate-change-greenhouse-emissions-reduction-reports>.

The previous section 21 review was undertaken for the period 2018 to 2021. Feedback provided by business, environment groups, community organisations and other stakeholders on the previous report was considered in completing this report and also in undertaking the amendment of the Act completed in 2025 and development of [South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2030](#). Stakeholder feedback considered included updating the previous legislated targets, considering ways to better measure adaptation outcomes, and considering actions to support innovation to accelerate uptake of climate-related technologies.

Progress against the objects of the Act

Object (a): Achievement of ecologically sustainable development by addressing issues associated with climate change

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1) (a): to assist in the achievement of ecologically sustainable development in the State by addressing issues associated with climate change and, in particular —

- i. by setting the SA target; and
- ii. by setting the following related targets:
 - (A) the 2030 target;
 - (B) the renewable electricity target

Previous targets under the Act have been achieved, and good progress has been made towards the targets as updated in 2025 (Table 1). This assessment is based on the latest state greenhouse gas inventory data provided by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water¹. The assessment has been reviewed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), as required under section 7 of the Act.

Table 1: Progress against legislative targets

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target	Status
<p>Previous target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce, by 31 December 2050, greenhouse gas emissions within this State by at least 60% to an amount that is equal to or less than 40% of 1990 levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on 2022-23 data, South Australia reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 56% compared to 1990 levels. The 60% reduction target was not yet reached but was expected to be achieved by the 2050 target year.
<p>Current targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in the state to an amount that is at least 60% below 2005 levels by 31 December 2030 (2030 target). To achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 31 December 2050 (SA target). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest figure of 55% reduction from 2005 levels in the 2022-23 financial year indicates that South Australia is making good progress towards the updated interim greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, and the zero net greenhouse gas emissions target.
Renewable Electricity Targets	Status
<p>Previous targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the proportion of renewable electricity generated so that it comprises at least 20% of electricity generated in the State by 31 December 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three previous renewable electricity-related targets were confirmed as met in the previous section 21 report (2021). The first two targets were achieved in 2010-11,

¹<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/national-greenhouse-accounts-2023/state-and-territory-greenhouse-gas-inventories-2023-emissions>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the proportion of renewable electricity consumed so that it comprises at least 20% of electricity consumed in the State by 31 December 2014. Achieving 33% of South Australia's electricity generation to come from renewable energy by 2020. 	<p>and the remaining target was achieved in 2013-14.</p>
<p>Current target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation* in the State by 31 December 2027 (renewable electricity target) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards the net renewable electricity target in 2023-24 was 69.7%.

Note: *Under the Act, net renewable electricity generation means the contribution of renewable electricity generated in South Australia after taking into account non-renewable electricity generated in South Australia and interconnector flows over the course of a financial year.

Object (b): Emissions reduction targets, policies and programs

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(b): to promote commitment to action within the State to address climate change through —

- i. the development of specific targets (as appropriate) for various sectors of the State's economy; and
- ii. the development of various interim targets (including the interim targets under section 5(2a)); and
- iii. the development of policies, plans and programs for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and for other relevant purposes.

Commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

The South Australian Government first committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions as a policy target in 2015. In 2025, the state government legislated its commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the state by 31 December 2050.

In May 2022, the South Australian Parliament declared a climate emergency and committed to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to net zero emissions.

Development of sectoral and interim targets

The 2025 amendments to the Act included:

- an interim target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% (from 2005 levels) by 31 December 2030
- a target to achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027
- a requirement for the setting of five-yearly emissions reduction targets for 2035, 2040 and 2045.

Under the Act, the Minister may make a determination or set a target that relates to a particular enterprise or industry, a particular sector of the State's economy, a particular sector of the South Australian community, or the community more generally (see clause 5(5) of the Act).

Policies, plans and programs

In November 2024, the South Australian Government released [South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2030](#), which outlines the government's objectives, policy priorities and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the economy while creating new jobs, developing new industries, supporting wellbeing, and enabling

decarbonisation beyond our borders. The strategy will help achieve South Australia's 2030 interim target and renewable electricity target, and support progress towards the 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

An overview of policies, plans and programs relevant to the reporting period for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is provided below.

Cross-sectoral initiatives

Government leading by example

- The [Climate Ready Government initiative](#), released in late 2024, outlines how the South Australian public sector will lead by example by managing climate related risks and opportunities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in its operations. The initiative includes a [Net Zero Emissions for Government Operations Program](#) that outlines the government's approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government operations.
- Procurement SA released its Green Procurement Guideline in 2023 and is actively working toward the establishment of an ESG (environment, social, governance) strategy for government procurement that will help support emission reduction outcomes.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport has introduced a Sustainable Procurement Policy which ensures sustainability risks and opportunities are identified as part of procurement planning, and appropriate measures are implemented to address risks and realize opportunities.

Business engagement and support

- [South Australia's Small Business Strategy 2023-2030](#) outlines how the government's policies and programs will support and empower small businesses. The strategy aims to create jobs, build our economy and future-proof South Australia's small businesses, and includes a theme on 'boosting business sustainability'.
- The [Business Sustainability Program](#) has provided guidance to more than 650 South Australian businesses on implementing more circular and sustainable business practices, including grants and in-kind support, advice and guidance.
- The [Small Business Sustainability Support program](#) has supported 154 small and family businesses to improve their understanding of energy efficiency opportunities and sustainability through the program.

Energy

- The [Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023](#) and regulations commenced on 11 July 2024 and introduced a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for large scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects in South Australia. The framework facilitates the development of a sustainable industry that provides the best outcomes for communities, respects Native Title and delivers net environmental benefit.
- Construction on stage 1 of the multi-billion-dollar interconnector, Project Energy Connect (PEC), between South Australia and NSW, has been completed. The transmission line from Robertstown to the border and on to Buronga in NSW is operational, allowing an extra 150MW of electricity to flow, effectively increasing the capacity on the existing Victoria-South Australia interconnector. The new interstate link has reduced wind curtailment enabling large scale wind farms to generate greater output into the network.
- Other examples of energy-related initiatives include:
 - support for energy efficiency for example through a new [Powering Business Grants](#) round
 - an energy efficient retrofit pilot in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands
 - increasing renewable energy supply to remote townships and remote Aboriginal Communities across South Australia
 - continued installation of home and community batteries, including through South Australia's Virtual Power Plant and the emPowering SA program

- demonstration of the benefits of smart home energy management through the Energy Masters project.

For more information see object (c) (page 13) and object (e) (page 16).

Transport

- In partnership with the RAA, the South Australian Government's Statewide Electric Vehicle Charging Network is complete. The Statewide Charging Network provides more than 550 charging points across 144 locations throughout South Australia, with 75% of charging sites located in regional townships along highways, in tourism hotspots and at popular holiday accommodation sites.
- The South Australian Government provided funding for Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Trials, which focused on demonstrating how electric vehicle charging can be integrated into the grid to realise electricity cost savings for all South Australians. All trials are now complete, with final reports due for submission.
- [South Australia's Transport Strategy](#) was released, providing a 30-year vision for the state's transport system, aiming to enhance connectivity, accessibility, safety, prosperity, and sustainability. The strategy includes a strategic response to adopt a comprehensive approach to decarbonisation and environmental sustainability to meet South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and net zero goals. This includes strategic actions to transition the state's transport fleets to sustainable alternatives, support a shift to lower-emissions transport and reduce reliance on private vehicles, and to use low-emission technologies when delivering transport infrastructure.
- The 2024-25 State Budget included: \$5 million to complete planning for bus and depot infrastructure to support transition to a zero-emissions public transport bus fleet; and \$2 million to deliver planning studies to identify solutions to support transition to a zero-emissions public transport rail fleet.
- The state government has ordered sixty brand new 100% full battery electric buses, to be delivered progressively throughout the second half of 2025 and early 2026.
- Following the conversion of 50 railcars, Adelaide Metro's non-electrified rail lines are now serviced entirely by hybrid-diesel railcars since early 2025, reducing fuel consumption by between 700,000 and 1 million litres of diesel each year.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport is implementing several initiatives to enhance South Australia's public transport system, including:
 - a Regional Review which is focusing on identifying key needs and gaps in current services for regional communities
 - a Northern Adelaide Transport Study to consider the key issues and opportunities to improve transport to support liveability, population and economic growth, including consideration of mass transit options which support greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 - development of a Public Transport Strategy that will set the vision for public transport in South Australia for the next 30 years.
- A new [Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#) was released in June 2024, which supports measures to reduce the emissions intensity of freight decarbonisation and climate change response as a core element.
- As at 30 June 2025, the government's passenger and light commercial motor vehicle fleet consisted of 7,113 vehicles, 65.8% of which qualify as low greenhouse gas emissions.
- The South Australian Government is also implementing initiatives to encourage active travel opportunities:
 - An Active Travel Design Guide was released in September 2024, to provide information to practitioners on embedding convenient and attractive walking and cycling infrastructure in new development.
 - In March 2025, the South Australian Government announced \$2 million through the State Bicycle Fund to support 21 projects to improve cycling infrastructure across 14 councils.

Through the National Road Safety Program and in partnership with the Australian Government, \$37 million was allocated for improvements to footpaths and cycleways.

- The South Australian Government continues to deliver the Way2Go program, which provides support to local primary schools to promote safer, greener and more active travel among students and their communities. In 2025, 60 primary schools will participate in the [Way2Go Bike Ed program](#).

Agriculture and land use

- The South Australian Government continues to work with the agriculture sector to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions. Examples include: a project on Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems through the Grain Research and Development Corporation; a collaboration with Meat and Livestock Australia to measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions from the livestock sector; and a Natural Capital and Emissions Baseline Report for Kangaroo Island.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), in partnership with Grain Producers SA, is supporting 58 farms across the state to undertake emissions accounts, with a focus on grains.
- The [Growing Carbon Farming Demonstration Pilot](#) funded six projects from across the state with up to \$100,000 each to implement commercial carbon farming methodologies that demonstrate carbon farming methods with the greatest relevance to South Australian production systems.
- The [Carbon Farming Roadmap](#) was released in November 2022, which guides the state government and private sector in understanding carbon farming, addressing risks and challenges, developing skills, and undertaking opportunities.
- The following initiatives have been delivered under the [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia 2020-2025](#):
 - On ground works for a partnership with The Nature Conservancy to restore and enhance 12,400 hectares of mangroves and saltmarsh habitats located 50 km north of Adelaide in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary were completed in 2024-2025. The project has been successfully registered under the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme.
 - South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the University of Adelaide, with support from the Department for Environment and Water, have secured funding to extend seagrass restoration near Port Gawler, north of Adelaide, which builds on other work funded by the South Australian Government along the metropolitan coastline.
 - Green Adelaide facilitated the Blue Carbon Futures grants program to support better understanding of the blue carbon potential of saltmarsh, mangrove and seagrass habitats, potential projects, and carbon sequestration opportunities, and improve management and community understanding of the values of these habitats.

Manufacturing and resources

- [South Australia's Advanced Manufacturing Strategy](#) identifies key areas of competitive advantage for the state and aligns them with strategic priorities that represent significant enablers of growth. Manufacturing is a major enabler of South Australia's industrial transformation and will contribute to increasing the state's economic complexity, unlocking the full potential of opportunities in renewables, hydrogen, and minerals, and supporting connections to green global value chains and the transition to net zero. The Manufacturing Action Plan was published on 5 December 2024.
- The [Green Iron and Steel Strategy](#) was released in 2024, to position South Australia as a competitive producer of low carbon iron and steel. The strategy aims to enhance South Australia's comparative advantage, establish local green steel industry foundations, and ensure a sustainable, long-term industry and shared prosperity.
- Commencement of the Moomba Carbon Capture and Storage project. For more information - see *object (e) (page 19)*

Built environment

- The [Renewal SA Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#) includes actions to develop an agency-wide sustainability strategy, establish a dedicated team, embed environmental, social and economic sustainability targets into all new projects and demonstrate new housing initiatives that influence the private sector to deliver carbon neutrality.
- [South Australia's State Infrastructure Strategy 2025](#) was released, which presents opportunities to drive economic growth, prosperity, and liveability to 2045. The strategy includes climate-related recommendations, including: to develop a South Australian infrastructure decarbonisation policy to manage greenhouse gas emissions across the asset lifecycle; and develop an Infrastructure Sustainability Framework that provides guidance on incorporating sustainability standards and reporting across all stages of the infrastructure lifecycle.
- Other initiatives relating to energy efficiency are included under object (c) (*page 15*), including:
 - the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme
 - adoption of the [National Construction Code 2022](#) provisions
 - South Australia's [Learning Hub for Energy Efficient Construction 'Net Zero Energy Builder'](#)
 - electrification of health facilities in South Australia.
- The [Greater Adelaide Regional Plan](#) and other Regional Plans include objectives strengthen climate-smart planning, building and design policies; design of urban communities that are walkable, connected neighbourhoods; and facilitation of green technologies and industries.

Waste and Circular Economy

- The [Beyond Recycling: Moving SA Towards a Circular Economy](#) (2024) discussion paper explored a variety of policy and legislative measures to support a circular economy in South Australia. Circular economy and waste minimisation practices help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Policy measures under consideration will primarily be implemented through a review of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010.
- Expansion of the range of products banned under the [Single-use and Other Plastic Products \(Waste Avoidance\) Act 2020](#) has continued. The following dates are key milestones: March 2022 (expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates, clamshell containers and oxo-degradable plastic products), September 2023 (pizza savers, plastic stemmed cotton buds, single-use plastic bowls and single-use plastic plates), and September 2024 (plastic barrier bags, plastic film shopping bags, single-use plastic hot and cold beverage containers and their attachments (such as lids and beverage plugs), single-use plastic food containers used for ready-to-eat foods, other expanded polystyrene consumer food and beverage containers and meat trays, plastic balloon sticks and ties, plastic confetti, and plastic food bag tags). The third stage of bans (announced in November 2022) covering soy sauce fish, prepacked EPS food containers and attached plastic straws and cutlery came into effect in September 2025.
- The draft '[Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030](#)' went out for public consultation in mid-2025, with the strategy to be finalised and released by the end of 2025.
- A [suite of waste and recycling guides](#) have been developed to support implementation of better practices including: Waste and Recycling Business Essentials; Waste and Recycling: Office Basics and Office Case Study; Waste and Recycling Procurement and Contracts; Government Office Waste: Strategy and Better Practices Guide; and a 'Sustainable Kerbside Service' model better practice guide and toolkit for local councils.
- The South Australian Government supports the establishment of a national product stewardship regulatory scheme covering solar photovoltaic system including battery energy storage systems. Where there is no action or plan from the Australian Government to undertake this approach, the South Australian Government is considering nationally aligned legislative reform to establish state-based mandatory product stewardship framework and regulations, prioritising battery types with the highest risk profiles.

- A trial for the safe collection of embedded battery products was held at four locations across South Australia in late 2024, in a partnership between the state government, Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority, Campbelltown City Council, the City of West Torrens and the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority. The South Australian Government is progressing and finalising an interim measure to establish community disposal points for end-of-life embedded battery products in the State until an effective product stewardship scheme is in place for all batteries.

Object (ba): Promote transparency, including through public reporting

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(ba): to promote transparency in relation to the operation of the Act, including through the public reporting of information

Refer also to Object (i) Reporting below.

Reporting under the Act

The Minister prepares a report every two years on the operation of the Act regarding greenhouse gas emissions reduction and renewable electricity targets, in accordance with Section 7 of the Act.

A broader review of the Act and its operation is undertaken every four years, in accordance with section 21. Consultation with the Premier's Climate Change Council and other relevant business, environment and community groups is undertaken as part of this process.

Copies of the section 21 and 7 reports are publicly available at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/climate-change-greenhouse-emissions-reduction-reports>.

Agency reporting requirements

The Department for Environment and Water includes in its annual report information on work undertaken by the Department on the development of climate change policy and related initiatives, as required under Section 20 of the Act. The annual report is also publicly available at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/annual-reports>.

Amendments to section 20A of the Act made in 2025 also require that the annual reports prepared by public sector agencies must, to the extent that it is relevant to the operations or activities of the agency, include a report on the manner in which the agency is addressing matters relating to climate related risks and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions reporting

The Department for Environment and Water reports annually on South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and progress against the legislated greenhouse gas targets. This report is based on data released by the Australian Government in the State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories (STGGI), which provides an overview of annual greenhouse gas emissions estimates for each Australian state and territory. The STGGI is a disaggregation of the greenhouse gas emissions estimates in the National Inventory Report submitted by the Australian Government to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) each year.

Information on South Australia's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions can be found at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/south-australias-greenhouse-gas-emissions>.

International reporting requirements

The South Australian Government provides input into the annual global Compact of States and Regions Disclosure Report on climate action, through the [CDP \(formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project\) States and Regions Questionnaire](#). All data submitted through this process is publicly available through the CDP website.

Object (c): Encouraging energy efficiency and conservation

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(c): to encourage energy efficiency and conservation

Over the reporting period energy efficiency and conservation was encouraged in the residential, commercial, transport and government sectors. The government provides public information to strengthen understanding of energy efficiency and clean energy options and engages with industry groups to support capacity and skills in improving home energy performance and National Construction Code compliance.

An overview of key initiatives for the reporting period is provided below.

- The [Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme](#) (REPS) is a South Australian Government energy productivity scheme that provides incentives for South Australian households and businesses to save energy. The REPS obliges retailers to deliver services that support households and businesses in reducing their energy costs, whilst also maximising the benefits to South Australia's power system by delivering a smarter, more affordable, reliable and sustainable energy future. Changes to the REPS were implemented during 2024 to improve outcomes and access for identified priority customers. The 2024 REPS Annual Report (published September 2025) showed the 2024 total annual energy productivity published target of 3,437,500 gigajoules was achieved.
- The South Australian Government partnered with SA Power Networks to establish the \$13.8 million [Energy Masters project](#). Energy Masters aims to demonstrate the benefits of residential demand flexibility and smart home energy management for both households and the grid as a whole, in ways that could avoid or delay electricity network build costs, reduce the need for additional grid scale generation and storage, improve electricity market efficiency, improve the use of rooftop solar in the home, and reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2023, the South Australian Government, through the Department for Energy and Mining and principal partners University of South Australia and the South Australian Housing Trust, initiated an energy efficient retrofit pilot in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands through the Reliable Affordable Clean Energy (RACE) for 2030 Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). The pilot aims to investigate and provide solutions to challenges for energy performance and thermal comfort in remote housing. Retrofits have been implemented on six houses in the Iwantja community. Initial results have seen dramatic improvements in airtightness and thermal comfort. The pilot has a strong focus on community engagement, training and employment, with the community having direct involvement in the development and delivery of education and education materials for households and trades.
- A total of \$20 million has been allocated from the Business Growth Fund for a new [Powering Business Grants](#) round, to support South Australian small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations to invest in energy efficient equipment or improvements to reduce and manage energy use and costs. Eligible businesses can apply for a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$75,000.
- South Australia adopted the [National Construction Code 2022](#) energy efficiency provisions on 1 October 2024. Concessions to assist industry with the transition to the new requirements apply to some developments including:
 - on small or irregular allotments (frontages 10m or less or area less than 300 sqm)
 - in cooler Climate Zone 6
 - with homes manufactured off-site; and
 - for workers or tourist accommodation.
- South Australia launched an online, on-demand Learning Hub for Energy Efficient Construction called the '[Net Zero Energy Builder](#)' (2023). The Net Zero Energy Builder links to free government and industry resources, case studies, and nationally curated continuing professional development options for building, design, trade and regulator professionals. The site showcases South Australia's nationally respected Net Zero Homes – Skills Training course, which includes unique modules on design and

construction of high-performing, efficient 7-star-plus homes, and integrating energy-efficient appliances, rooftop solar PV and storage to achieve true net zero outcomes.

- The Kangkanthi Clinical Services Building at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (opened in 2024) is the first major public healthcare building in Australia to be all-electric, with no natural gas used within the building.
- South Australia's first all-electric hospital, including its aged care services, opened on Kangaroo Island in 2025, phasing out gas to both lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs. SA Health has further commitments for a 100% electrified New Women's & Children's Hospital (2026).
- Renewal SA maintained 6 Star Green Star Community Ratings for its sustainable urban development projects at Lot Fourteen, Tonsley Innovation District and Bowden Precinct.

Object (d): Promoting research and development

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(d): to promote research and development with respect to the development and use of technology to reduce, limit or prevent greenhouse gas emissions or to support adaptation to climate change, including by developing ways to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

The South Australian Government, research organisations and the private sector were involved in a wide range of research and development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to support adaptation.

An overview of some of these activities is outlined below.

- PIRSA has facilitated trials of algae (seaweed) on multiple aquaculture licences in Lower Eyre Peninsula and approved a number of aquaculture licences (land-based and marine) to farm seaweed in commercial quantities. To date, 56 aquaculture licences have algae approved as a permitted species, including two seaweed licences issued to the Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation (Point Pearce). Seaweed farms will have a two-fold environmental/climate benefit: carbon reduction (e.g. feed supplement for livestock to reduce methane emissions) and nutrient offset, including from finfish and tuna aquaculture through the uptake of nitrogen, as well as its potential use in food, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and biofuels.
- The South Australian Research and Development Institute's (SARDI) soil improvement and modification program includes projects to trial advances in soil science and management. Areas of focus include soil carbon, sandy soils, subsoil constraints, acidity, and soil protection. The state government also has a Soil Carbon Forward Plan and Baselines and Conditions Indicator projects to better measure carbon potential in South Australia.
- SARDI is delivering three streams of the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock (MERiL) program—part of the Commonwealth's \$29 million initiative focused on reducing enteric methane emissions. The works includes trials involving Bovear (3-NOP) in pelleted feed for ewes, loose lick delivery of Agolin and Nitrates, and water-based delivery of Agolin and Bovear. The trials assess their individual and combined impacts on methane emissions, production traits, and animal health.
- PIRSA and SARDI are key partners in delivering the Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems (LEIFS) program. The program is a \$39 million, 5-year national initiative, led by the Grain Research and Development Corporation, to explore and demonstrate the benefits of monitoring, managing and reporting greenhouse gas accounts at the farm scale. It will also offer grain growers practical options to manage greenhouse gas emissions risks and identify which greenhouse gas markets and sustainability credentialing schemes align with their enterprise goals. Other partners for the project include the CSIRO, the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- The South Australian Government has been, and continues to be, involved in a number of Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) that support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, including:
 - [Future Fuels CRC](#) – an industry focussed research, development and demonstration partnership enabling the decarbonisation of Australia's energy networks.

- [Future Battery Industries CRC](#) – a six-year research and development program to target all segments of the battery value chain and deliver commercial, proprietary outcomes to accelerate industry expansion and grow a vibrant, emerging battery industry sector.
 - [End Food Waste CRC](#) – focuses on improving the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of the Australian food industry.
 - [Reliable Affordable Clean Energy \(RACE\) for 2030 CRC](#) – created with an objective of driving innovation and accelerating the shift to a reliable, affordable, and clean energy transition.
 - [Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition CRC](#) – focusing on transforming the heavy industry for the low-carbon economy through integrating green energy sources such as hydrogen, ammonia and solar into the high-heat and high-emissions manufacturing processes for products like steel, aluminium, and cement.
 - [CRC for High Performance Soils](#) – aims to enable farmers to increase their productivity and profitability by providing them with knowledge and tools to improve the performance of their soils.
 - [Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre \(MB-CRC\)](#) – aims to accelerate the growth of the emerging export-focussed marine bioproducts industry, such as seaweed and marine micro-algae.
 - [One Basin CRC](#) – aims to develop policy, technical and financial solutions to support and reduce exposure to climate, water, and environmental threats and increase agricultural production while ensuring environmental resilience and sustainability of the Murray-Darling Basin.
 - [Zero Net Emissions-Agriculture CRC](#) – a multi-stakeholder approach to transitioning Australian agriculture to net-zero, healthy, resilient, and profitable food systems by 2040.
 - [CRC for Transformations in Mining Economies](#) – aims to help solve the challenge of mine closure and post-mine transitions – economically, socially, culturally and environmentally.
 - [Solving Plastic Waste CRC](#) – aims to assist in solving Australia’s plastic waste problem by enhancing end-user driven collaboration which addresses the current challenges across the entire plastics value chain.
- An updated [Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan for South Australia](#) was released in 2022, which outlines actions to improve the evidence base to make decisions, find innovative solutions, and take action to respond and adapt to the changing climate.
 - An updated [Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia](#) was also released in 2022, to provide information on the changes in climate that are projected to occur in South Australia, drawing on information from a range of sources, primarily the CSIRO, BoM, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Goyder Institute for Water Research. [Statewide maps of key climate variables](#) were also released.
 - South Australia has a new [online climate projections viewer](#) which gives businesses, government agencies and the community access to climate projection maps and data.
 - The [NARCLiM](#) (New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Regional Climate Modelling) project is a New South Wales Government-led partnership between the New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Australian Governments and the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. South Australia joined the NARCLiM partnership in 2020.

The project provides high resolution climate change projections for south-eastern Australia. In 2022, the project updated high-resolution climate projections aligned with the global climate change projections of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Updated NARCLiM 2.0 projections are currently being processed to update South Australia’s climate projections. NARCLiM 2.0 has higher resolution simulations and improved simulation of precipitation, temperature and climate extremes. Following the processing of this data, it will replace NARCLiM 1.5 and be made available through the Department for Environment and Water’s interactive online

mapping tool so users can view projected changes for locations such as council areas, regional town and landscape regions. These updates will be made available in late 2025.

Object (e): Encouraging the commercialisation of renewable energy and technologies

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(e): to encourage the commercialisation of renewable energy and of technologies that will reduce, limit or prevent greenhouse gas emissions or support adaptation to climate change.

A range of actions and initiatives aim to encourage the commercialisation of renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction technologies.

An overview of key initiatives relevant to the reporting period is outlined below.

Renewable electricity

- The South Australian Government has continued to support the installation of home batteries. According to SA Power Networks, as of April 2025 there were 49,275 South Australian homes with one or more residential batteries installed. These batteries have a combined capacity of more than 620 megawatt-hours, which is over twice the capacity of the AGL Torrens Island battery, currently South Australia's largest grid-scale battery.
- South Australia's Virtual Power Plant (SA VPP) has continued to grow in solar system installations and signups, with tenants in nearly 7,000 SA Housing Trust homes now benefitting from SA VPP.
- Through the [emPowering SA program](#), the South Australian Government is delivering 18 community battery storage assets across South Australia that directly benefit low income and vulnerable South Australian households. Two community batteries, emPowering Magill and emPowering Edwardstown, were deployed under the program in 2024, and a further 16 will roll out across 2025 and 2026.
- The South Australian Government continues to advance its commitment to high-penetration renewable energy and battery storage in remote communities across South Australia. Significant upgrades to the Central Powerhouse in Umuwa, located in the APY Lands, have been successfully completed, including a 3MW solar farm and a 1MW battery system. This upgrade has an average renewable penetration of 28% and an annual fuel saving of approximately 700,000 litres. Building on this progress, two new renewable power stations have recently been upgraded or built:
 - In 2023–24, 64kW solar panels were installed at Manna Hill, complementing the existing battery system.
 - In April 2025, the Oodnadatta Renewable Power Station was commissioned, featuring a 570kW solar installation and a 1MWh battery system. This new station is expected to provide up to 75% of the community's energy needs from renewable sources.

Demand management trials

- The South Australian Government supports demand management trials on integration of distributed electricity generation, demand response and demand aggregation assets to increase grid efficiency and incentivise consumers to manage their own electricity demand. The program is now in its final stages.

Carbon capture and storage

- The South Australian Government supports well-regulated carbon capture and storage (CCS) through facilitation of internationally recognised standards, licensing and regulation under the *Energy Resources Act 2000* to enable implementation of CCS projects; and through policy development in consultation with industry, to provide an investment framework for CCS.
- The Moomba CCS project commenced operation in September 2024, and is currently injecting 1.7 million tonnes per year of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the depleted oil and gas fields of the Cooper Basin for permanent storage. Monitoring results are publicly available on the Department for Energy

and Mining website: <https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/energy-resources/regulation/projects-of-public-interest/cooper-basin-carbon-storage>.

Climate tech sector development

- A pilot SA Climate Tech Sector Stakeholder Roundtable and Activation Event was held in November 2022, and a South Australian Climate Tech Showcase Event was held in February 2023. More than 130 industry stakeholders attended the Roundtable and Activation event. More than 190 industry stakeholders and corporate customers attended the Showcase event, at which 21 South Australian climate tech companies pitched their solutions, and 7 climate tech investors reverse pitched to the companies. Three additional Climate Tech Sector Activation and one additional Roundtable event have since been facilitated, in partnership with Adelaide Economic Development Agency, Core Innovation Hub, Stone and Chalk, Adelaide Zero, and the South Australian AgTech Meetup.
- South Australia is a founding member of the [GovTech Global Alliance](#) – a worldwide network of 20 government, academia, and private sector partners who collaborate across-borders to improve the public sector innovation ecosystems. As part of the Alliance, the state government co-developed and co-delivers the Global Scaleup Program to source, surface and scale climate tech innovations with global public sector applications.
- In 2024 and 2025, the South Australian Government provided funding to five South Australian startups through the Research and Innovation Fund (RIF) to commercialise innovative solutions to support the low emissions transition and climate adaptation for global markets.

Other key state government strategic plans and initiatives that encourage the commercialisation of renewable energy and of technologies that will reduce, limit or prevent greenhouse gas emissions or support adaptation to climate change are referenced under Objects (b) (page 9) and (c) (page 14).

Some of the CRCs mentioned under Object (d) (page 16) may also support the commercialisation of technologies to support adaptation, for example, the CRC for High Performance Soils and the One Basin CRC.

Object (f): Recognising achievements

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(f): to provide recognition to bodies and persons who commit to addressing climate change by achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, by increasing the use of renewable energy sources, by introducing emissions off set programs or by adopting other relevant initiatives.

South Australian Climate Leaders Awards

The Premier's Climate Change Council hosted two South Australian Climate Leaders Awards in [2022](#) and [2024](#) to recognise individuals and organisations taking action to address climate change. Entries were received from many different industries and sectors, including local councils, the building industry, community organisations and more.

Premier's Awards: Energy and Mining

The [Premier's Awards: Energy and Mining](#) highlight innovative approaches and new technologies that drive progress and set new high-performance standards in the industry. The awards include an 'environment' category, to acknowledge outstanding achievement by an organisation in delivering positive environmental results.

The South Australian Government also supports other initiatives to recognise climate change-related achievements. This includes the Conservation Council of SA's South Australia Environment Awards, which celebrate and acknowledge the state's champions working in nature protection, climate action, sustainability and care for Country.

Object (g): Business, First Nations and community consultation

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1) (g): to encourage and facilitate business, First Nations people and community consultation and early action with respect to issues surrounding climate change.

South Australia's Industry Climate Change Conference

The South Australian Government hosted two SA Industry Climate Change Conferences (ICCC), in partnership with the Premier's Climate Change Council, in [2023](#) and [2025](#). The events included presentations from, and panel discussions with, business, industry and government leaders to share practical case studies on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate adaptation measures.

ICCC 2023 recorded 857 attendees and involved 60 speakers, while ICCC 2025 had 735 attendees with 82 speakers engaged.

For ICCC 2025, an Industry Association Reference Group was established, including representatives from the following organisations to provide input into the event's program:

- Australian Industry Group
- Food South Australia
- Master Builders Association of South Australia Inc
- Motor Trade Association (South Australia/Northern Territory)
- Primary Producers SA
- Property Council of Australia South Australia Division
- South Australian Business Chamber
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia.

Community Climate Conversations

In 2023, the South Australian Government partnered with the Conservation Council of SA and South Australians for Climate Action to involve South Australians in conversations about how we work together to develop a net zero greenhouse gas emissions future.

More than 750 South Australians were involved through over 100 conversations held statewide. These conversations have informed the development of legislation and strategies for achieving South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions targets. This included a workshop with First Nations people from across the state. For information on the outcomes from the conversations, see [South Australia's Community Climate Conversations - democracyCo.](#)

First Nations engagement

The South Australian Government is committed to genuine consultation and engagement with First Nations communities. Some examples are outlined below.

- DEW engaged with First Nations communities through a series of workshops in March and April 2024 to hear directly from communities about climate change issues and initiatives, including the Draft Amendment Bill for the Act. One online workshop and three in-person workshops were held in Adelaide, Murray Bridge and Port Lincoln. Following consultation, the Act was amended to include consultation with First Nations people as an object of the Act, and that a function of the Minister is to promote consultation with First Nations people about issues associated with climate change.
- An object of the *Biodiversity Act 2025* is to recognise and respect that Aboriginal people are the enduring custodians of the lands and waters of the state and have a fundamental role in, and knowledge of, caring for Country, including in relation to conserving and restoring biodiversity. It requires those administering the Act to seek Aboriginal knowledges where possible and provides for an Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee. The legislation was drafted following consultation with First Nations representatives throughout 2024 and 2025 including meetings with peak bodies and organisations at multiple in-person engagement workshops in early 2024 ('[What we heard](#)' report

available), and specific engagement on the draft Bill via online sessions in February 2025, summarised in a [First Nations engagement report](#).

- The *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* includes provisions to enable engagement with Aboriginal people to ensure the regulatory framework in this Act maximizes beneficial economic, environmental and social impacts and minimizes adverse cultural and heritage impacts on Aboriginal people. This is being supported by extensive consultation with First Nations peoples on both economic opportunities as well as challenges, by the Department for Energy and Mining.
- Remote townships and remote Aboriginal Communities across South Australia are engaged in renewable energy projects through the Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) scheme. RAES provides a safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity supply to homes and businesses in remote south Australian towns – which includes 13 remote townships and 15 remote Aboriginal Communities.
- National Parks in South Australia are co-managed in partnership between the state government and Aboriginal groups to combine traditional knowledge with contemporary park management.
- A guiding principle of SA Health’s Climate Change and Health Framework is a First Nations’ focus ‘to understand impacts, centre and learn from existing cultural knowledge’.

Premier’s Climate Change Council

The Premier’s Climate Change Council (PCCC) is established under section 9 of the Act to provide independent advice to the Minister on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The Act stipulates the PCCC is required to have representation across various sectors, including business and community sectors.

The Council also has a leadership role in engaging with the various sectors regarding the state’s climate change agenda, and to disseminate information to business and other groups in order to encourage implementation to address climate change. Over the reporting period, the PCCC engaged with a wide range of organisations and individuals.

The PCCC has provided input into various state government climate-related consultations including:

- amendments to the Act
- development of the *Biodiversity Act 2025*
- the state’s planning system implementation review
- development of transport and public transport strategies
- development of a new waste strategy (currently being finalised).

Climate Change Sector Agreements

Section 16 of the Act provides for the development of voluntary [climate change sector agreements](#). These underpin partnerships between the South Australian Government, local government and other regional organisations to help facilitate responses to climate change. Since the commencement of the Act’s operation in 2007, the South Australian Government has entered into over 25 sector agreements that support climate change adaptation and mitigation action, and innovation in technologies and practices.

Other consultation

Consultation with stakeholders and/or the broader community has been undertaken by the South Australian Government to inform the development of initiatives that support climate change action, including:

- [Smart meters in South Australia](#) [2022]
- [State of the Environment Report 2023](#) [2022-2023]
- Continued planning reform consultation in [2022](#), [2024](#) and [2025](#)
- [South Australia’s Energy Future](#) [2023]
- Review of the [Landscape SA Act 2019](#) [2023]
- [South Australia’s next 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy](#) [2023]

- Amendments to the *Environment Protection Act 1993* via the [Environment Protection \(Objects of Act and Board Attributes\) Amendment Act 2023](#)
- *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* [draft bill](#), [draft regulations](#) and [release areas](#) [2023-2024]
- [Greater Adelaide Regional Plan](#) [2024] and other Regional Plans (e.g. [Murray Mallee](#), [Limestone Coast](#), [Far North](#))
- [South Australia's Copper Strategy](#) [2024]
- [Environment Protection \(Beverage Container Deposit Scheme\) Amendment Bill 2024](#)
- [Review](#) of the *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020* [2024] and proposed amendments for [2023](#), [2024](#) and [2025](#)
- Water security strategies and allocation plans for various regions (e.g. [Mclaren Vale 2023](#); [Barossa 2025](#))
- Review of the [Environment Protection \(Waste to Resources\) Policy 2010](#) [2024]
- Review of the [Emergency Management Act 2004](#) [2024]
- Amendments to the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007](#) [2024]
- [Draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metro Adelaide](#) [2024]
- [South Australia's draft Youth Action Plan 2024 – 2027](#) [2024-2025]
- [Biodiversity Act](#) [2023-2025]
- [SA Health Climate Change Framework](#) [2024] and [SA Health Strategy 2025-2030](#) [in consultation 2025]
- [Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme 2026-2030](#) [2025]
- Review of South Australia's [Mining Act 1971](#) [2025]
- [South Australia's Public Transport Strategy](#) [2025]
- [Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030](#) [2025]
- Development and program delivery of [Landscape Boards](#) Regional Landscape Plans and review of the [State Landscape Strategy](#) [2022-2025]
- Preparation of the [Environment Protection Authority's 30-Year Strategy](#) [2025]

Object (h): Support and facilitate adaptation

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(h): to support measures to facilitate adaptation to circumstances that will inevitably be caused by climate change including by supporting measures that will improve the ability of the community species and ecosystems to deal with the effects of climate change

Information regarding adaptation initiatives implemented during the reporting period is provided under the 'Climate change adaptation measures' section below (Page 25).

Object (i): Reporting

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 3(1)(i): to provide for reporting on progress being made within the State to meet the South Australian target, and other specific or interim targets associated with reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and to meet targets associated with the generation or use of renewable electricity.

The Minister prepares a report every two years on the operation of the Act regarding greenhouse gas emissions reduction and renewable energy targets, in accordance with Section 7 of the Act. This includes an assessment of the effectiveness of initiatives being adopted, progress to achieve targets and other elements.

Copies of the Section 7 reports can be found at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/climate-change-greenhouse-emissions-reduction-reports>.

The Department for Environment and Water reports annually on South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and progress against the legislated greenhouse gas targets. This report is based on data released by the Australian Government in the State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories (STGGI), which provide an overview of annual greenhouse gas emissions estimates for each Australian state and territory. The STGGI is a disaggregation of the greenhouse gas emissions estimates in the National Inventory Report submitted by the Australian Government to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) each year.

Object (j): Promote consistency with national and international policy; and Object (k): Contribute and respond to national and international policy

Relevant extracts from Act:

Section 3(1)(j): to promote action within South Australia that provides consistency with national and international schemes designed to address climate change, including schemes that relate to emissions trading and emissions reporting.

Section 3(1)(k): to enhance the ability of the State to contribute to, and to respond expeditiously to, national and international developments associated with issues surrounding climate change.

The South Australian Government has promoted action that is consistent with national and international policy.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement² sets a framework for all countries to take climate change action from 2020. The Agreement further commits countries to set mitigation targets from 2020, to review targets every five years to build ambition over time, and to promote action to adapt and build resilience to climate impacts. Australia ratified the Paris Agreement in November 2016.

The South Australian Government's targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and its actions under its Net Zero Plan and other initiatives are consistent with the Paris Agreement.

National policy alignment

South Australia is represented on the national Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC). It provides a forum for collaboration between the Commonwealth, Australian states and territories, along with New Zealand on nationally significant energy and climate change matters. The ECMC is chaired by the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Commonwealth Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

South Australian Government representatives are involved in two working groups under ECMC:

- Adaptation Working Group (AWG) to foster best practice approaches to adaptation and enable jurisdictions to collaborate and consult on priority matters of common interest. It is the primary vehicle for cross-jurisdictional collaboration and consultation on the National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan.
- Decarbonisation Working Group (DWG) that provides strategic guidance on greenhouse gas emissions reduction to ECMC.

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

Responsiveness to international developments

The South Australian Government participates in a range of international forums and programs.

- A representative from South Australia attends the annual [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP\)](#) every year, to promote the state's achievements and strengthen international partnerships.
- Martin Haese, Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council, attended the Climate Group's [Climate Week in New York City](#) in 2022, to engage with sub-national government representatives as well as non-profit organisations and businesses. A South Australian representative will also be attending the event in September 2025.
- South Australia is a member of the [Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership](#) (MCAP), a global alliance of 16 regions with mediterranean climates that share approaches and co-develop strategies to adapt to drought, wildfire and heat, through a series of technical working groups comprising experts from member governments. Representatives from South Australia attended the MCAP annual convenings in 2024 (in Barcelona) and in 2025 (Cape Town), and various leadership and technical working group online meetings.
- The [Under2Coalition](#) is made up of more than 220 state, regional, provincial and subnational governments who share expertise on innovative policy, report on measurable climate actions, and drive greenhouse gas emissions reduction initiatives. South Australia is a signatory to the Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding (the Under2MOU), which aims for sub-national governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions towards net zero by 2050, and is an Under2Coalition Steering Group Member. South Australia contributes to the Under2 Ambition Tracker, a survey to assist in tracking progress of net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- The [Net Zero Futures Policy Forum](#) is an international partnership of governments committed to addressing the practical challenges of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Its focus is on practical collaboration that can help governments shape the best global net zero policy solutions. The South Australian Government is a founding member of the Forum, and is currently the Secretariat as of July 2025.
- South Australia contributes to the [CDP](#) (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) annual questionnaire, which provides a transparent, global picture of the impact, progress and climate action driven by state and regional governments.
- South Australia is a member of [RegionsAdapt](#) which supports regional governments to collaborate, exchange knowledge and share best practice on adaptation and resilience to climate change.

International declarations

During COP26 in November 2021, the South Australian Government signed the following declarations:

- [Edinburgh declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) – to support action and collaboration to recognise the value of nature and biodiversity, integrate it into policy, raise public awareness and share best practice among jurisdictions.
- [COP26 declaration on accelerating the transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans](#) – to support the global shift to zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles (at the tailpipe).

State of California – Letter of Cooperation

On 15 May 2024, the Premier of South Australia signed a Letter of Cooperation with California alongside the Acting Governor of California. Both states have agreed to work together to advance the renewable energy and clean hydrogen transition, including through:

- advancing large-scale renewable energy generation and storage, as well as clean renewable hydrogen projects to produce green hydrogen and other low and zero carbon fuels
- supporting the decarbonisation and electrification of buildings, industry, and transportation, and technologies to achieve better energy efficiency and demand management

- undertaking adaptation actions to build resilience, protect communities and improve ecological function
- strengthening critical minerals supply chains.

Climate change adaptation measures

Relevant extract from Act:

Section 21(2)(ab) requires a specific report on, insofar as is reasonably practicable, the extent to which measures adopted by the State Government to facilitate climate change adaptation have been implemented.

Note - this section also addresses 'Object (h): to support measures to facilitate adaptation to circumstances that will inevitably be caused by climate change including by supporting measures that will improve the ability of the community species and ecosystems to deal with the effects of climate change'.

Between 2020 and 2024, the South Australian Climate Change Actions and the Responding to Climate Change documents outlined adaptation actions the South Australian Government was undertaking. As at the end of 2024, nine adaptation actions adopted by the South Australian Government under these documents were completed and 32 were in progress.

These plans were superseded at the end of 2024 by [South Australia's Net Zero Strategy](#) and the [South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions](#), which cover the state's mitigation and adaptation efforts, respectively. Actions from the previous documents that are still in progress are now reflected in the South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions document, which outlines a range of actions to support efforts across all levels of government, business and the community to better prepare for, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

An overview of key measures that have been, or are being implemented by, the state government is provided below. It is also noted that many government agencies also incorporate action to facilitate adaptation in response to climate related risks as part of their business-as-usual risk management processes.

- In 2023, the [Environment Protection Act 1993](#) was amended to clarify the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) regulatory authority for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The EPA is undertaking preliminary work to inform the drafting of a climate change Environment Protection Policy which will be used to provide clarity and certainty on its regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate adaptation requirements.
- A new [Biodiversity Act 2025](#) was enacted to help conserve, protect and restore biodiversity in a changing climate.
- The [Urban Greening Strategy](#) for metropolitan Adelaide, released in March 2025, focusses on increasing tree canopy, cooling the city and boosting biodiversity. In particular, the strategy includes a 30% urban tree canopy cover target for metropolitan Adelaide. This target is also included in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, providing a consistent region wide approach.
- The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Program and the Heritage Agreement Incentive Grant Program provide funding for projects that enhance biodiversity on private lands. Many of these grants directly or indirectly assist in building resilience to climate change.
- Thermal data was captured to enhance tree canopy and heat mapping programs across metropolitan Adelaide.
- The [Water Security Statement](#) (2022) was released, which provides an overview of South Australia's water supplies and demands, and sets out strategic priorities for ensuring long-term water security. The most recent annual update was published in 2025.
- The [Urban Water Directions Statement](#) (also released in 2022) outlines priorities and management principles that will inform future water infrastructure delivery, policy settings and organizational arrangements.
- A new desalination plant at Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island together with extensions of the water delivery network was completed and operational from July 2024.

- Three new desalination plants in northern South Australia have recently commenced delivery of drinking water at Oodnadatta, Maree and Marla.
- The government supported initiatives such as the [Farm Business Resilience Program](#) and [Carbon Footprint and Feasibility](#) workshops to help primary producers prepare for climate change.
- The [South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub](#) was established to help guide climate-resilient approaches to landscape management.
- PIRSA leads implementation of the Future Drought Fund through delivery of programs that promote on-farm drought and climate resilience including the [Farm Business Resilience](#) and [Regional Drought Resilience Planning](#) Programs.
- PIRSA delivers a range of programs in partnership with industry groups to promote sustainable agricultural practices, including water use efficiency and irrigation improvement program; sustainable grazing and livestock management; and soil and land management programs to improve soil protection, health and resilience.
- SARDI works with primary industries to improve the assessment and management of climate risk, including the design and delivery of workshops on applying climate information to farm level decisions. Governments, research institutions and the primary industries sector are working to experiment with irrigation and farm management practices, crop types, and industry diversification in preparation for reduced water availability and increased heat stress.
- The SA [Climate Ready Coasts Program](#) is funded by the Australian Government's Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program, the SA Coast Protection Board, and the Local Government Association's Research and Development Scheme. Stage 1 and 2 activities are complete in both the Foundation and Data work streams. This includes a coastal data stocktake, establishment of a coastal monitoring infrastructure network and a coastal erosion hazard assessment. Stage 3 is currently underway and includes additional data acquisition to support coastal hazard adaptation planning. The Program is due for completion in 2026.
- The [South Australian Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy](#) was endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee in October 2023. It aims to build a shared understanding of critical infrastructure in South Australia and enhance the preparedness and resilience of the state's critical infrastructure systems in the face of all hazards and disruptions.
- New Regional Plans are being developed under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. Regional plans set the longer term (15 – 30 year) strategic goals for land use, transport infrastructure and the public realm for a region. As part of the development of these plans, climate change challenges and opportunities are being considered across the regions. All seven Regional Plans for the State are expected to be finalised towards the end of 2025.
- The [Greater Adelaide Regional Plan](#), released in March 2025, is the first of the seven Regional Plans for the State to be finalised. The plan includes objectives to strengthen climate-smart planning, building and design policies; for design of urban communities that are walkable, connected neighbourhoods; and for facilitation of green technologies and industries.
- The Planning System Implementation Review was undertaken by an Expert Panel, appointed in 2022, to review the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and the Planning and Design Code. The Expert Panel Review into the implementation of the Planning System Report, as well as the Government Response Report, were released in March 2024. The Review included investigations into the implementation of the Code and related instruments, as it relates to infill policy, trees, character, heritage and car parking. Some of these matters cross over into climate change considerations. The State Planning Commission and Department for Housing and Urban Development have commenced and, in some cases, completed relevant projects to respond to the Report and the government's Response.
- New planning rules designed to protect River Murray regions from future flood events and assist with a strong recovery and rebuild came into effect in 2024.

- New planning regulations were introduced in May 2024 to protect a greater number of trees across Adelaide, including by: reducing the minimum trunk circumference for regulated and significant trees; reducing the exemption based on distance from homes and pools; implementing pruning restrictions; increasing fees for destroying or removing protected trees; and allowing for flexibility to adapt the exempt species list to local needs and community views.
- Amendments are being made to the South Australian Planning Code to address climate risks, including state-wide flood hazard mapping and state-wide bushfire mapping to mitigate the impacts of bushfires and floods.
- South Australia's Transport Strategy includes a strategic action to consider climate change impacts and environmental sustainability in all key decisions that affect the transport system.
- An updated [Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan for South Australia](#) was released in 2022, which outlines actions to improve the evidence base to make decisions, find innovative solutions, and take action to respond and adapt to the changing climate.
- An updated [Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia](#) was also released in 2022, to provide information on the changes in climate that are projected to occur in South Australia, drawing on information from a range of sources, primarily the CSIRO, BoM, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Goyder Institute for Water Research. [Statewide maps of key climate variables](#) were also released.
- The South Australian [Climate Projections Viewer](#) was launched in November 2023 to help guide risk assessment and planning.
- South Australia's first state-wide climate change risk assessment is underway to identify priority climate related risks and assess gaps in current adaptation response to inform future adaptation planning.
- In 2024, the South Australian Financing Authority (SAFA) engaged AON to undertake a climate risk assessment focused on the South Australian Government's physical asset portfolio insured under SAFA's insurance Captive.
- A Dynamic Fire and Biodiversity model was developed to identify where prescribed burns can maintain optimal habitat as the climate changes.
- SAFECOM has begun scoping the next iteration of the [Stronger Together: South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy](#), which is expected to be completed in mid-2026.
- A draft Emergency Services Sector (ESS) Climate Ready Roadmap is being finalised to direct and assist the sector to become 'climate-ready', formalising a commitment to taking planned and targeted action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, better manage climate risks and embed a climate lens to decision making, planning and operations.
- The [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP) (2022) acknowledges the amplified effects and impacts of climate change on emergencies; these include higher temperatures, increased fire danger, rising sea levels, and more frequent extreme weather-related events such as bushfire, heatwaves, coastal erosion, droughts and floods. Agencies must take into account the uncertain and complex influences of climate change in the development and implementation of their plans and other responsibilities under the SEMP. Principle 4 requires that 'Emergency management applies a systems approach to climate change to understand and plan for issues and pressures including increasing frequency, intensity and duration of weather-related events'.
- Green Industries SA is the functional lead for disaster waste management (DWM) with responsibilities under the SEMP, including reviewing and updating the state's DWM Capability Plan and associated DWM Guidelines. The documents cover all stages of emergency management, including preparedness, and have been developed and implemented taking into account the uncertain and complex influences of climate change.
- The [SA Health Extreme Heat Strategy](#) was reviewed and updated in 2023, which aims to reduce the risk of harmful effects of extreme heat on the health of the community and on the health system by ensuring a planned, managed, and effective response to an extreme heat event; providing

coordinated communications, including heat warnings; and promoting community resilience and adaptation to extreme heat conditions.

- The [SA Health Climate Change and Health Framework](#) was launched in May 2025 to deliver an environmentally sustainable, low carbon and climate-resilient public health system. This Framework will be accompanied by an implementation strategy. The Framework was developed with stakeholder and public consultation, including with Aboriginal Health and Community Controlled Organisations. Work is currently underway to resource and undertake risk assessments across targeted SA Health facilities.
- The South Australian Government continues to partner with local government and regional organisations through the [Regional Climate Partnerships](#) network to help communities adapt to and mitigate climate risk. Regional Climate Partnerships deliver local climate adaptation and mitigation projects ranging from hazard mapping, greening and smart irrigation projects, through to education programs and community capacity building. A Central Coordinator, Climate Partnerships role has been supported by the state government since 2019.
- [Landscape South Australia boards](#) deliver practical, on-ground programs that manage our water, land and soil, pests and biodiversity in a changing climate through a range of partnerships. The *State Landscape Strategy* and the nine regional landscape plans all embed the consideration of climate change into the management of natural resources.
- The [Climate Ready Government initiative](#) was approved in 2024 and requires the South Australian public sector to manage climate change risk and opportunities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their operations.
- South Australia's climate change legislation was updated to strengthen requirements around government planning, risk assessment and action on climate change, including the following:
 - Requirement for a state-wide climate change risk assessment to be undertaken and reviewed every five years.
 - The Premier may nominate a public sector entity to prepare a plan for an entity or sector for the purpose of addressing climate change mitigation or adaptation or both.
 - Annual reports prepared by public sector agencies must, to the extent that it is relevant to the operations or activities of the agency, include a report on how the agency is addressing matters relating to climate related risks and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Additional legislative measures to meet targets

Section 21(2)(b) requires a specific report on the extent to which additional legislative measures (if any) are considered necessary to achieve the targets set by this Act within the periods contemplated by this Act, including by the introduction of performance standards and other mandatory requirements.

Amendments to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*

In 2025, the Act was amended as outlined below. No additional legislative measures to achieve the targets set by this Act are proposed as a result of this section 21 review.

Section 3 – Objects of Act

The Objects of the Act (section 3) were amended to:

- update relevant targets and refer to interim targets
- add a new object regarding transparency of public reporting
- include reference to consultation with First Nations people
- refer to the generation of renewable electricity.

In addition, a new principle under section 3(2) was included to acknowledge the significance of the agricultural industry in South Australia.

Section 5 – Targets

Section 5 of the Act was amended to include the following targets:

1. The principal target under this Act (the SA target) is to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions within the State by 31 December 2050.
2. The following are related targets under this Act:
 - a. to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in the State to an amount that is at least 60% below 2005 levels by 31 December 2030 (the 2030 target)
 - b. to achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation in the State by 31 December 2027 (the renewable electricity target)

Section 5 was also updated to include a requirement for five yearly greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to be set between 2030 and 2050.

Section 14, 14A and 14B – Policies and plans, risk assessment and public sector agency plans

Section 14 was amended to include requirements for:

- a state-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan
- a state-wide climate risk assessment
- the Premier may, by notice in writing to a public sector agency, nominate a public sector entity to prepare a plan with respect to the agency or a specified sector or sectors (or both) for the purpose of addressing either or both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Section 20A – Reports of public sector agencies

An additional section was added into section 20 for public sector agencies to report on the manner in which matters relating to climate related risks and greenhouse gas emissions reduction are being addressed (to the extent that it is relevant to the operations or activities of the agency), within annual reports required to be prepared by agencies.

Section 21 – Review of Act

An amendment was made to the reporting requirements under section 21 (this report) to include information on the extent to which measures adopted by the state government to facilitate climate change adaptation have been implemented.

Other measures

The following legislative measures and mandatory requirements were introduced in South Australia during the reporting period, which will assist to achieve the state's targets:

- [Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023](#) - regulates and licences large-scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects across South Australia, and ensures a transparent pathway for companies looking to develop these projects. Importantly, this Act also recognises that Aboriginal participation in decision-making is central to South Australia's clean energy future.
- [Environment Protection Act 1993](#) – amended in 2023 to add climate change mitigation and adaptation terminology to the Objects of the EP Act (section 10) and add climate change knowledge and experience to the attributes that must be held by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (section 14B).
- South Australia's [Climate Ready Government initiative](#) - outlines how the public sector will manage climate related risks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its operations. This is mandated through a Premier and Cabinet Circular (PC007 - Climate Ready Government), which is supported by a [Net Zero Emissions for Government Operations Program](#).

The Australian Government's recently introduced legislation and mandatory mechanism will also assist to achieve South Australia's targets:

- Australia's [Climate Change Act 2022](#) - sets out Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, provides for annual reporting, and outlines the advisory functions of the Climate Change Authority.
- Australian Government's [Safeguard Mechanism](#) - requires Australia's highest greenhouse gas emitting facilities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with Australia's emission reduction targets of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Financial Market Infrastructure And Other Measures\) Act 2024](#) introduces mandatory reporting to improve the quality and comparability of climate-related financial disclosures across large businesses and financial institutions.

Other relevant matters

Section 21(2)(c) requires a specific report on other matters that are determined by the Minister to be relevant to review of the Act.

No other matters were determined by the Minister.