



**Government  
of South Australia**

# **PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL**

## **2017-18 Annual Report**

**PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL**

Level 4, 81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Contact phone number +61 8 8204 9278

Contact email [pccc@sa.gov.au](mailto:pccc@sa.gov.au)

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To:

The Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report is to be 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* and section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* and meets the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting Requirements*.

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**

**Premier's Climate Change Council**



Signature

\_12 October 2018\_

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.

## Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives

The Council identified the following strategies in 2017-18.

| Key strategy  | SA Government objective  |
|---|--|
| Engage with the South Australian business community about the consideration of climate change in decision making                    | The administration of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> (the Act). The Act provides for measures to address climate change with a view to assisting to achieve a sustainable future for the State; to set targets to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the State; to promote the use of renewable sources of energy; to promote business and community understanding about issues surrounding climate change; to facilitate the early development of policies and programs to address climate change; and for other purposes. |
| Recognise and raise awareness of the people and organisations in South Australia that are taking action to address climate change   | As above   |
| Identify and respond to opportunities to represent the Council at events, and contribute to State Government consultation processes | As above   |
| Discuss opportunities to develop an economic narrative for climate change adaptation in South Australia                             | As above   |
| Inform the South Australian Government's plan for a fair and equitable transition to a net zero emissions economy                   | As above   |

**Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency**

| <b>Program name</b>   | <b>Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency</b>   | <b>Outcome for South Australia</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| Engage with the South Australian business community about the consideration of climate change in decision making                    | <p>The Council worked in partnership with KPMG to host a business event about understanding and managing climate change risks.</p> <p>The Council hosted an industry roundtable with visiting US environmentalist Mr Bill McKibben.</p>   | These events provided information to South Australian business and industry about the consideration of climate change risks, including the opportunities of responding to these risks. |
| Recognise and raise awareness of the people and organisations in South Australia that are taking action to address climate change   | The Council launched the 2018 round of the SA Climate Leaders Awards. The Awards recognise individuals, groups, organisations and partnerships that demonstrate collaboration, innovation and impacts in addressing climate change.   | Delivery of this initiative has been carried over into the 2018-19 financial year. Outcomes will be reported on in the Premier's Climate Change Council's 2018-19 Annual Report.       |
| Identify and respond to opportunities to represent the Council at events, and contribute to State Government consultation processes | <p>Representatives of the Premier's Climate Change Council formed part of the South Australian Government's delegations to Climate Week New York and the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Council members took part in a roundtable with South Australian Government agency executives and international guest Mr Philippe Joubert, Executive Chair of the Global Electricity Initiative and Chair of The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group.</p> | Engagement with international experts and other jurisdictions provides insights into different approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.                                 |

| Program name  | Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency   | Outcome for South Australia   |
|---|--|---|
| Advice on the development of South Australia's pathways to net zero emissions by 2050, including consideration of interim targets | <p>The Council considered and discussed briefings key climate change-related matters. This included briefings on South Australian climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, energy and low carbon policies; climate adaptation planning and delivery, and carbon farming.</p> <p>The Council discussed developments in Australia and internationally for addressing the physical and transition risks of climate change.</p> <p>The Council considered data for the South Australia's state greenhouse gas inventory.</p> | Consideration of this matter aligns with Council's role in providing independent advice on matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.                            |
| Inform the South Australian Government's plan for a fair and equitable transition to a net zero emissions economy                 | The Council noted a commitment from the previous Government to seek the Council's expertise in planning for a fair and equitable transition to a climate-resilient economy. The Council engaged in preliminary discussion about the transition of communities and the economy in the context of climate change.  | Consideration of this matter aligns with Council's role in providing independent advice on matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.                            |
| Discuss opportunities to develop an economic narrative for climate change adaptation in South Australia                           | During the reporting period, the Council received information briefings on adaptation action, including a presentation on adaptation initiatives being delivered through the Resilient South project in the Southern Adelaide region.  | Consideration of this matter aligns with the Council's leadership role to consult with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community about issues associated with climate change. |

| Program name  | Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency  | Outcome for South Australia   |
|---|---|---|
| Other Council activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An across-agency climate change strategy for South Australia</li> <li>○ A blue carbon strategy for the state</li> </ul> | In this reporting period, the Minister for Environment and Water tasked the Council with leading the development of an across-agency climate change strategy for the state, and a blue carbon strategy for South Australia. | These projects will be carried forward into the 2018-19 reporting period. Outcomes will be reported on in the Premier's Climate Change Council's 2018-19 Annual Report. |

### 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 the Department for Environment and Water.

### 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)

The Department for Environment and Water provides policy advice and administrative support to the Council.

### Employment opportunity programs

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of the Department for Environment and Water. Reporting on this matter is contained in the Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2017-18. Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from existing departmental resources.

**Agency performance management and development systems**

| <b>Performance management and development system</b>   | <b>Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency</b>                             |
|--|---|
| 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 five meetings during the reporting period.                   |

**Work health, safety and return to work programs of the agency and their effectiveness**

| <b>Program name and brief description</b>  | <b>Effectiveness</b>   |
|--|--|
| This Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by the Department for Environment and Water to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements. | Reporting on this matter is contained within the Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2017-18. |

**Work health and safety and return to work performance**

|   | 2017-18 | 2016-17 | % Change<br>(+ / -) |
|---|---------|---------|---------------------|
| <b>Workplace injury claims</b>  |         |         |                     |
| Total new workplace injury claims   | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| Fatalities  | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| Seriously injured workers*  | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)                 | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| <b>Work health and safety regulation</b>  |         |         |                     |
| Number of notifiable incidents ( <i>WHS Act 2012, Part 3</i> )  | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices ( <i>WHS Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i> ) | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| <b>Return to work costs**</b>   |         |         |                     |
| Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)   | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |
| Income support payments – gross (\$)  | 0       | 0       | 0%                  |

\*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the *Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)*

\*\*before third party recovery

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

## 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 DEW Annual Report 2017-18.

Data for previous years 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 for previous years 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 All levels          | 0                    |

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

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

## Consultants

The Council did not engage any external consultants during the reporting period.

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

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.

## Contractors

The Council did not engage any external contractors during the reporting period.

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

The details of all South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website [here](#).

The website also provides details of Across government contracts [here](#).

## 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 Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2017-18. The costs associated with the administration of the Council are met from within existing departmental resources. Council 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 required under any other act or regulation

| <b><i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i></b>  |
|---|
| <p>Section 13 – Annual report</p> <p>(1) The Council must, on or before 31 October in each year, provide to the Minister a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.</p> <p>(2) The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 6 sitting days after the report is provided to the Minister.</p> |
| <p>A report to meet the requirements of Section 13 of the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> is provided in Section A of this report.</p>  |

## Section C: 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 for previous years 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 2017-18**

The Department for Environment and Water provides financial services to the Council. Finances are audited annually as part of the Department's financial statements. Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the Department for Environment and Water website at: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/annual-reports>