



**Government
of South Australia**

PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

2019-20 Annual Report

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

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To:

The Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009 (Act) (Part 3, s12)*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010 (Regulations) (Part 2, s7)*, section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

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

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

Martin Kinnear Haese

Chair

Premiers Climate Change Council

Date 15 October 2020

Signature



From the Chair

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Premier's Climate Change Council of South Australia for 2019-2020.

This has been such a challenging year for many South Australians. Following the tragic bushfires of 2019-20, many local and interstate communities barely had time to evaluate their losses before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Despite these challenges and setbacks, the State Government and its agencies, supported by the Council, have made important headway towards the joint aim to make South Australia a climate smart State.

A significant advancement during this period, was the announcement by the Government of South Australia, of its aim for State greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by more than 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. The Council is strongly supportive of this measure, acknowledging the importance of interim targets in reaching the longer term aim of net zero emissions by 2050.

In December 2019, Premier Marshall released *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia*, which sets the government's agenda for practical, on-ground action to address climate related impacts.

The government also released the *Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia* in late 2019. This strategy aims to accelerate action to protect and restore coastal ecosystems while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and facilitating social, economic and environmental co-benefits.

Work towards the development of an across agency climate change strategy for the State has also progressed. This strategy will deliver upon the Directions Statement, guiding climate smart planning and action across government to drive low emissions jobs and growth, to protect our environment, and support community resilience and wellbeing.

I acknowledge and thank my fellow Council members, both former and current, and the secretariat and staff from across key government agencies who have dedicated a significant amount of time and expertise to develop and refine these three important pieces of policy, which will be vital in achieving a smart, sustainable and prosperous net zero emissions South Australia.

On behalf of the Council, I extend my thanks to The Premier, Steven Marshall, The Hon David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water, and agency chief executives for supporting and championing the important work of the Council over this period.

The Council has already begun shaping its strategic priorities for the year ahead and is looking forward to further progressing climate action for the benefit of all South Australians.



Martin Kinnear Haese
Chair

Premier's Climate Change Council

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Overview: about the Premier's Climate Change Council

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	The Council's purpose is to provide independent and expert advice to the Minister for Environment and Water and South Australian Government about climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The Council's primary function is to provide independent advice to the Minister 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.</p> <p>In summary, the Council should provide advice to the Minister on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieving energy efficiencies • increasing the use of renewable energy • developing methods to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere • establishing and achieving relevant targets • considering the impact of climate change on business and the wider community • assessing costs associated with reducing or limiting climate change (or failing to take action) • commercial or other opportunities associated with climate change, and • the effectiveness of targets under the Act. <p>The Council should also seek to take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community about issues</p>

Our organisational structure

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. At 30 June 2020, Council membership included:

Mr Martin Haese (Chair)

Professor Andrew Stock

Mayor Ann Ferguson

Lord Mayor Sandra Verschoor

Ms Nicole Halsey

Mr Craig Wilkins

Dr Paul Heithersay

Ms Cecilia Woolford.

Ms Jenny Paradiso

Further information on Council membership and remuneration is reported in the South Australian Government Board and Committee Information Annual Report 2019-20.

Changes to the agency

During 2019-20 there were no changes to the Council's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Minister

The Premier's Climate Change Council reports to the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon David Speirs MP.

Our Executive team

Mr Martin Haese is the Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council.

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.

Other related agencies

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

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

A key role of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Water and the South Australian Government on matters relating to climate change mitigation and building resilience. The Council actively identifies and takes advantage of opportunities to ensure climate change is considered in key areas of government policy.

During this reporting period the Council has provided feedback and developed a number submissions through public consultation processes, and through meetings with government officers and other government boards and councils. The Council also provided formal advice to the Minister relating to the 2019-20 bushfires.

At the request of the Minister, a key focus of the Council over this reporting period was to assist the Government to develop an across agency climate change strategy for the State; and a Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia.

The Council also takes a leadership role in consulting with stakeholders about issues associated with climate change, to disseminate information and encourage climate action.

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
More jobs	The Council promotes the development and growth of innovative and climate smart businesses and services within South Australia.
Lower costs	The Council promotes energy efficiency and emissions reduction as well as climate change adaptation for businesses and communities. Positive action in these areas can reduce cost of living and business related expenses.
Better Services	The Council seeks to influence the consideration of climate change in key areas of government policy which can have positive outcomes for service delivery.

Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Support government agencies to develop an across-agency climate change strategy for the State.	At the request of the Minister for Environment and Water, the Council is assisting the Government to develop an across agency climate change strategy for the State.	Development of the Government policy framework, <i>Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia</i> , released in December 2019 The across agency climate change strategy is in the final stages of development, due to be finalised in 2020-21.
Support government agencies to develop a blue carbon strategy for South Australia	At the request of the Minister for Environment and Water, the Council is assisting the Government to develop a Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia.	The <i>Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia</i> which was released in November 2019.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Influence the consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation in State Government policies and initiatives;	The Council identifies and takes advantage of opportunities to ensure climate change is considered in key areas of government policy.	<p>During 2019-20, Council feedback and/or submissions were provided in response to consultation on: State Planning Reforms; Growth State; Regional Development Strategy; 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy; Electric Vehicle Strategy; the South Australian Independent Review into the 2019-20 Bushfires; the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements; Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan; and Stronger Together: South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy.</p> <p>The Council provided formal advice to the Minister for Environment and Water on climate change impacts and the 2019-20 bushfires. A Ministerial Response to this advice was tabled in the House of Assembly on 30 April 2020.</p> <p>The Council held a joint meeting with the State Planning Commission to discuss the effective integration of climate related issues within the State Planning Reforms. A member of the Council was also a representative on the Commissions Community Participation and Sustainability Advisory Committee.</p>
Promote climate smart action and recognise climate leadership.	The SA Climate Leaders Awards are an initiative of the Council. The Awards recognise individuals, groups, organisations and partnerships that demonstrate collaboration, innovation and action to address climate change.	The launch of the 2020 SA Climate Leaders Awards was due to take place in June 2020. This was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will review opportunities relating to the Awards, later in 2020-21.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Engage with local government, business and industry decision-makers about climate change risks and opportunities.	The Council and its members develop partnerships, collaborate and engage with relevant stakeholder groups to strengthen the understanding of climate risk and opportunities within our State.	<p>The Council met with representatives of Doctors for the Environment and the Australian Medical Association (State branches) to discuss health and climate change related matters, and representatives of Regional Climate Partnerships to discuss action within the Local Government Sector.</p> <p>The Chair presented at: the 2019 SA Coastal Conference; the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council Conference; and the Traffic Planning and Management AGM.</p> <p>Members also attended information sessions relating to the State Planning Reforms.</p>

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 2019-20*. Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from existing departmental resources.

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
Government employees supporting the Council's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers.	Performance development processes were undertaken in line with the requirements of the Department for Environment and Water.
Number of Council meetings held during the reporting period.	Four Council meetings and one extraordinary Council meeting were held during the reporting period.

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
This Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures adopted by the Department for Environment and Water to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the <i>Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2019-20</i> .

Workplace injury claims	Current year 2019-20	Past year 2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
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%

*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)

Work health and safety regulations	Current year 2019-20	Past year 2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>)	0	0	0%
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>)	0	0	0%

Return to work costs**	Current year 2019-20	Past year 2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0%
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0%

***before third party recovery*

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 for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

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 2019-20*.

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.

Consultants disclosure

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

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	n/a	\$ 0

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	n/a	\$ 0
	Total	\$ 0

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](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

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

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	n/a	\$ 0

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
nil	n/a	\$ 0
	Total	\$ 0

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

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

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

Other information

Nil to report.

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Nil to report.

Fraud detected in the agency

There were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council in this reporting period.

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the *Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2019-20*.

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

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

0

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

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i>	<p>Section 13 of the Act relates to Annual reporting. 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>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>

This report is developed to meet the requirements of Section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Not applicable

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2019-20
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/ technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2019-20
		information; not fit for purpose	
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		Total	0

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	0
Number of negative feedback comments	0
Total number of feedback comments	0
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	0

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

Service Improvements resulting from complaints or consumer suggestions over 2019-20
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No customer complaints or feedback was received in relation to the Council.

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2019-20

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>