HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE

01 Nov 2016

PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



Premier's Climate Change Council Annual Report 2015-16

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES	5
OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES	5
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCI	E)10
OBJECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSION	
REDUCTION ACT 2007	10
ROLE OF THE COUNCIL	
FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL	
MEMBERSHIP	
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL	
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS	
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS	
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	
FRAUD	
CONSULTANTS	
OVERSEAS TRAVEL	16
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	16
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS	
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993	
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	17



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC Minister for Climate Change Parliament House North Terrace ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 13 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Premier's Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Carta

Bruce Carter

CHAIR

PREMIER'S CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

1 September 2016

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

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

The Council's activities support the objectives of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act) and are consistent with the strategic directions set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan vision that 'South Australians think globally, act locally and are international leaders on addressing climate change', and with *South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015 – 2050: Towards a low carbon economy* (released by the South Australian Government during the 2015/16 reporting period).

The Council is currently in its third term, commencing on 1 May 2014 and expiring on 30 April 2017.

In 2014, the Council endorsed strategic objectives for its third term to: maximise the impact of the Council's 2014 advice to the State Government in *South Australia's Climate Change Vision* – *Pathways to 2050*; and fulfil an advocacy and championing role by raising the profile of the Council and influencing key stakeholders.

In line with these objectives, the Council had a particular focus on engagement and communication-focussed activities during the 2015/16 reporting period.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Council's activities in 2015/16 had a strong emphasis on engagement and communication with government, business and industry sectors and the wider South Australian community.

This direction was taken in recognition of the significant process of consultation that would be undertaken by the State Government to develop a new climate change strategy for South Australia - an initiative that the Government committed to during the previous reporting period as part of its initial formal response to the Premier's Climate Change Council's 2014 advice *South Australia's Climate Change Vision – Pathways to 2050*. In early 2015, the State Government also committed to make the City of Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city in partnership with the Adelaide City Council.

South Australia's Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Neutral Adelaide

During the 2015/16 reporting period, the Premier of South Australia established a new Cabinet Task Force to drive the Government's response to climate change, including the development of the new climate change strategy, initiatives to support delivery of the Carbon Neutral Adelaide commitment, and climate change adaptation.

The Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council has a standing invitation to meetings of the Task Force and, during the 2015/16 reporting period, has represented the Council during Task Force deliberations. The Council Chair has also represented the Council on the cross-agency Senior Officials Group of State Government agency chief executives that supports the Task Force.

The Government, with support from the Council, consulted broadly with the South Australian community and with businesses and industry during September and October 2015 to inform the development of a new climate change strategy. This process also incorporated an opportunity for the public to provide input to a vision statement for the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative, a legislated review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, and the development of a plan to achieve the Government's target of \$10 billion investment in low carbon generation by 2025 and fifty per cent of electricity production by renewable energy by 2025.

The Council had a key role in delivering this public consultation program. This included the Council providing feedback into the set of discussion papers that the Government released during the consultation period and promoting the consultation process in radio and print media. Council members also had an integral role in the delivery of regional and metropolitan public workshops held across South Australia (*pictured below*) with a member of the Council taking part in 10 of the 12 workshops held in each State region. As part of the consultation program, Council members also had a role in the delivery of targeted forums with the environment and conservation sector, adaptation practitioners, and industry and business representatives.



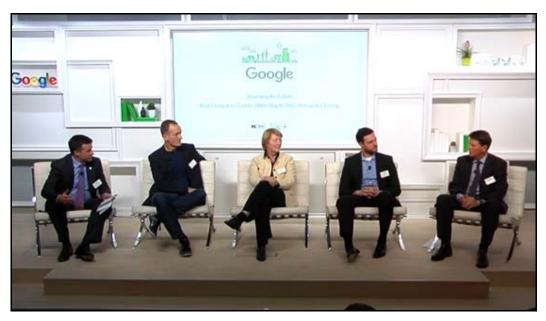
Premier's Climate Change Council member, Brian Foster, speaking at a workshop in Port Augusta as part of the public consultation process to develop a new climate change strategy for South Australia (September 2015)

International Engagement

At its meeting in August 2015, the Council hosted guest presenter Emeritus Professor Mary Ritter, International Ambassador for the European Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (Climate KIC) - a network of government, industry and university partners that collaborate to identify and bring to market climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies. During the 2015/16 reporting period, several Council members facilitated dialogue

with South Australian government, industry and university representatives, as part of consultations between Professor Ritter and several Australian jurisdictions about the potential to establish the Climate-KIC model in the Australian context.

The Chair of the Council accompanied the Premier of South Australia and the Minister for Climate Change as part of the South Australian Government delegation to the General Assembly of States and Regions and the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, France in December 2015. As part of this delegation, Mr Carter represented the Council at a number of bi-lateral meetings and international events. This included the opportunity to speak about the uptake of renewable energy in South Australia as part of a panel discussion about companies' transition to renewable energy (*pictured below*), hosted by The Climate Group and Google France.



Chair of the Premier's Climate Change Council, Bruce Carter (far right), as a panellist during the event 'Powering the Future: How companies can lead the way to a 100% renewable energy future', hosted by The Climate Group and Google during the Paris Climate Conference (December 2015).

In May 2016, the Chair of the Council met with His Excellency Mr Sem Fabrizi, European Union Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand.

SA Climate Leaders Awards

South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050, released in November 2015, included a new initiative for the Council to recognise and promote achievements in climate change action in South Australia. During the first half of 2016, the Council finalised the design of the inaugural SA Climate Leaders Awards, with the aim of launching the entry period for the Awards in July 2016.

Regional Adaptation Discussion Forum

On 31 May 2016, the Council partnered with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to host a regional adaptation discussion forum in Adelaide with the coordinators of regional climate change adaptation planning under South Australia's Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The Forum also involved representatives from the Local Government Association of South Australia, DEWNR's Climate Change Unit and Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges.

The purpose of the forum was to hear from regional partners about the successes, challenges and the lessons learned from regional adaptation planning and to discuss the priorities and roles for all partners to support the implementation of adaptation plans. The forum was also an opportunity for networking among regional representatives.

Forum participants identified a number of initiatives and actions to sustain momentum in regional adaptation planning and action. In summary, suggestions related to the development of a state-wide communications strategy about climate change adaptation; exploring policy and regulatory levers to embed the consideration of climate change in planning and decision-making; taking a whole-of-government approach to implementing adaptation actions; identifying sustainable funding mechanisms for adaptation; using media channels to celebrate adaptation achievements. Participants supported having regular conversation across the regions to share experiences and lessons learned, and to support cross-regional collaboration. The discussion also highlighted the importance of regional adaptation coordinator positions to drive sustained action in a region.



The Regional Adaptation Discussion Forum hosted by the Premier's Climate Change Council and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (May 2016).

Review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007

Section 21 of the Act requires the Minister for Climate Change to cause a review of the Act and its operation every four years. The Act requires consultation with the Council and with relevant business, environment and community groups and organisations in the conduct of the review.

In 2015 the State Government undertook an initial round of public consultation to inform the review of the Act. This opportunity for the community to provide early input to the Act review formed part of the Government's broader consultation process to develop the new climate change strategy.

During the 2015/16 reporting period, the Council discussed the challenges and opportunities that could be explored in the review of the Act. The Council formed a working group to drive the development of formal advice, to be finalised and delivered to the Minister for Climate Change during the 2016/17 reporting period.

Building Upgrade Finance

Acting upon the Council's 2012 advice *Environmental Upgrade Finance for Greening South Australia's Building Stock*, the South Australian Government committed to establish Building Upgrade Finance (BUF) in South Australia during the 2014 state election. Legislation for the mechanism was introduced to the South Australian Parliament in February 2015. During the 2015/16 reporting period, the Council Chair had a role in direct engagement with peak business and industry associations in South Australia following the introduction of legislation for the BUF mechanism into the South Australian Parliament. Legislation enabling the BUF mechanism passed through the Parliament and was assented to in December 2015.

The Government is in the process of finalising the legal framework and developing an operational model to implement the BUF mechanism. In March 2016, the Council was represented at a workshop to discuss the operational model with representatives from the property sector, finance sector, local government and state government.

Other activities and outcomes during the reporting period

Council members were involved in the following additional engagement activities during the 2015/16 reporting period:

- Chairing a climate change-themed seminar as part of the People, Parks and Well-being conference jointly delivered by the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (August 2015).
- A meeting with the Minister for Climate Change to advocate for the Government's continued support of regional adaptation planning and implementation of adaptation actions under South Australia's Climate Change Adaptation Framework (October 2015).
- Facilitating a forum focussed on green job creation, hosted by the Premier of South Australia and involving the Minister for Climate Change, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide and representatives from industry and research sectors in South Australia (November 2015).
- Representing the Council in a meeting between local government representatives and the Minister for Climate Change to discuss sustainable coast protection funding in South Australia's Limestone Coast region (February 2016).

- Participation in an engagement workshop for the Carbon Neutral Adelaide initiative, jointly hosted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (June 2016).
- Hosting a number of guest presenters during general meetings of the Council, including business and economics professor Ross Garnaut AO as well as representatives from the Local Government Association of South Australia, the Conservation Council of South Australia, Adelaide Airport Pty Ltd, the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance and the University of Adelaide.

Government commitment to a new Council appointment

In South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050: Towards a low carbon economy, released in November 2015, the State Government made a commitment that the Minister for Climate Change would appoint a representative from the union movement to the Premier's Climate Change Council to represent the views of workers. During the reporting period, the Minister sought nominations for this appointment from SA Unions and the International Trade Union Confederation. The Minister for Climate Change has since appointed Mr Joseph Scales, Secretary of the Australian Services Union – South Australia and Northern Territory Branch to the Council.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

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

OBJECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT 2007

The objects of the Act are broadly:

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

ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

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

Pramiar's Climata Changa Council 2015, 16

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

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

- Provide independent advice to the Minister about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change;
- Take a leadership role in consulting with business, the environment and conservation movement and the wider community about issues associated with climate change;
- Assist in disseminating information to business and other groups in order to encourage
 the implementation of practices that will assist in addressing climate change or adapting
 to the effects of climate change.
- Undertake any other functions conferred by the Minister; and
- Report annually to the Minister on the Council's activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are appointed in accordance with sections 9 and 10 of the Act. Subsection 9(2) of the Act requires that the Council consist of at least seven and not more than ten members appointed by the Minister with a view to obtaining a reasonable range of persons from across the following sectors and a balance of expertise that is relevant to addressing or adapting to climate change:

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

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

As at 30 June 2016 the Council membership was as follows:



Mr Bruce Carter (Chair)

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

Bruce Carter is a consultant of Ferrier Hodgson in Adelaide. Mr Carter has spent over 30 years in corporate recovery and insolvency. He has conducted work for all of the major financial institutions within Australia and has been involved in a number of government appointed restructurings, consultancies and reviews. Mr Carter is Chair of ASC Pty Ltd (Australian Submarine Corporation), Deputy Chair of SkyCity

Entertainment Group Limited and a director of the Bank of Queensland Ltd. He is a Director/Chair of a number of other private companies and government bodies. He was formerly the Chair of the South Australian Economic Development Board and RenewablesSA, and a member of the Executive Committee of Cabinet. Mr Carter holds a Masters of Business Administration, Bachelor of Economics and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Institute of Company Directors.



Ms Kathryn Bellette Appointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

Kathryn Bellette has a background in environmental science, public policy, stakeholder engagement and education. She has led decision making processes around sustainable development, environment protection and natural resource planning including water allocation. Her work has traversed coastal, freshwater and terrestrial environments across urban, peri urban, regional and remote South Australia.

Ms Bellette is the representative for the environment and conservation sector on the Premier's Climate Change Council.



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

Ros DeGaris has over 30 years of experience in the operations of manufacturing plants, mostly in the cement and lime industry.

Ms DeGaris is a Director of DeGaris Consulting Pty Ltd, which specialises in sustainability programs for industry. Her experience in management, action planning and reporting on environmental, energy and greenhouse issues has been applied in companies, industry sectors and

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



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

Brian Foster is recognised as a leader in rural and regional adaptation to climate change, driven by first-hand experience and understanding as a fourth generation farmer on the Eyre Peninsula. Mr Foster previously cochaired the Eyre Peninsula Regional Drought Response Taskforce, and was the inaugural Presiding Member of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board. He has had extensive experience at local,

regional state and national levels, in local government, catchment water management, natural resource management and climate change. Mr Foster played a key role in establishing the Eyre Peninsula Regional Sector Agreement (known as the Eyre Peninsula Integrated Climate Change Agreement, or 'EPICCA') and is currently independent Chair of the steering committee. In June 2013, Brian won the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) National Climate Champion Individual Award.



Ms Nicole Halsey *Appointed from 1 May 2011; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.*

Nicole Halsey is a Director of URPS, an Adelaide based urban and regional planning firm with specialities in climate change adaptation, natural resources management planning, and innovative community engagement practice. Ms Halsey has played a leadership or specialist role in numerous regional and sector based climate change adaptation planning processes around the state. In particular, her work involves

designing and delivering stakeholder driven integrated vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans, and implementing processes that engage communities in conversations around adaptation and resilience.



Mr John O'BrienAppointed from 2 December 2008; Reappointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

John O'Brien is the founder and Managing Director of both Australian CleanTech and Sino CleanTech - research and advisory firms that assist cleantech companies to grow, investors to successfully invest and governments to drive industry development. He works extensively on finance and technology projects between Australia and Asia. Mr O'Brien manages the Australian CleanTech Cluster that connects 300 member

companies to industry and the Australian Technologies Competition that finds and mentors Australia's best emerging technology companies. He also facilitates the Australian CleanTech Network, publishes the Australian and China CleanTech Indices and the annual Australian Cleantech Review. Mr O'Brien has lectured in Leadership and Entrepreneurship on the MBA at the University of Adelaide, was on a Committee advising on \$200 million of grants for the previous Australian Government and is a Board Director with a number of clean-tech companies.



Ms Sandy Pitcher
Appointed from 25 May 2015 to 30 April 2017.

Sandy Pitcher is the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Ms Pitcher was previously the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for five years. She was responsible for many areas, including the South Australian Cabinet Office, the Economic Analysis Division and the Strategic Engagement and Communications Division. In 2012 she was awarded the South Australian Telstra Business Woman of the Year for the Community

and Public sector category, and went on to win the national title in November 2012. Ms Pitcher has worked in London, primarily as the head of Corporate and Parliamentary Affairs in the UK's Commission for Racial Equality, and has previously worked in Commonwealth public sector roles in Canberra and Sydney. Educated at the University of Adelaide, Ms Pitcher has degrees in law and the humanities. Ms Pitcher is a representative of the State Government on the Premier's Climate Change Council.



Dr Don Russell *Appointed from 24 August 2015 to 30 April 2017.*

Don Russell was appointed as Chief Executive of the Department of State Development on 1 July 2014. From 2011 to 2013, Dr Russell was the Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. He was previously Independent Chairperson of State Super, a role that he held from January 2008. State Super is a \$38 billion fund that manages public service defined benefit schemes for the NSW State Government. Until March

2010, Dr Russell was the Global Investment Strategist at BNY Mellon Asset Management Australia. BNY Mellon is a global investments company. Between 1997 and 2000, Dr Russell worked for Sanford C. Bernstein, a research and money management firm in New York. Between 1985 and 1993 and again in 1996, he was Principal Adviser to the Hon. Paul Keating both during his time as Treasurer and Prime Minister. Between 1993 and 1995 Dr Russell served as Australia's Ambassador to the USA in Washington. Dr Russell is a representative of the State Government on the Premier's Climate Change Council.



Ms Michelle Tucker Appointed from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017.

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

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of five general Council meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year. These meetings were held on 26 August 2015, 5 November 2015, 12 February 2016, 7 April 2016 and 24 June 2016.

Attendance by appointed members at general meetings of the Council:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Mr Bruce Carter (Chair)	5/5	Part absence for meeting held on 7 April 2016.
Ms Kathryn Bellette	5/5	
Ms Ros DeGaris	5/5	
Mr Brian Foster	5/5	
Ms Nicole Halsey	5/5	
Mr John O'Brien	5/5	
Ms Sandy Pitcher	4/5	
Dr Don Russell	4/5	Representative of State Government appointed from 24 August 2015. Part absence for meeting held on 7 April 2016.
Ms Michelle Tucker	4/5	•

One special Council meeting was held during the 2015-16 financial year. In October 2015, the Council convened a meeting to engage with the SA Low Carbon Economy Experts Panel, a panel appointed by the State Government in September 2015 to provide independent advice about climate change targets and objectives for the State to the year 2050.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) provides support to the Council by providing a Project Officer for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16. The Council's Governance Statement approved in July 2012, includes the practices that are put in place to assist Council members to act with an appropriate level of care and diligence to meet their responsibilities.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Premier's Climate Change Council members (other than government employees) received the following annual remuneration as determined by the Minister under subsection 10(4) of the Act:

Chair: \$18,574.08Members: \$12,382.72.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

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

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Council was made up of three males and five females from the beginning of the reporting period until 23 August 2015, and four males and five females from 24 August 2015 until the end of the reporting period.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2015-16:

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

- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Council did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Council by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

CONSULTANTS

The Council did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

The Chair of the Council, Mr Bruce Carter, travelled overseas on Council business from 3-11 December 2015. Mr Carter accompanied the Premier of South Australia and the Minister for Climate Change as part of the South Australian Government delegation to the General Assembly of States and Regions and the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, France. During this period of travel in December 2015, Mr Carter also attended an investment event for the Tonsley innovation precinct hosted by Investment Attraction South Australia at Siemens' The Crystal in London, England.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2015-16 that required the Council to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit http://www.environment.sa.gov.au to view the FOI statement.

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Council to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2015-16 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Council did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

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

The Council would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Council also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council would like to thank the Minister for Climate Change and staff of DEWNR for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

Promier's Climate Change Council 2015 16