



South Australian Government Sustainability Report

2024



Government
of South Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of South Australia, and we recognise and respect them as custodians and Traditional Owners of land, sea, and waters in South Australia.

We recognise their unique culture, heritage, customs and spiritual connection with land, sea and waters.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and respect their cultural authority as Aboriginal people.

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Treasurer's Foreword

Deep Creek Conservation Park, Blowhole Beach, Cape Jervis



I am pleased to present the South Australian Government Sustainability Report 2024, the state's first iteration of climate-related disclosures.

This report highlights the Malinauskas government's ongoing commitment to a sustainable South Australian economy that works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, capitalise on our position as a global leader in renewable energy generation and to improve the wellbeing and prosperity of all South Australians.

In 2024, we introduced more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy targets, committing to:

- achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the state by 31 December 2050 (net zero).
- reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% below 2005 levels by 31 December 2030.
- achieving 100% net renewable electricity generation in the state by 31 December 2027.

This Sustainability Report facilitates climate accountability and transparency and provides insight into how the state will manage the impacts of climate change. Future climate disclosures will build upon this Sustainability Report.

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP
Treasurer



South Australia



South Australia is the central southern state of mainland Australia with a total land area of over 980,000km².

South Australia’s landscape varies from rugged outback wilderness and desert, including some of the most arid parts of the Australian continent, to forests, pastoral, agricultural and viticultural lands. **The state’s coastline stretches more than 5,000km.**

South Australia is home to the lower sections of the River Murray, which flows through the Riverlands and into the Lakes and Coorong region, to the south-east of the state capital, Adelaide ([Living in SA](#)).

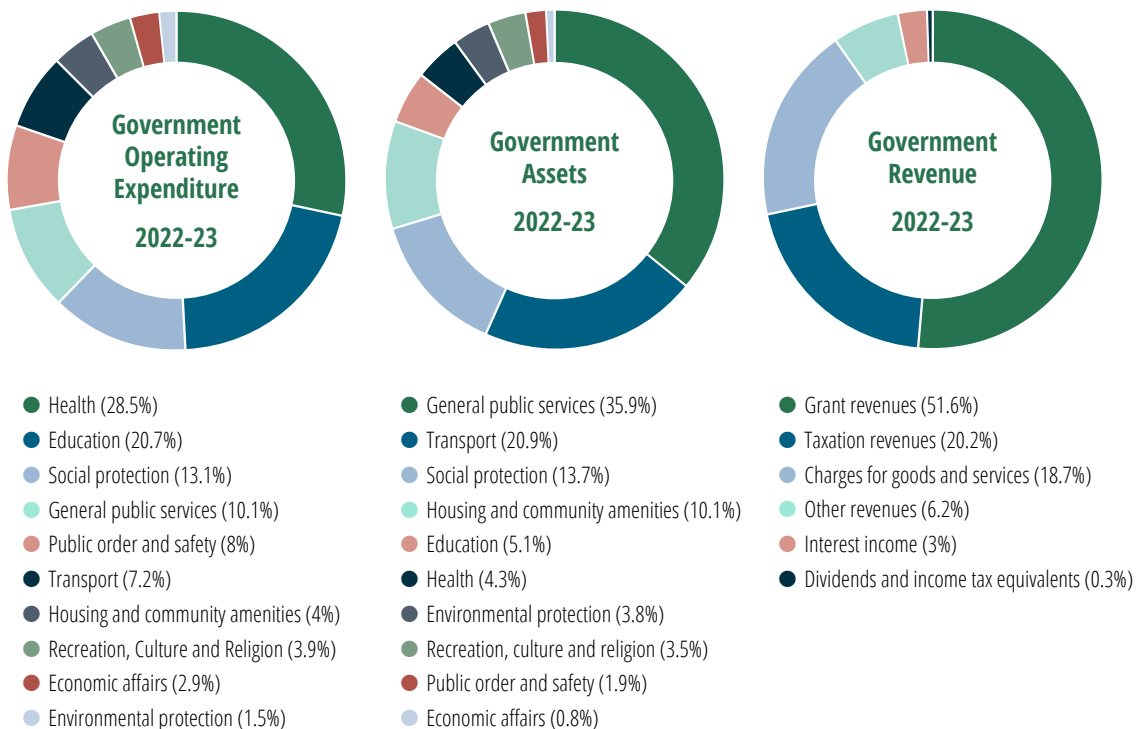
The state has a population of over **1.8 million people, 1.5 million of whom live in the Greater Adelaide region** ([2021 Census](#), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)).

Large regional population areas include Mount Gambier in the state’s south-east, and Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Port Augusta on the Eyre Peninsula. **43,000 people, 2.4% of the population, identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.**

The **greater Adelaide area covers almost 11,000km²**, from Cape Jervis in the south, to Murray Bridge in the east and the Barossa wine region in the north.

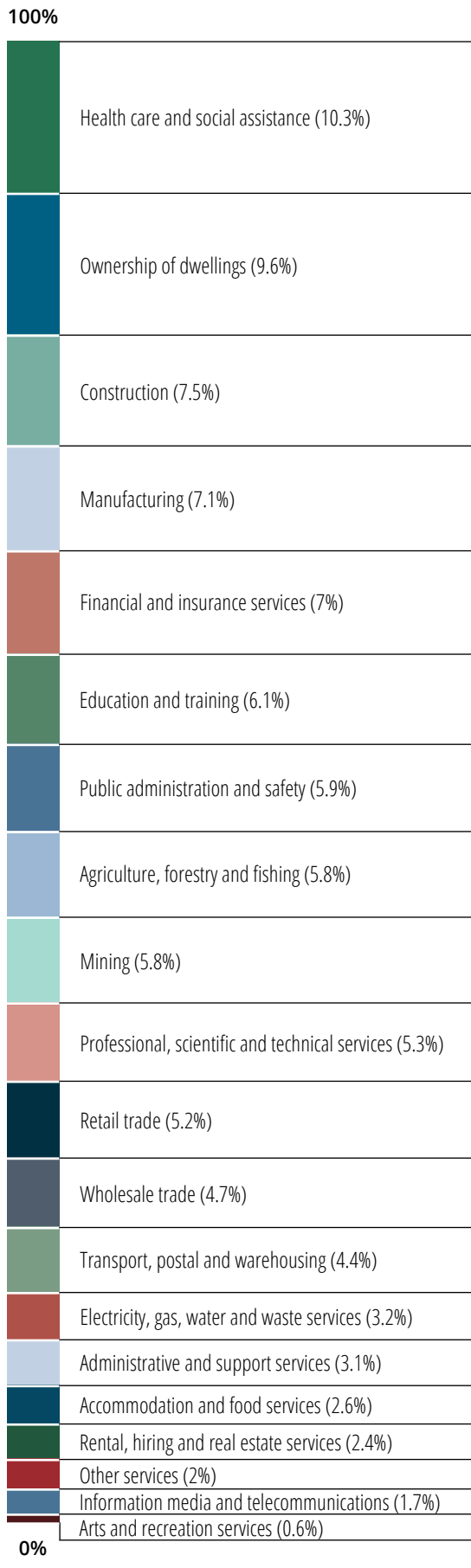
Artefacts from the Flinders Ranges in South Australia show that this area was occupied 49,000 years ago. Aboriginal people occupied all areas of the state, including Kangaroo Island.

Figure 1: State government financial snapshot, 2022-23



Part of the state budget has been mapped at a macro level to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Figure 2: South Australian Gross State Product by industry, 2012-13 to 2022-23¹



South Australia enjoys a vibrant, diverse economy ranked the number one performing economy in the nation in 2023-24. ([State of the States report July 2024](#), CommSec). Gross State Product (GSP) in 2022-23 was \$142 billion, up 3.8% from the previous year in real terms.

South Australia's economy is changing and diversifying, with significant growth in the services, information and communications technology industries, and the retail and commercial sectors have emerged as key economic drivers ([Australian Nation Accounts: State Accounts 2023](#), ABS). Industries including renewable energy, education, mining and clean technology play a major role in the state economy. Accommodation and food services, and arts and recreation are also major economic growth areas, growing 16.9% and 15.6% respectively in 2022-23, benefiting from inbound tourism and strong patronage to a growing sporting and cultural events calendar.

Wheat remains the state's single largest export, with copper the second largest – an essential material in decarbonising economies both domestically and across the globe.

The state government continues to invest heavily in infrastructure, including over \$25.6 billion in planned infrastructure investments between 2024-25 and 2027-28 ([State Budget 2024-25](#), South Australia). This includes over \$3.2 billion in new hospitals and healthcare facilities, and over \$2 billion for new housing projects and related infrastructure.

¹ Average share of nominal output by industry, 2012-13 to 2022-23

[The Economist's 2024 Global Liveability Index](#) ranked Adelaide as one of the most liveable cities in the world, enjoying a temperate climate, pristine beaches, close proximity to wine regions and the Adelaide Hills, connected by an expansive network of roads and public transport.

Adelaide is Australia's only designated UNESCO City of Music. Major events include the:

- Adelaide Festival, internationally recognised as Australia's pre-eminent arts festival.
- Adelaide Fringe Festival, a world-renowned annual arts festival that celebrates culture, place and artists around the world, running for 64 years.

- WOMADelaide, an iconic open-air festival founded in 1992, showcasing global acts in music, arts and dance.
- AFL Gather Round.
- Adelaide 500.
- internationally renowned cricket fixtures such as The Ashes tour.

**Adelaide is the first
[National Park City](#)
in the Southern Hemisphere**

Adelaide's renowned Park Lands are protected by the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*.

Rundle Street, Adelaide



Credit: joeyjoenes

The Government of South Australia

South Australia is one of six states that, together with two territories, comprise the Commonwealth of Australia.

The South Australian Parliament is based on the principles of the Westminster system of Parliamentary Government. The government is formed by the political party that holds the majority of seats in the Parliament's lower house, the House of Assembly.

The state's Constitution, set out in the *Constitution Act 1934* provides the overarching legislative framework for the governance of South Australia.

The Government of South Australia operates under responsible Cabinet Government, whereby the Governor acts on the advice of Cabinet, which is comprised of government Ministers and led by the Premier.

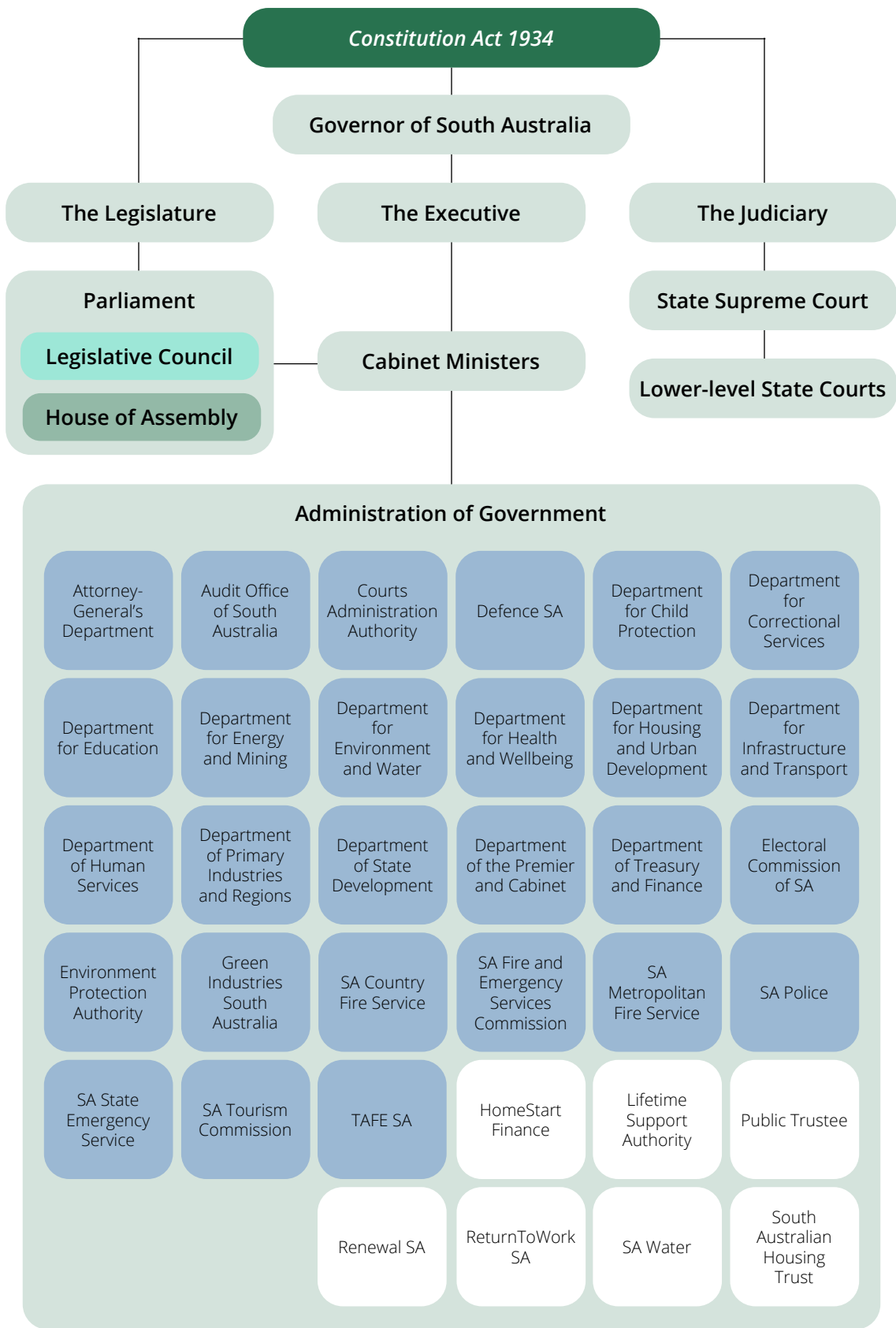
Cabinet is the state government's central decision-making body and is the forum where Ministers meet to discuss and determine issues of importance to the state. Cabinet sets the state government's policy and strategic direction.

Cabinet has control of the public sector, with each Minister in charge of their relevant state government department. Ministers work with their appointed heads of department, usually Chief Executives, to ensure the efficient operation of government.

The South Australian public sector operates through numerous departments and statutory authorities. As separate entities, they have governance and accountability responsibilities to Ministers and boards according to their enabling legislation and relevant policies. Public sector agencies report separately to Parliament about their operations through annual and financial reports.

Parliament House, Adelaide





List of government entities under 'Administration of Government' is not exhaustive.



Smoking Ceremony, Voice to Parliament

First Nations Voice to Parliament

The [South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament](#) (the Voice) is a representative, legislatively created, elected body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the state. The Voice aims to promote greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and participation on matters, policies and laws that affect their communities in South Australia at the highest levels, including to Parliament, Cabinet and the state government via the South Australian public sector. Inaugural elections were held on 16 March 2024, and the first formal meeting of the Voice was held in June 2024.

Country Cabinet

[Country Cabinet](#) is a government initiative where Cabinet meetings are held in regional locations across the state. This facilitates discussion of the unique challenges and opportunities facing the state's regions. These Cabinet meetings also provide opportunities for ministers and executives to spend time visiting people, businesses and organisations across the regions.

In 2024, Country Cabinet was held on the Eyre Peninsula in May and in Encounter Bay and surrounds in October.

South Australian Economic Statement

The [South Australian Economic Statement](#) outlines the state government's vision for an economy that is fit for the future – improving the wellbeing of all South Australians. The three key elements at the heart of this vision are to have an economy that is “smart, sustainable and inclusive”.

- A **smart** economy will support the economic prosperity of South Australia by finding new and better ways of doing things.
- A **sustainable** economy respects its natural resources and implements policies that seek to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- An **inclusive** economy puts South Australians and their wellbeing at the centre of economic decision making.

The Statement identifies three strategic objectives to:

- **Capitalise on the global green transition** – utilising South Australia's sustainability credentials and natural endowment to provide green energy, products and services to the world, contributing to smart and sustainable economic ambitions.
- **Be a partner of choice in an insecure world** – in an increasingly fragmented world, taking advantage of the relative security and stability of South Australia, as well as industry strengths, to move exports up the value chain to more complex products.
- **Build South Australia's talent** – to assist the transition to a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy, enabling South Australia to make the most of economic opportunities, while ensuring all South Australians can participate and enjoy a higher standard of living.

Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park



Climate Targets, Emissions, Metrics and Data



Starfish Hill Wind Farm, Cape Jervis

Targets

The state government is committed to accelerating the achievement of emissions reduction and renewable energy targets for South Australia and has introduced to Parliament amendments to the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007](#) (the CCGER Act) to legislate updated targets.

New targets to:

- **achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions in South Australia by 31 December 2050 (net zero target)**
- **reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in South Australia to at least 60% below 2005 levels by 31 December 2030, and**
- **achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 31 December 2027.**

adopted by Australia at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) on 12 December 2015. The Paris Agreement’s overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”.

- federal government’s legislated target reducing Australia’s net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050.

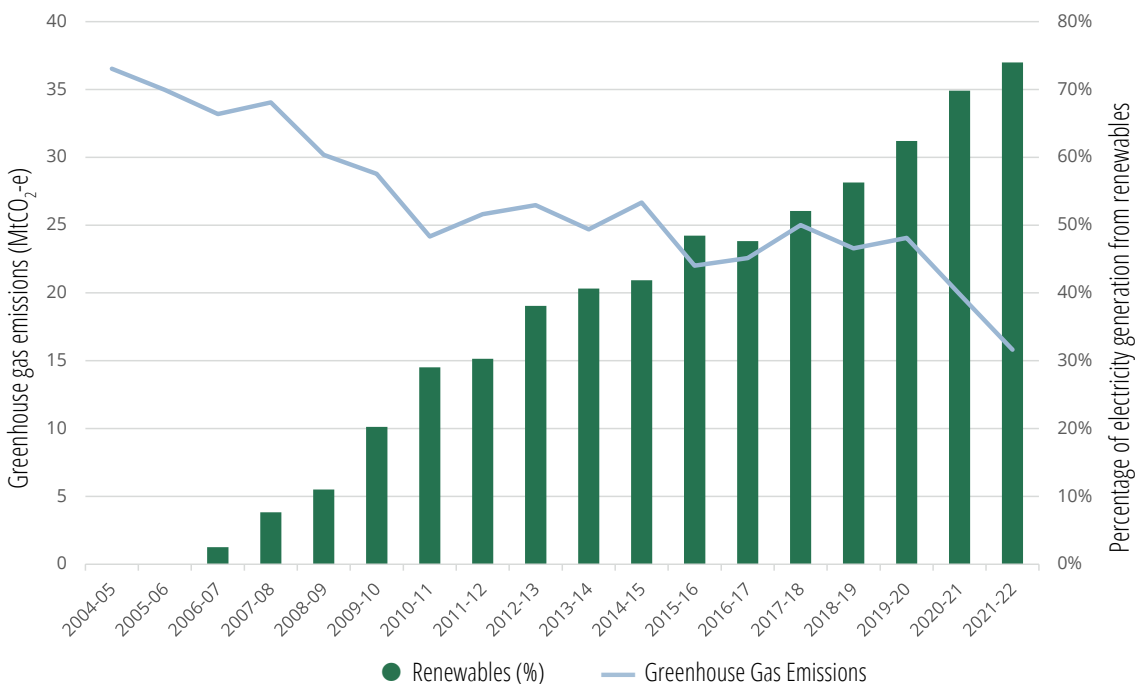
The amendments to the CCGER Act require the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to set interim greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for 2035, 2040 and 2045, and to set each interim target five years in advance.

South Australia is a world leader in renewable energy and boasts plentiful and accessible renewable energy resources, particularly wind and solar power. The state’s renewable energy sources are capable of generating over 100% of the state’s electricity needs in favourable conditions. The state is on its way to reaching its renewable electricity target by 2027 [figure 3].

The updated net zero target aligns with both national and international targets including the:

- [Paris Agreement](#), a binding international treaty on climate change,

Figure 3: Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MtCO₂-e) and Percentage of Electricity Generation from Renewable, 2004-05 – 2021-22



Context

The state government has identified targets and actions to reduce emissions and support climate adaptation. South Australia enjoys a world-class renewable electricity grid and is well placed to meet the state government’s ambitious targets for emissions reduction and renewable electricity generation.

Investment in renewable electricity infrastructure, carbon sequestration and the development of a range of emissions reduction policies across the state has led to a significant decrease in statewide greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2004-05, South Australia generated 100% of its electricity from fossil fuels. In 2022-23 South Australia’s renewable electrical generation reached almost 74%.

Bungala Solar Farm

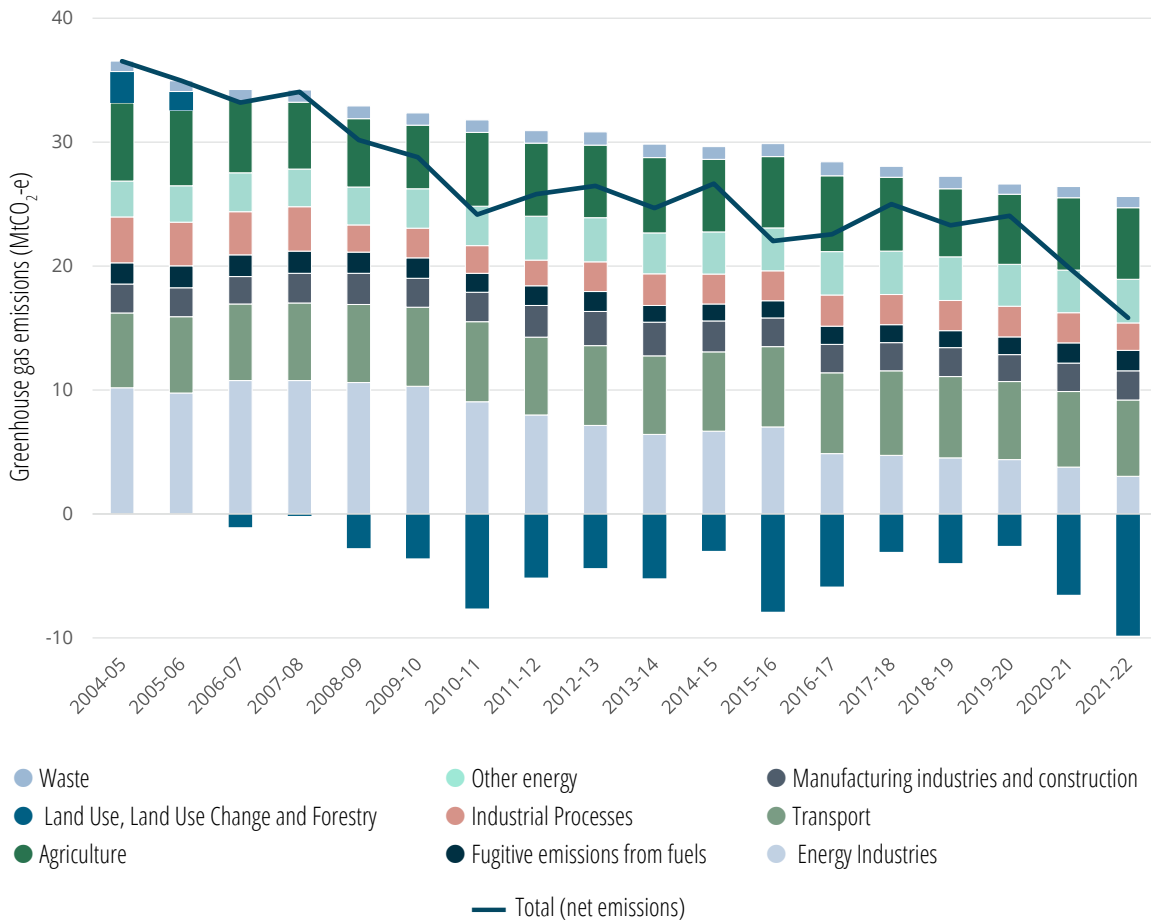


Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Statewide emissions

Between 2004-05 and 2021-22, South Australia’s net carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions fell from 36.5 million tonnes to 15.8 million tonnes – a reduction of almost 57% [figure 4].

Figure 4: Statewide emissions by Sector, 2004-05 to 2021-22

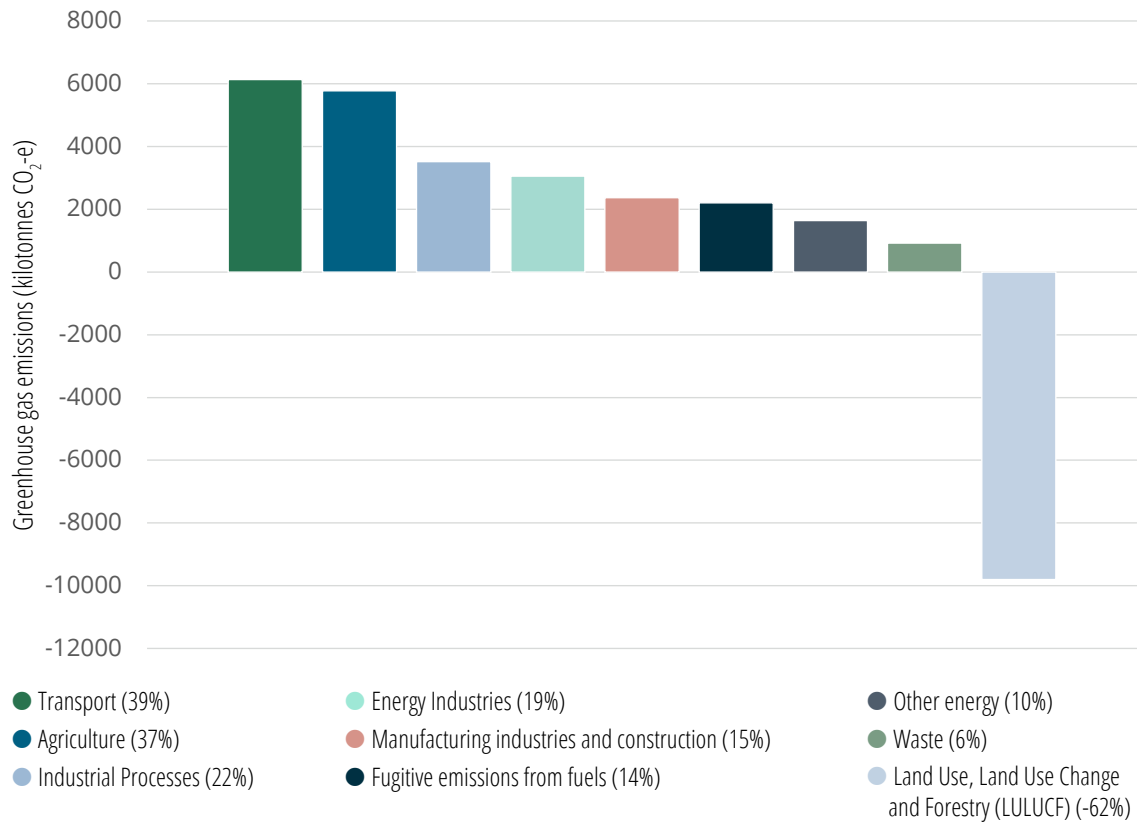


In 2021-22, contributions to total net state greenhouse gas emissions included:

- 39% from **transport**, which represents the main source of emissions via liquid fuels. Transport emission sources include road transport, domestic aviation, rail and shipping. Emissions from transport may be impacted by road transport demand and road transport fleets, changing consumer preferences for diesel over petrol and the demand for diesel vehicles in the resources sector.
- 37% from **agriculture**, including livestock industries (enteric fermentation and manure management), agricultural soils and soil applications, such as fertiliser usage. Emissions from agriculture are impacted by a range of factors, including market conditions and seasonal climatic events such as drought.
- 22% from **industrial processes**, including emissions from the food and beverage industries and the metals, chemicals and minerals industries (such as cement). This source also includes emissions from the consumption of halocarbons in refrigeration and sulphur hexafluoride in electricity supply and distribution.
- 19% from **energy industries** which largely includes emissions from the combustion of gaseous fuels used in electricity generation, with the remainder derived from fossil fuel extraction.
- 15% from **manufacturing industries and construction**, with emissions predominantly resulting from fuel combustion used in commercial activities.
- 14% from **fugitive emissions from fuels**, which consists of emissions that occur in the process of extracting and processing fossil fuels including oil, coal and gas. The main gas emitted under this category is methane.
- 10% from **other energy** sectors, with emissions resulting from fuel combustion used in other sectors including residential and general commercial sectors.
- 6% from the **waste** sector, mostly derived from municipal solid waste disposal and wastewater treatment and discharge facilities. Emissions from solid waste disposal are influenced by methane recovery and recycling rates and alternative waste treatment options.
- -62% from the **land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector** including the absorption and capture of emissions via greenhouse gas sinks, such as regrowth on deforested land, plantations and natural regeneration together with sources of emissions, such as deforestation activities. Emissions from this source can vary significantly from year to year due to changes in land management operations and improvements in calculation methodologies.

Kuitpo Forest Reserve, South Australia



Figure 5: South Australian greenhouse gas emissions contribution to total net emissions by sector 2021-22**Table 1:** Statewide emissions by Sector, 2004-05 to 2021-22

Source of greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse emissions (kilotonnes CO ₂ -e)		% Change to 2021-22
	2004-05	2021-22	2004-05 to 2021-22
ENERGY RELATED*	23,969	15,412	-36%
INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES	2,904	3,521	21%
AGRICULTURE	6,289	5,775	-8%
WASTE	840	916	9%
LULUCF	2,530	-9,803	-488%
Net emissions	36,532	15,821	-57%

*Includes Energy industries, Manufacturing industries and construction, Transport, Fugitive emissions from fuels and Other energy sectors

Net Renewable Electricity Generation

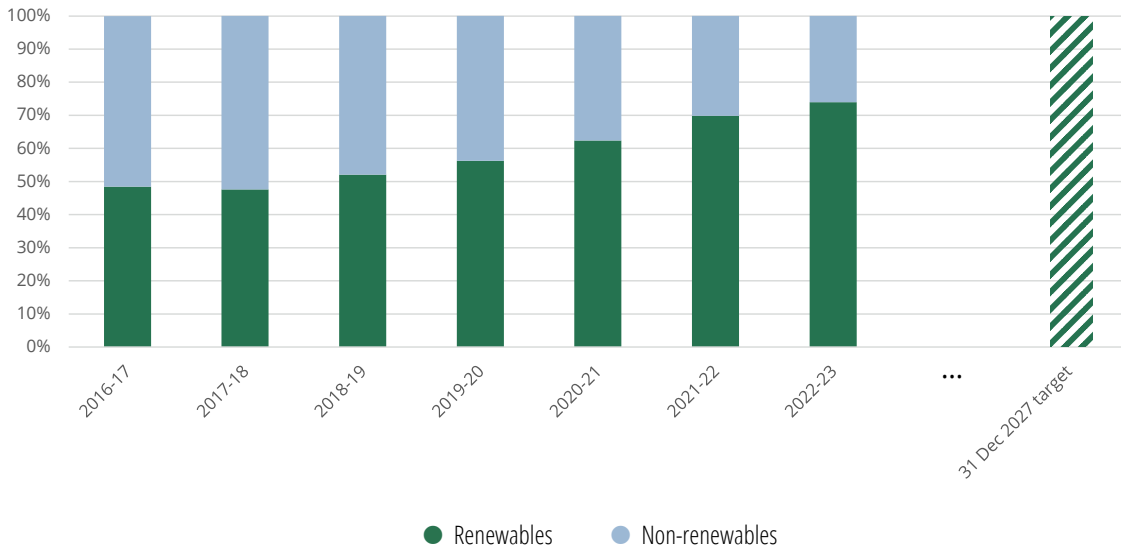
South Australia’s electricity system has continued to undergo rapid change, with strong investment and fast uptake of renewable energy sources including rooftop solar, battery storage, solar farms, and wind farms.

Non-renewable sources include gas and imports via interconnectors with other states through the [National Electricity Market](#) (NEM).

South Australia currently generates almost 74% of its electricity from renewable sources.

In 2023, there were 289 days on which renewables met all of the consumption demand of the entire state for part of the day.

Figure 6: South Australian renewable vs non-renewable electricity generation, 2016-17 to 2022-23



By 2025-26, net renewable electricity generation is expected to reach 85%. The state has a target to reach 100% net renewable electricity generation by 31 December 2027.

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) forecasts considerable growth in South Australian electricity demand this decade – from around 16,000 gigawatt-hours in 2023-24 to nearly 23,000 gigawatt-hours in 2030-31. This additional demand will almost exclusively be generated from renewable sources resulting in South Australia consistently being a net exporter to the eastern states.

Renewable electricity in South Australia is currently derived from:

- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) / Customer Energy Resources (CER)
- wind farms
- solar photovoltaic farms
- solar thermal farms
- big batteries and large-scale energy storage

DERs / CERS are smaller generation sources including rooftop solar, home batteries and electric vehicles. They are commonly distributed across homes and businesses, rather than in any one central location. When combined across the state rooftop solar is one of the largest sources of electrical generation in the state.

Windfarms supply a significant amount of electricity to South Australia. Major wind farms in South Australia are located at Hornsdale, Lake Bonney, Hallett, Snowtown and Cape Jervis.

Solar photovoltaic farms are large-scale solar facilities that convert sunlight to electricity. Major solar farms in South Australia are located at Port Augusta, Mannum, Taillem Bend, Coonalpyn and Streaky Bay.

Solar thermal farms are concentrated solar thermal plants that use mirrors and lenses to concentrate the sun’s energy. A solar thermal plant in Port Augusta utilises the captured heat to operate a major commercial horticulture operation.

South Australia has a number of **big batteries and large-scale energy storage** installations that are used to support the electricity grid in times of both high and low demand. When excess electricity is being generated, these storage facilities hold that excess, ready to release it back into the system when demand is high and additional electricity is required.

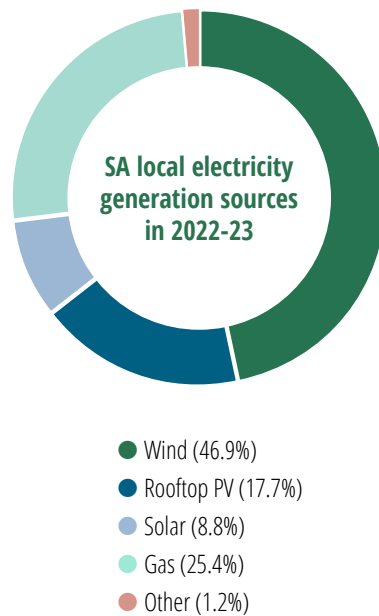
Other renewable electricity sources are being explored for South Australia, including geothermal, pumped hydro, renewable hydrogen, and bioenergy.

In 2022-23, local generation was provided by:

- wind farms, which contributed 6,651 gigawatt hours (GWh) and 46.9% of the total electricity generated (up from 44.6% for 2021-22).
- rooftop photovoltaics provided 17.7% of generation and larger scale solar installations provided 8.8% combined. For the first time, combined solar technologies generated more than gas-powered generation in South Australia totalling 26.5%.
- gas-powered generation contributed 25.4% (down from 29.5% in 2021-22).
- the remaining generation, 1.2%, was provided by batteries and liquid fuels.

Gas-powered generation volumes are likely to continue to fall as more renewable electricity is connected.

Figure 7: South Australian local electricity generation sources in 2022-23



Climate Change



Wetlands, River Murray

Climate Governance in South Australia

In May 2022, the Parliament of South Australia declared a climate emergency, committing to restoring a safe climate by transforming the state's economy to net zero emissions.

The [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) supports South Australia's long-standing commitment to taking effective action to reduce the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Emergency Declaration

1. notes the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report confirms that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and current plans to address climate change are not ambitious enough to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels—a threshold scientists believe is necessary to avoid more catastrophic impacts.
2. notes that around the world, climate change impacts are already causing loss of life and destroying vital ecosystems.
3. declares that South Australia is facing a climate emergency.
4. commits to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to zero net emissions.

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007

The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water is responsible for the operation of the CCGER Act, which provides for measures to address climate change and to achieve a sustainable future for South Australia, and legislates the state's emissions and renewable electricity targets.

The CCGER Act is an important part of the government's policy agenda to work with business and the community to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The CCGER Act:

- provides for policies and initiatives to address climate change to assist in achieving a sustainable future for the state.
- sets targets to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the state.
- promotes the use of renewable sources of energy.
- promotes business and community understanding about issues surrounding climate change.
- supports measures to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

The CCGER Act formalises governance arrangements by outlining the functions held by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and creating the Premier's Climate Change Council.



Coppermine Waterhole, Chowilla

Premier's Climate Change Council

The [Premier's Climate Change Council](#) was established under the CCGER Act as an independent advisory body to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, with members appointed from a range of sectors.

The Council:

- provides independent advice to the Minister about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.
- provides advice on the impact of climate change on businesses and the wider community, including the impact and costs of climate adaptation and mitigation activities.
- takes a leadership role in engaging with the environment and conservation sector, businesses, and the wider community about issues associated with climate change.

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

The Minister has a wide range of functions relating to emissions reduction and climate change adaptation policies and actions towards the state emissions targets and sector-based or interim targets.

The Minister's responsibilities include developing policies to address climate change, promoting early action to achieve targets, promoting renewable energy and other emissions reduction technology, supporting action within industry and demonstrating government leadership.

The Minister is empowered to monitor and report on the extent of climate change, as well as initiatives and activities undertaken to address climate change. This includes reporting required under the CCGER Act (section 7 and section 21). More information is available in the [Climate change and greenhouse emissions reduction reports](#).

The Department for Environment and Water

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is the primary government agency charged with developing the policy and strategic direction for the state government's response to climate change.

DEW works with other state government agencies, the community and industry to develop policies and actions to reduce the state's emissions and adapt to climate change.

As an authority on the state's environment and natural resources, DEW plays a key role in helping government, businesses and individuals make long-term decisions to drive the sustainable development of South Australia, supporting economic prosperity and a vibrant and healthy society.

Reporting to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, DEW supports the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as well as the publishing of climate change related data.

Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN 21)

The Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN 21) is an international policy network which aims to accelerate the global shift to renewable energy. In April 2024, Adelaide hosted the International Renewable Energy Conference which saw 3,500 global leaders across the public, private and community sectors gather to advance the global transition to renewables.

The Climate Change Action Steering Group

The Climate Change Action Steering Group is an executive-level steering group, comprised of leaders from across government, with responsibility for providing strategic guidance and oversight to cross-government climate change management policy and programs. The group supports the development and monitoring of initiatives outlined in [South Australia's Net Zero Strategy](#) and the [South Australian Government Resilience and Adaptation Actions](#).

Environmental Protection Authority

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is South Australia's independent environment protection regulator. The EPA protects, restores and enhances the environment through the risk-based regulation of pollution, waste, noise and radiation.

Working closely with industry, the community and government, the EPA protects South Australia's unique natural environment while supporting economic growth and improving wellbeing.

The EPA administers the [Environment Protection Act 1993](#), [Radiation Protection and Control Act 2021](#), [Plastic Shopping Bags \(Waste Avoidance\) Act 2008](#) and [Single-use and Other Plastic Products \(Waste Avoidance\) Act 2020](#), and develops guidelines and codes of practice.

Managing Climate Change

The state government is focused on addressing climate risks to South Australia through practical measures that address the underlying causes of climate change and actions to support climate adaptation.

Under [*Treasurer's Instruction 2 - Financial Management*](#), South Australian public sector agencies and statutory authorities are accountable for managing financial risks, including climate-related risks that have a financial impact.

The state government is undertaking a statewide climate change risk assessment to further identify and prioritise action relating to those climate change risks. The outcome of this work will inform the state government's climate change adaptation planning.

South Australia's renewable energy leadership, skilled workforce, innovative businesses, strong research sector and abundant natural resources provide a strong base from which to meet the challenges of climate change and capture the opportunities from low emissions and climate resilient products, services and resources.

The state government has a focus on growing climate-smart and low-emissions industries, creating new jobs and attracting investment, particularly to regional areas.

To minimise the impacts of a changing climate, governments, businesses and communities in South Australia and around the world are reducing emissions, transitioning their economies and adapting. This is shifting investment and demand towards low emissions and climate resilient goods, services and natural resources and away from emissions-intensive products.

South Australia will continue to build on past successes and increase efforts to leverage valuable opportunities in low emissions industries, carbon sequestration and adaptation. These opportunities include renewable energy generation and storage, low emissions manufacturing and mining, electrification of transport, increasing carbon storage in the land and sea, circular economy innovations and innovation in climate resilient agriculture.

Cable Bay, Innes National Park, Yorke Peninsula



Climate Ready Government

The state government has recently released its Climate Ready Government initiative that outlines how the South Australian public sector will manage climate related risks and reduce greenhouse emissions in its operations.

A new *Premier and Cabinet Circular 007: Climate Ready Government* sets out the emissions reduction and climate change risk management requirements for state government agencies.

The initiative has two key elements:

- Climate Risk Management requirements for South Australian public sector agencies to effectively assess, manage and report climate-related risks and opportunities to public services, operations and assets.
- a Net Zero Emissions for Government Operations program that outlines actions and requirements for agencies to reduce their emissions, including carbon management plans.

The Climate Ready Government initiative will enable the state government to transparently report how it is identifying and managing climate related risks.

Net Zero Strategy

[South Australia's Net Zero Strategy](#) will guide the state's transition to a net zero emissions future.

The strategy 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.

It focuses on actions to achieve the state's 2030 targets and to lay the foundations for longer term action to 2050, such as research and development, capability building and supportive policy and regulation.

The strategy complements the South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions, which outline 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.

Emissions Reporting

Under Section 7 of the CCGER Act, a report is required to be prepared every two years on South Australia's progress towards emissions reductions and renewable electricity targets.

A report prepared under this section must include a number of key requirements and assess the effectiveness of South Australia's climate change initiatives.

The latest [Report on the operation of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007](#) was published in December 2023.

The state government has recently introduced the [Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Bill 2024](#). The proposed amendments to the Act will:

- require a statewide emissions reduction plan to help achieve South Australia's emission reduction targets.
- include a statewide climate risk assessment to identify risks and opportunities and to inform adaptation planning.
- introduce an ability for the Premier to nominate a public sector entity to prepare a climate change plan for an entity or sector.
- provide for enhanced public sector action and reporting on reducing emissions and managing climate risk in government actions.

Climate Change in South Australia

Human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are driving long-term shifts in the global climate. South Australia is witnessing this through rising temperatures, increased frequency of hot days, heightened fire danger, varying rainfall and rising sea levels.

The changing climate poses risks to communities, industries, infrastructure and the environment. Rising temperatures and prolonged heatwaves can have detrimental effects on human health, agriculture and ecosystems. Declining rainfall patterns affect water availability and agricultural productivity. Increased fire danger weather conditions pose significant risks to lives, properties and biodiversity. Rising sea levels threaten coastal areas and infrastructure.

Temperature and extreme heat

- Average annual temperatures across South Australia have been increasing since the 1970s, with the highest rates of increase occurring in the north of the state.
- Mean annual temperature across South Australia is now 1.1°C warmer than in the 1970s.
- Climate projections forecast further temperature increases and more days above 40°C by 2050.
- The increase in annual average temperature has been variable. The coolest part of the state, the Limestone Coast region, has seen the lowest rate of temperature increases. The highest rate of temperature increases have been observed in the South Australian Arid Lands region - up to 1.5°C over the past 50 years.

Fire Danger

- Fire danger weather conditions have increased in both occurrence and severity since the late 1970s, with the highest rates of increase in the east and south-east of the state.
- The overall risk from bushfires and grass fires is driven by a range of factors, including weather, fuel availability and dryness, ignition sources, the viability of fire suppression measures and the vulnerability of people and assets.
- Although the increase in the risk of bushfires occurring can be predicted with relative confidence, the magnitude and overall impact of those fires is more complex to estimate due to the variability of other risk factors.

Rainfall

- Significant regional variation can be seen in seasonal rainfall trends across South Australia with summer rainfall increasing in the north and winter rainfall decreasing in the south.
- Rainfall totals across many southern agricultural areas have been below average compared to all previous 30-year periods since 1900. These rainfall declines are consistent with climate change projections seen in other midlatitude areas in Australia.
- Pastoral areas in north-western South Australia are seeing increased tropically influenced rainfall between November and March.
- Wetlands and water dependent ecosystems, particularly in the south-east of the state, have experienced a reduction in the duration of surface water inundation during the drier months of each year, resulting in encroachment of dryland terrestrial vegetation.

Sea level rise

- Sea levels along South Australia's coast are rising and the rate of rise is increasing.
- Sea levels along South Australia's coast rose by an average rate of around 2 mm per year between 1966 and 2022. The rate of sea level rise is increasing and from 1993 to 2022 was between 3 mm and 5 mm per year in some locations.

An aerial photograph of a red and blue helicopter, likely a Blackhawk, flying over a vineyard. The helicopter is positioned in the upper left quadrant, with its main rotor blades blurred from motion. It is dropping a large volume of water, which is captured mid-air as a white, misty spray. The vineyard below consists of neat, parallel rows of green grapevines separated by brown dirt paths. The background shows a hazy, overcast sky.

Bushfire management

The State Bushfire Coordination Committee is tasked with coordinating bushfire management and prevention activities across public land on behalf of all South Australians.

The South Australian Country Fire Services (CFS) is the Hazard Leader and Emergency Control Agency for bushfire risk in South Australia, with 13,500 volunteers delivering professional fire and rescue services to outer metropolitan, regional and rural South Australia.

The state government has invested in the CFS aviation fleet:

- 5 additional aircraft (from 26 to 31)
- 2 additional helicopters (from 2 to 4)
- 2 additional fixed wing water bombers
- aircraft bases: Clairmont out of Brukunga, Clare, Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier
- multi-mission helicopter – transport crew, regional aerial backburning, livestreaming of fire event

Scenarios

The climate of South Australia has already changed and continues to change. There have been longer, hotter and more frequent heatwaves, an increase in dangerous fire weather, an increase in the intensity of heavy rain events and rising sea levels.

Future climate projections indicate these changes are likely to continue over coming decades, increasingly affecting communities, industries, infrastructure and the environment.

Decision making, planning and resource management will need to consider how to respond to these changes. Climate projections provide an evidence base for the assessment of climate-related risks and opportunities and to support future planning.

The extent of future climate changes will depend on the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases. Climate change projections have been historically based on a range of greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, called Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs), developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). RCPs are used to represent plausible future trends of the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Climate data is commonly presented as an average over a 20-year time period, and reported as mean annual values centered on a future marker year, commonly 2030 (2020–39), 2050 (2040–59), 2070 (2060–79) and 2090 (2080–99). For this Sustainability Report, 2030 and 2090 are used to represent the short and long terms respectively.

The projected changes for other climate variables are reported in comparison to the observed climate of a baseline period spanning 20 years from 1986–2005, the same baseline adopted in the [IPCC 5th Assessment Report](#).

Kanyini Satellite



In August 2024, the state government delivered the [Kanyini Space Services Mission](#), led by the [SmartSat CRC](#) in partnership with two South Australian companies. Kanyini is the first state government funded satellite in the nation and was built by a local team.

Scenarios outlined in Table 2 below are based on RCP4.5 (medium emissions scenario), given the availability of data.

Table 2: Short and Long Term projections for RCP4.5 scenario

	2030 – RCP4.5	2090 – RCP4.5
Temperature	Average daily maximum temperatures are expected to increase up to 1.4°C above 1986-2005 period.	Average daily maximum temperatures are expected to increase up to 2.7°C above 1986-2005 period.
Extreme Heat	Population centres in the southern parts of the state are projected to experience a moderate increase in the frequency of extreme hot days. Population centres in the northern parts of the state experience around 9 to 17 additional days per year over 40°C.	Population centres in the southern parts of the state are projected to experience a moderate increase in the frequency of extreme hot days. Population centres in the northern parts of the state experience around 19 to 33 additional days per year over 40°C.
Rainfall	Average annual rainfall is projected to decline between 6% and 12% in the southern agricultural regions and central areas of the state. Average annual rainfall is projected to decline by a minor amount in the northern areas of the state.	Average annual rainfall is projected to decline between 7% and 17% in the southern agricultural regions and central areas of the state. Average annual rainfall is projected to decline by 10% to 19% in the northern areas of the state.
Sea-level rise	Mean sea level height will continue to rise and the height of extreme sea level storm events will also increase.	Sea level increases comparable to global mean increases, likely 45cm.
Fire Danger	The number of severe fire danger days is likely to increase across the state. It is likely that climate change will result in a harsher fire weather in the future, however the magnitude of that change is strongly dependent on rainfall projections and subsequent fuel availability, particularly summer rainfall. When bushfires occur, more extreme fire behaviour can be expected.	

Source: [Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia 2022](#)

Strategies and Risks



Riverland, South Australia



This Sustainability Report identifies state government opportunities and strategies aimed at mitigating climate risk, capitalising on opportunities arising from a decarbonising world and providing for the wellbeing and prosperity of South Australians. These strategies and risks are presented across four areas.

The state government is partnering with the federal and local governments, the private sector and the community to identify and deliver climate change mitigation and adaption strategies.

Table 3: Scope of the four areas

Economic

The production and consumption of goods, productivity, workforce capability and employment, industry, financial systems and the economy at large.

Natural

Landscapes, seascapes, forests and woodlands, waterways, ecosystems, plant and animal life within the state and its oceans.

Built

Human-made surroundings, structures and systems, supporting material, spatial and human resources to facilitate life, health, work and play, including the digital space.

Social

People, communities and culture, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, support systems and their interactions.

Economic

Strategies in this section include those that can support agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, food and water security, regions, supply chains and logistics, emerging industries and changing workforce requirements, waste management and a circular economy.



Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant solar array

State Prosperity Project

The [State Prosperity Project](#) is a coordinated initiative by the state government to unlock the full potential of renewable energy and critical minerals (including copper and iron) used in renewable energy and green manufacturing globally. The project aims to reindustrialise the Upper Spencer Gulf and foster a new era of prosperity for South Australia, through valuable exports and the creation of jobs that do not rely on fossil fuels. Projects like the state's Hydrogen projects, the Green Iron and Steel Strategy, the Northern Water project, and the [Port Augusta Technical College](#) underpin the State Prosperity Project.

Office of Hydrogen Power SA

The [Office of Hydrogen Power SA](#) was established in 2022 as an attached office to the Department for Energy and Mining and reports to the Minister for Energy and Mining. The office is responsible for leading a coordinated approach to activate the state's emerging hydrogen industry to realise the scale of opportunities from South Australia's leadership in renewable energy.

The state government, through the [Hydrogen Jobs Plan power plant project](#), has committed to building a world-leading hydrogen power plant, electrolysers and storage facility near Whyalla, in the Upper

Spencer Gulf region, to be operational in 2026.

The Hydrogen Jobs Plan aligns with the state government's strategic plans to gain early mover advantage in the green hydrogen economy and unlock the value of the state's magnetite resources and potential for green manufacturing. The plan aims to provide jobs for South Australians, enhance the state's grid security, prove large-scale hydrogen production and generation technology, unlock renewable energy opportunities and support South Australia's continued clean energy transition and decarbonisation.

In collaboration with the private sector, the state government is delivering the [Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub](#) as a multi-user precinct, leveraging the state's renewable energy opportunities and enabling export from a clean hydrogen industrial hub. Proposed private sector developments will help grow jobs in the region by supporting sustainable industry development, attracting new business investment and providing local industry with a renewable energy source. In the short-term, the state's goal is to support first mover developments to export clean hydrogen by 2030, with the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub proposed to scale up over the medium term to full production capacity to maximise economic return to South Australia.

Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub





Lincoln Gap Wind Farm

Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023

The [Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023](#) (the HRE Act) is the primary legislative instrument behind the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and a key part of the State Prosperity Project. The HRE Act introduces an efficient, flexible, transparent and consultative licensing and regulatory framework for the entire lifecycle of large-scale renewable energy and hydrogen projects.

Under the HRE Act, companies can compete for licenses to access suitable government owned land and waters to deliver renewable energy projects. For projects on non-government land, new fit-for-purpose licensing arrangements will be established, enabling regulation of the entire project life cycle. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests will be considered early and throughout the regulatory processes. The HRE Act also sets out requirements to ensure land is rehabilitated and returned to pre-existing conditions and ensure fair outcomes for landowners, communities and pre-existing land rights holders.

In September 2024, public consultation began on the first two proposed release areas in Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East. The state government identified the two proposed release areas under the HRE Act in close consultation with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation and the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation.

Northern Water

The state government is developing the [Northern Water](#) project to inform the final investment decision.

The Northern Water project proposes to provide essential water resources and infrastructure to support green industries, allowing enhanced access to rich critical mineral reserves, supporting the state's hydrogen potential and revitalising local manufacturing industries.

The project includes a proposal to build a large-scale desalination plant and pipeline network to provide a new, sustainable water source for industrial use across the Spencer Gulf, Eyre Peninsula and the far north, reducing reliance on water sources such as the Great Artesian Basin and the River Murray.

A business case was released in February 2024, with funding secured to progress pre-Final Investment Decision activities during 2024 and 2025.

Green Iron and Steel Strategy

The [Green Iron and Steel Strategy](#) seeks to place South Australia at the centre of steel industry decarbonisation by leveraging the state's natural advantages in renewable energy and existing mineral resources.

The strategy aims to enhance the state's advantage in the industry, establish local green steel foundations, develop common user infrastructure and ensure a sustainable long-term industry that delivers shared prosperity by finding solutions for Aboriginal advancement and community autonomy.

As part of the strategy, the state government sought involvement from businesses to jointly investigate and invest in building a green supply chain through a [Green Iron Expression of Interest](#). Submissions to the Expression of Interest closed on 1 October 2024, with 51 submissions being received.

Findon Technical College



Renewable Energy

South Australia is leading the nation in the development of large-scale generation and storage of renewable energy, working with industry, researchers and the community. The state is well placed to transition hard-to-abate industries such as mining and iron and steel production with hydrogen and renewable energy.

Other hydrogen developments

In addition to the hydrogen industry investments being undertaken as part of the State Prosperity Project, the state government is making generational investments supporting projects such as [HyP SA](#), a \$14.5 million demonstration project comprising a 1.25 megawatt electrolyser at the Tonsley Innovation District and the Hydrogen Utility (H2U) development project, providing a facility integrating more than 75 megawatts in water electrolysis to produce renewable hydrogen and ammonia. Plans are also being progressed to construct a commercial scale green hydrogen manufacturing facility in Port Pirie.

South Australian Aboriginal Renewable Energy Forum

South Australian Aboriginal Renewable Energy Forum (SAAREF) was formed to provide a two-way conversation between Aboriginal people and the state government to help inform the development of the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* and facilitate a wider discussion about how the renewable transition can be a vehicle for Aboriginal self-determination. Three SAAREF workshops have been hosted to support development of regulations under the HRE Act.

Based on the SAAREF model, the state government will host an annual South Australian Aboriginal Resources Information Forum (SAARIF) to continue deepening engagement with Native Title Owners, Land Owners, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal businesses, communities and people. SAARIF will be used as a mechanism to engage on priorities and provide a platform for a community voice and enhanced cultural awareness and cultural capability.

Critical Minerals South Australia

Critical minerals, such as cobalt, graphite and lithium are essential inputs to the green transition, used in processes from computing and manufacturing to renewable generation and storage. The [Critical Minerals SA project](#) focuses on supporting critical minerals discovery and exploration in South Australia, allowing for more effective strategy development and helping to ensure positive economic outcomes for the state, supporting the green transition locally and abroad.

Bioenergy

South Australia is investigating using bioenergy, produced from organic matter derived from plants, animals and organic by-products, as an energy resource. The bioenergy industry is in its early stages, but technologies to convert biomass into electricity are commercially available in South Australia. Innovative research and technology are helping to identify new ways to produce bioenergy, and incorporate them into the state's energy system. Opportunities for bioenergy in South Australia include integrating biomethane into the gas network and biofuels, in particular biodiesel.

Waste Management

SA Waste Strategy 2020-2025

[South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025](#) outlines the actions that contribute to the development of a circular economy. The strategy sets targets, including zero avoidable waste to landfill by 2030, and seeks to support increased industry investment in the circular economy, resource recovery and waste management. The strategy encourages the increased use of secondary materials to reduce raw material demand, improved material efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The most recent [Circular Economy Resource Recovery Report 2022-23](#) released in September 2024, identifies that South Australia continues to lead the nation in resource recovery with a total resource recovery rate of 82%, 93% of which is processed within the state. The environmental savings from resource recovery in 2022-23 are estimated to be 1.67 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent, 19,400 terajoules of energy and 6,400 megalitres of water. The resource recovery sector in South Australia contributes \$811 million to the state's economy.

The state government is currently developing the Waste Strategy for South Australia 2025-2030, which will set new targets and actions for accelerating the state's transition to a circular economy. The new strategy will be released for public consultation in 2025.

Reforms to SA's Container Deposit Scheme

South Australia's [Container Deposit Scheme](#) (CDS) is one of the longest running and most successful product stewardship schemes in Australia. Container deposit legislation was first introduced in South Australia in 1977 as a litter control measure and is now used to incentivise resource recovery and recycling. Each year over 660 million CDS beverage containers (over 40,000 tonnes) are returned by South Australians for refund and recycling.

In 2024, the state government consulted on proposed reforms to the CDS that focus on governance and system modernisation, unlocking potential unrealised value in South Australia's circular economy, removing barriers to expand community participation and laying the foundations to position South Australia for national CDS harmonisation.

SA Container Deposit Scheme



Agriculture

Net Zero Agriculture

The state government has announced [\\$8.4 million over five years into research on lowering greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural practices](#) and will leverage Commonwealth and industry contributions of \$16 million to a total of \$24.4 million. This will establish the essential industry partnerships and collaborations necessary to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

The state government is delivering a new initiative that aims to provide on-farm solutions to decarbonise South Australian agriculture. The state government will also look to support the upskilling of the agricultural sector in emissions reductions actions through the incorporation of low emissions intensity farming systems.

The Net Zero Agriculture initiative will build on existing activities to develop new solutions to assist primary producers transition towards a net zero agriculture future. These activities include:

- research and development in methane mitigation in livestock and agronomic practices to reduce broadacre emissions and improve carbon sequestration.
- partnering with industry, such as farming system groups to pilot and test innovative technologies or practices.
- participating in research projects in the Zero Net Emissions from Agriculture Clean-tech Research Centre.
- working with research partners to develop and implement a Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems initiative that will provide farmers with information, tools and options to reduce, monitor and manage emissions on farm.

The Dairy Man Barossa | Credit: SA Tourism Commission



Carbon Farming Roadmap

The [Carbon Farming Roadmap 2022](#) assists the state government and the private sector to understand carbon farming and develop the skills and knowledge required to take advantage of opportunities presented by this new industry. Carbon farming projects sequester carbon in the landscape through regeneration and planting of native vegetation, farm and plantation forestry and improving soil management.

Six Growing Carbon Farming Demonstration Pilot projects have been completed across the state, demonstrating various methods and activities that will quantify and contribute to carbon abatement.

National Statement on First Nations in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

All Australian agriculture ministers have agreed to develop a National Statement on First Nations in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in early 2025. The statement is to be driven by First Nations self-determination principles that will advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives, experiences and interests. The goal of the statement is to drive greater economic inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The state government will participate on the taskforce, which is working to deliver a statement to ministers in early 2025.

Biosecurity Bill

The state government has introduced the draft Biosecurity Bill 2024, seeking to ensure South Australia's biosecurity system remains effective, contemporary and adaptable for future needs. The Bill would support enhanced protection from pests and diseases that threaten the state's economy, terrestrial and aquatic environments or that may affect public amenities, communities and infrastructure. The Bill would modernise South Australia's biosecurity framework, increasing flexibility and responsiveness, while bringing consistency to the management of biosecurity matters across industries, promoting a shared responsibility for biosecurity.

Business and Investment

Small Business

The [SA Small Business Strategy 2023-2030](#) outlines the state government's policies to support and empower small business and includes the development of the [Small Business Sustainability Support Program](#) to assist small businesses improve their environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The program will help small businesses build skills and capability to implement sustainable business practices.

Round 2 of the [South Australian Economic Recovery Fund](#) is the [Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant](#) program, which will support small businesses and not-for-profit entities to purchase energy efficient equipment (through matched funding) that will reduce their energy consumption and associated costs.

Business Sustainability Program

Green Industries SA's [Business Sustainability Program](#) supports businesses of all sizes and from all industry sectors to 'go beyond compliance' and work towards implementing sustainability, circularity and net zero initiatives.

The Business Sustainability Program fills an information gap, providing expertise as a basis for informed decision-making and implementation of sustainable change. It offers grants for projects that lead to improved materials and resource efficiency, better waste management, leaner and cleaner production, fewer carbon emissions and implementation of circular economy principles.

Myriota, Lot Fourteen, Adelaide



South Australia's Advanced Manufacturing Strategy

[South Australia's Advanced Manufacturing Strategy](#) seeks to expand the state's existing industrial capabilities to respond to, and grow with, a rapidly shifting global economy. The strategy seeks to leverage competitive advantages in defence, space, renewables, agriculture, food, forestry, resources, construction and health to enable transformation into an advanced, circular, net zero manufacturing industry.

Invest South Australia

[Invest SA](#) supports investment into South Australian businesses across a range of relevant sectors including the green economy, hydrogen and the resources, fuels and clean tech sectors.

Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

The [Freight and Supply Chain Strategy 2024](#) seeks to ensure the state's critical freight and supply chains are sustainable and resilient to future impacts of climate change to enable enhanced productivity and economic growth. The strategy supports the ambitions of a net zero supply chain, promoting sector wide decarbonisation and supporting actions that minimise and manage network shocks across the state.

South Australian Government Financing Authority's Sustainability Bond Framework

The South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA) is the central financing authority for the state government. It operates a full range of treasury services in the debt capital markets to manage the state government's funding and investment requirements which includes the issuance of long-term debt under its [Sustainability Bond Framework](#).

The framework is presented in the context of the federal government's commitments to the Paris Agreement, the UN SDGs and is informed by the International Capital Market Association's Green Bond Principles, Social Bond Principles and Sustainability Bond Guidelines.

The framework is designed to provide transparency and accountability over how funds raised are notionally allocated towards social, environmental, and human capital outcomes, aligned with the framework's eligibility criteria.

Funds SA Climate Report

The [Funds SA Climate Report 2023](#) details the work undertaken in responding to climate risk in the Funds SA investment portfolio. It outlines the ways in which Funds SA embeds management of the systemic risks presented by climate change, such as transition and physical risks, and the impacts of those risks on potential investment returns over the coming decades. The document outlines management strategies including a phased exclusion of companies involved in thermal coal mining and extraction and encouraging investment managers to commit to net zero by 2050. Funds SA utilises industry recognised frameworks to guide the assessment of climate related risks across geographies, industries and asset classes.

Green Procurement

The state government's [Green Procurement Guideline](#) seeks to promote green procurement outcomes and encourage public authorities and suppliers to improve practices that balance competing procurement priorities, achieve value for money, and minimise impacts on the environment.

Green procurement means purchasing products and services that avoid adverse environmental impacts, while incorporating social and environmental concerns into procurement practices. Green procurement requires organisations to adopt responsible practices when procuring goods and services.

Research and Innovation

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's [Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity Unit](#) is Australia's largest dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health research unit. The unit is focused on understanding and reducing inequity in health and wellbeing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The unit is also investing in, and developing, the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leaders.

Adelaide BioMed City

The [Adelaide BioMed City](#) Innovation District is an organisation of institutes and companies that collaborate with startups, business incubators and accelerators. The Adelaide BioMed City aspires to bring better health and shared prosperity to the world through biomedical leadership in South Australia, bringing together the ideas, talent and entrepreneurial drive to transform the future of health.

Tonsley Innovation District

The [Tonsley Innovation District](#) represents a tripartite partnership between the state government, universities and industry, incorporating the integration of physical, economic and network assets to create an active and sustainable innovation ecosystem. The district is home to over 1,700 employees working in a range of high value industries including health, clean tech and renewable energy. The district also houses the SA-H2H Hydrogen Technology Cluster and HyP SA.

Waite Research Precinct

The [Waite Research Precinct](#) is home to the largest concentration of agriculture and wine research and teaching expertise in the Southern Hemisphere. The Waite Research Precinct's work supports critical research into global food security and agricultural sustainability, driving innovation to secure a sustainable future for agriculture.

South Australian Research and Development Institute

The Waite Research Precinct is home to the [South Australian Research and Development Institute](#) (SARDI), the state government's principal research institute in aquatic, crop, food, forestry and livestock sciences. SARDI provides high quality science and advice to increase the productivity, adaptability and economic strength of primary industries and the regions that house them.

Clean-tech Cooperative Research Centre Funding

The state government provides funding support to several clean-tech Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) such as the [Future Fuels CRC](#), [Future Battery Industries CRC](#), the [Reliable Affordable Clean Energy for 2030 CRC](#) and the [Heavy Industry Low-Carbon Transition CRC](#). CRCs bring together many of Australia's leading research organisations and industry partners to develop a framework to enable industry to collaborate, share knowledge and experiences while lowering the risks of trialing new technology.

Research and Innovation Fund

The state government supports the development and commercialisation of innovative climate smart products and services through the [Research and Innovation Fund](#). The fund provides support for entrepreneurs and startups that produce innovative products and services that contribute to the low emissions transition and climate adaptation programs.

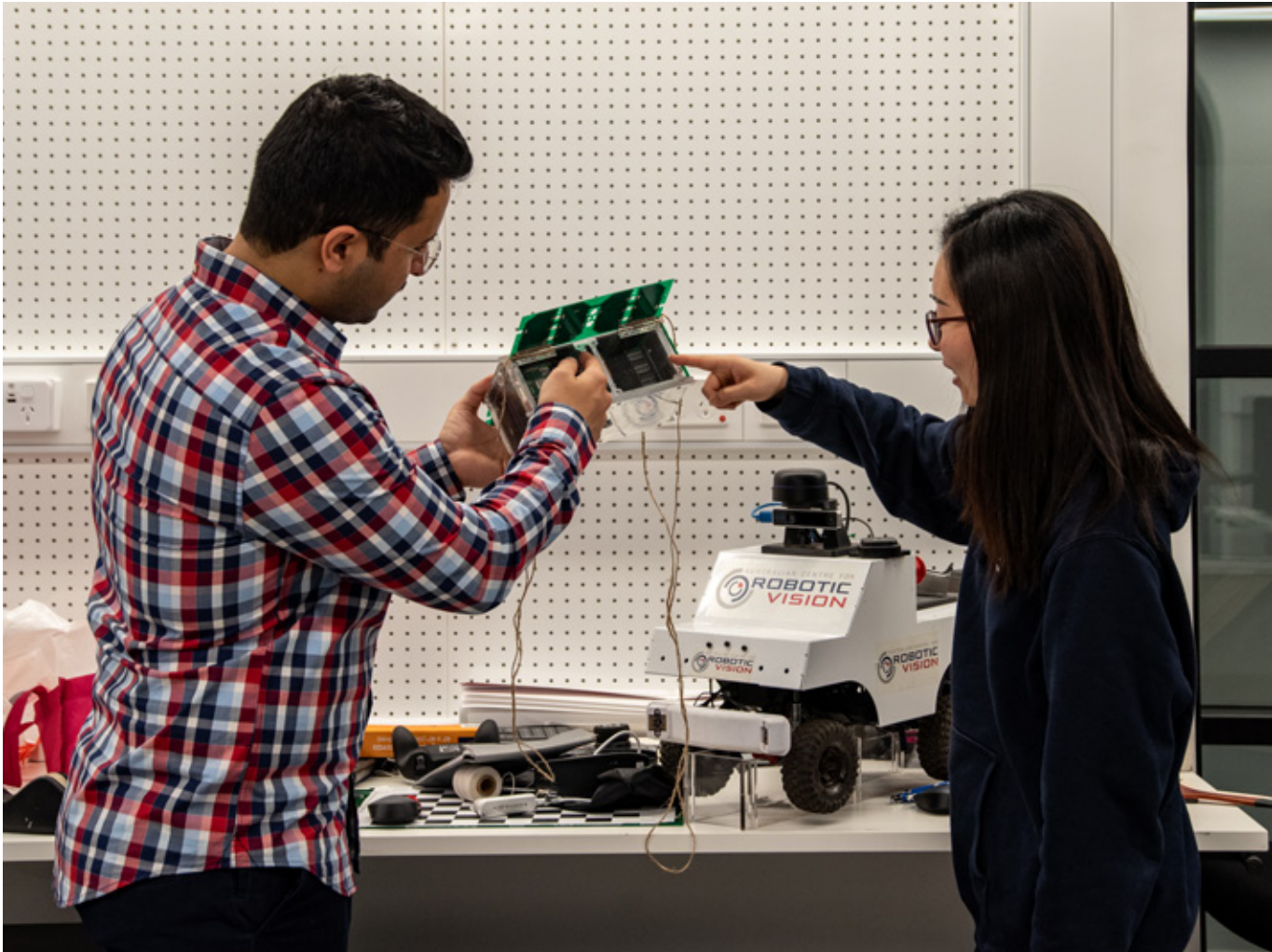
Adelaide University

The newly established [Adelaide University](#) represents a merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. Adelaide University combines the strengths of these two universities to deliver a nation-leading curriculum and student experience, a strengthened research program and greater access to tertiary education.

Lot Fourteen

[Lot Fourteen](#) is a growing innovation district, bringing together government and industry in a world-class research precinct working across space, defence, critical technologies and creative industries. The district is home to the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, the Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre and the Australian Space Agency, as well as blue-chip tenants such as Google, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services.

Australian Institute for Machine Learning (AMIL), Lot Fourteen, Adelaide





Findon Technical College

Workforce and Skills

Skilled. Thriving. Connected.

The [Skilled. Thriving. Connected. Our Policy Direction for Skills in South Australia](#) responds to the state's immediate skills needs and sets the direction for supporting the skills ecosystem over the next decade to connect more people to skills in priority areas across the state's economy, including renewable energy.

TAFE SA

[TAFE SA](#) is South Australia's largest vocational education and training (VET) provider. TAFE SA focuses on practical, hands-on experience and skills with an aim to ensure graduates enter the job market with the skills and knowledge that employers value, including those required to facilitate the green transition. TAFE SA training covers a wide range of industries and levels of tertiary education, ranging from entry-level certificates to bachelor's degrees at locations across the state.

The [Roadmap for the Future of TAFE SA](#) signals the state government's renewed commitment to TAFE SA. The Roadmaps recommendations will now shape a ten year strategic plan.

Technical colleges

Five new [technical colleges](#) have been or are being built across South Australia to ensure students have meaningful pathways from school to an in-demand career. The Findon Technical College opened in 2024 and provides education in areas including advanced manufacturing and engineering, health and social support, and early childhood and education. Port Augusta Technical College is planned to open in 2025 (as part of the State Prosperity Project), and the Tonsley Technical College, The Heights Technical College and Mount Gambier Technical College are set to open in 2026.

250 Apprenticeships Pilot Program

The [250 Apprenticeships Pilot Program](#) supports the SA Housing Trust's commitment to provide customers with opportunities to train for and secure meaningful employment. The program works with a number of South Australia's group training organisations to address areas with identified skills shortages across the building and construction sectors. Apprentices have been employed across ten different trades including bricklaying and concreting, cabinetmaking and carpentry, electrical, wall and floor tiling and plastering, and plumbing and roof plumbing.

Jobs and Skills Outlook 2024

The [Jobs and Skills Outlook 2024](#) is a five-year forecast of demand for skilled workers across all industry sectors in South Australia. The Jobs and Skills Outlook also highlights sectors in focus supported by VET qualifications and is updated annually to reflect progress and emerging priorities.

Skills Shortage Solutions

The [Skills Shortage Solutions](#) initiative provides support to strategic projects that increase and improve the uptake of VET programs and the supply of qualified people to address trade skill shortages. Projects include addressing known barriers to acquiring, maintaining and deepening priority trade and technical skills, particularly women and other underrepresented groups ensuring demand is met and providing opportunities to broaden the workforce supply in these critical skilled occupations.

TAFE SA



Natural

Strategies in this section include those that can support South Australia's natural environment, species adaptations to a changing climate, the conservation and rehabilitation of species and the protection and preservation of the state's biodiversity and heritage.



Changes to *Environment Protection Act 1993*

On 1 March 2024 the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the EPA Act) was amended to incorporate a number of climate change related matters. The amendment clarified the role of the EPA Act, in particular the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) role in climate change regulation, positioning the EPA Board to address climate change when administering the EPA Act, and incorporating key climate terms into the Objects of the EPA Act. The changes to the EPA Act support the scoping and development of a statutory Environment Protection Policy (EPP) helping to achieve climate targets and support a more circular economy. The EPP would require climate related matters to be considered in regulatory decision making by the EPA, along with both non-mandatory and mandatory requirements.

The [Environment Protection \(Waste to Resources\) Policy 2010](#) operates under the EPA Act and provides a legal framework and regulatory underpinning for South Australia's waste management objectives, such as those outlined in the SA Waste Strategy.

Aquatic ecosystems monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The EPA monitors and reports on South Australian creeks, rivers and marine waters in order to assess their condition and provide information that can be used to guide management decisions. The [Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Reports](#) address individual ecosystems, to assess aquatic ecosystem conditions and identify locations that may require more detailed investigation into pollution sources and management implications.

Legislating protections for biodiversity

The state government is developing new legislation to protect and conserve biodiversity. A new Biodiversity Act would incorporate the knowledge of Aboriginal South Australians in the management of land and ecosystems, streamlining and centralising existing legislation relating to biodiversity. The new Act would establish provisions for participation in the federal government's Nature Repair Scheme.

Murray River, South Australia





Mount Lofty Summit

The [State Landscape Strategy](#) provides a framework to unify the combined capacity of South Australian regional communities, Aboriginal people, private landholders, landscape boards, state and local governments, the conservation sector and industry to ensure South Australia continues to enjoy healthy, resilient landscapes. The ten-year strategy acknowledges the time sensitivity of climate change, focusing actions in the critical years between 2021 and 2030. The strategy embeds the risks and challenges associated with climate change in the management of natural systems, empowering a range of actors to tackle climate change and ensure the stability and resilience of the state's landscapes.

The policy framework established by the strategy is now embedded in Regional Landscape Plans providing statewide coverage. These plans address the challenges of climate change, adaptation and landscape resilience. Boards have been implementing these plans to deliver activities with a diverse range of partners including First Nations, community groups, universities, government agencies and landholders. Multi-year projects have been established and examples of key current activities include:

- carbon outreach projects funded by the federal government.
- Climate-Smart Agriculture and emergency preparedness projects – funded by the separate parts of the Natural Heritage Trust.
- revising Water Allocation Plans to take account of a changing climate – funded through levy payments or state appropriation.

A review of the strategy is proposed to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose and is having a positive impact on the management of natural resources across the state.

Strong People, Strong Country – Land Co-Management

The [Strong People, Strong Country](#) co-management framework is a partnership between the state government and Aboriginal groups. The framework combines traditional land management knowledge with contemporary park management and allows for management of both Crown and Aboriginal owned land. Shared responsibility for the management of national parks, conservation parks and wilderness protection areas were first codified in 2004 and expanded in 2013 under the [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972](#). This legislation acknowledged the intrinsic connection of Aboriginal peoples to their ancestral lands and supports the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities by empowering them to support the health and wellbeing of those lands.

Land Management arrangements are established by agreement with the traditional owners and often with the determination of native title.

Co-management agreements reflect specific natural and cultural aspects of the land under management and Aboriginal community.

Co-management agreements encompass four fundamental principles:

- continued cultural, spiritual and traditional use of the land by Aboriginal peoples.
- preservation and protection of Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of significance.
- protection of natural resources, wildlife, vegetation and environmental features of the land.
- continued enjoyment of the land by the public.

The co-management arrangements support the state government's Closing the Gap commitments, advance shared decision making and allow Aboriginal peoples to consider ways to support greater access and connection to country in parks.

Mount Remarkable National Park



Urban Water Directions Statement

Almost 90% of South Australians live in cities and towns with populations greater than 1000 people, with the majority of the population concentrated in the Greater Adelaide area. The [Urban Water Directions Statement](#) sets out a statewide framework for urban water management to deliver greener, cooler urban centres, reduced flood risks, healthier local environments and more efficient water use, creating new jobs and expertise for export nationally and internationally.

Climate Ready Coasts program

The [SA Climate Ready Coasts program](#) aims to coordinate consistent approaches to coastal hazard adaptation, improve understanding of coastal risks, increase capacity and knowledge of coastal hazard adaptation planning and create evidence-based decisions and investments for coastal areas. Effective coastal management is essential in the face of rising sea levels, stronger storms and more severe coastal hazards.

Flows for the Future program

The [Flows for the Future program](#) seeks to re-establish a critical portion of natural water flow patterns called 'low flows' to streams. The absence of low flows to streams is one of the biggest causes of deteriorating catchment health in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. This opt-in program installs devices that allows low flows of water to pass around dams and back into the downstream catchment during natural flow periods, including rainfall and runoff. The cumulative impact of these low flows helps to significantly restore catchment ecosystems, supporting sustainable agriculture and regional tourism.

Water Security Statement

The [Water Security Statement](#), under the *Water Industry Act 2012*, includes an overview of South Australia's water supplies, demands and the strategic priorities needed to ensure long-term water security. The statement articulates targeted water security strategies, ensuring water resource management is ecologically sustainable and that the critical water needs of South Australians are able to be met. The state government continues to plan and manage the increasing demand for water against the impacts of climate change and to ensure secure, sustainable and resilient water supplies statewide that enable liveability for future generations.

Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia

Blue carbon is carbon that is captured and stored in carbon sinks in coastal ecosystems including seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangroves.

The [Blue Carbon Strategy](#) seeks to realise blue carbon opportunities by developing and implementing evidence-based policy, projects and research that will ultimately contribute to emissions reduction and the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems. All four of the objectives contained within the strategy are considered to be completed.

BioData SA

[BioData SA](#) is a new project aimed at modernising biodiversity data in South Australia to guide decision making on protection and restoration programs. BioData SA will provide enhanced accessibility, shareability and use of South Australian biodiversity data. The project will increase the volume and quality of the state's biodiversity data, supporting timely, evidence-based decision making in areas such as mining, planning, development approvals, emergency response, biodiversity management and climate change.

Ewens Ponds, Mount Gambier



Built

Strategies in this section include those that can support human-made surroundings, structures and systems to be responsive to the most significant effects of climate change, providing resilient and safe spaces for South Australians to live, work and play.



20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy

The [20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy](#) informs long-term strategic infrastructure planning and decision making in alignment with the South Australian Economic Statement vision of a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. The first strategy was released in 2020. The next strategy is due to be released in 2025 and will look at statewide infrastructure needs to 2045.

Planning

Planning for Climate Change

The [Planning for Climate Change](#) report identifies how the planning system can help build resilience to the impacts of climate change and support South Australia's net zero targets. The report outlines how planning can respond to climate change risks and the frameworks that support those actions, and identifies actions taken, in progress and planned to be undertaken in the future.

Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (the GAR Plan) will replace the 2017 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide. The GAR Plan includes maps identifying long-term urban land and infrastructure needs to support sustainable growth.

The GAR Plan will identify growth over a 15 to 30-year period, by investigating and guiding:

- where houses and employment land will go.
- which areas need conservation and protection.
- what major infrastructure is needed and how it will be provided.

The GAR Plan has been informed by Regional Planning Climate Change Investigations that identify the key climate changes projected for each region and their likely impacts on communities, industries, infrastructure and the natural environment.

Adelaide CBD





The [Tree Protection and Planting Code Amendment](#) seeks to preserve and enhance South Australia's tree canopy by updating tree protection policies, promoting design innovation to retain large trees, reviewing assessment pathways and policies for tree removal in certain cases and extending both the Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay and the Urban Tree Canopy Overlay to cover more parts of South Australia. Public consultation on a draft of the Code Amendment is targeted for early 2025.

Kangaroo Island Regional Plan

The Kangaroo Island Regional Plan is a 30-year roadmap for Kangaroo Island, aimed at fostering a resilient, prosperous, healthy and connected future for the island's communities. Climate change mitigation, convenient transport infrastructure and diverse housing options will be integral to achieving this vision of sustainable growth and community wellbeing.

River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment

The [River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment](#) to the Planning and Design Code updates the planning policy that is applicable to those areas vulnerable to flooding of the River Murray. These updates will guide how communities impacted by the 2022-23 flood event can rebuild in a way that is consistent with flood resilience.

Urban Greening Strategy

The [Urban Greening Strategy for metro Adelaide](#) aims to bring together state agencies, metropolitan councils, non-government organisations, industry bodies, research institutions, Kurna people and the broader community to achieve a greener, more liveable city. Currently in development, the strategy will provide a roadmap to growing tree canopy cover, addressing inequality in greenery access, increasing tree species diversity and reducing urban heat intensity. The strategy will seek to set out a long-term vision for "a resilient and liveable Adelaide for all: cooler, leafier and more biodiverse" and identifies practical actions to achieve this vision.



Tree Planting Volunteers

South Australian Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy

The [South Australian Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy 2023-2026](#) aims to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the state's critical infrastructure systems by implementing a framework for effective identification, assessment and management of risk, improved resilience planning and investment, and collaboration across public and private sectors.

Flood and Bushfire Hazard Mapping Assessment Projects

The [Flood Hazard Mapping and Assessment Project](#) and the [Bushfire Hazard Mapping Update](#), both completed in 2022, aim to highlight potential hazards, while delivering more consistent and contemporary mapping for areas at risk of bushfires and flooding.

Both programs recognise the importance of understanding hazards in South Australia and together aim to promote greater certainty in strategic planning and support for emergency response agencies.

The [Statewide Bushfire Hazards Overlay Code Amendment](#) updates the spatial application of the bushfire hazard overlays to reflect recent bushfire hazard mapping and review.

The [Statewide Flood Hazard Code Amendment](#) was initiated by the State Planning Commission on 12 December 2023 and introduces greater consistency to flood hazard mapping by using contemporary hazard modelling methodology for new and enhanced flood studies, allowing updates to the policy and spatial application of the flood hazard overlays in the Code.

Main Street, Peterborough



[Regional Climate Partnerships](#) are a network of regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical action to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities, economies and natural and built environments.

The network collaborates to deliver on regional climate change action plans and on-ground projects to tackle climate change.

Electricity and charging infrastructure

South Australia’s Virtual Power Plant

[South Australia’s Virtual Power Plant](#) (SA VPP) initiative is a network of thousands of solar and home battery systems across the state, forming Australia’s first and largest virtual power plant. The SA VPP is designed to provide affordable, reliable and secure electricity, stabilising the energy grid whilst increasing homeowners’ awareness of their energy use. The SA VPP program both democratises and supports South Australia’s transition into a renewables based economy.

The SA VPP continues to grow in scale to support more low income and vulnerable households. As at September 2024 more than 6,000 households in public and community housing are benefitting from the bespoke retail plan.

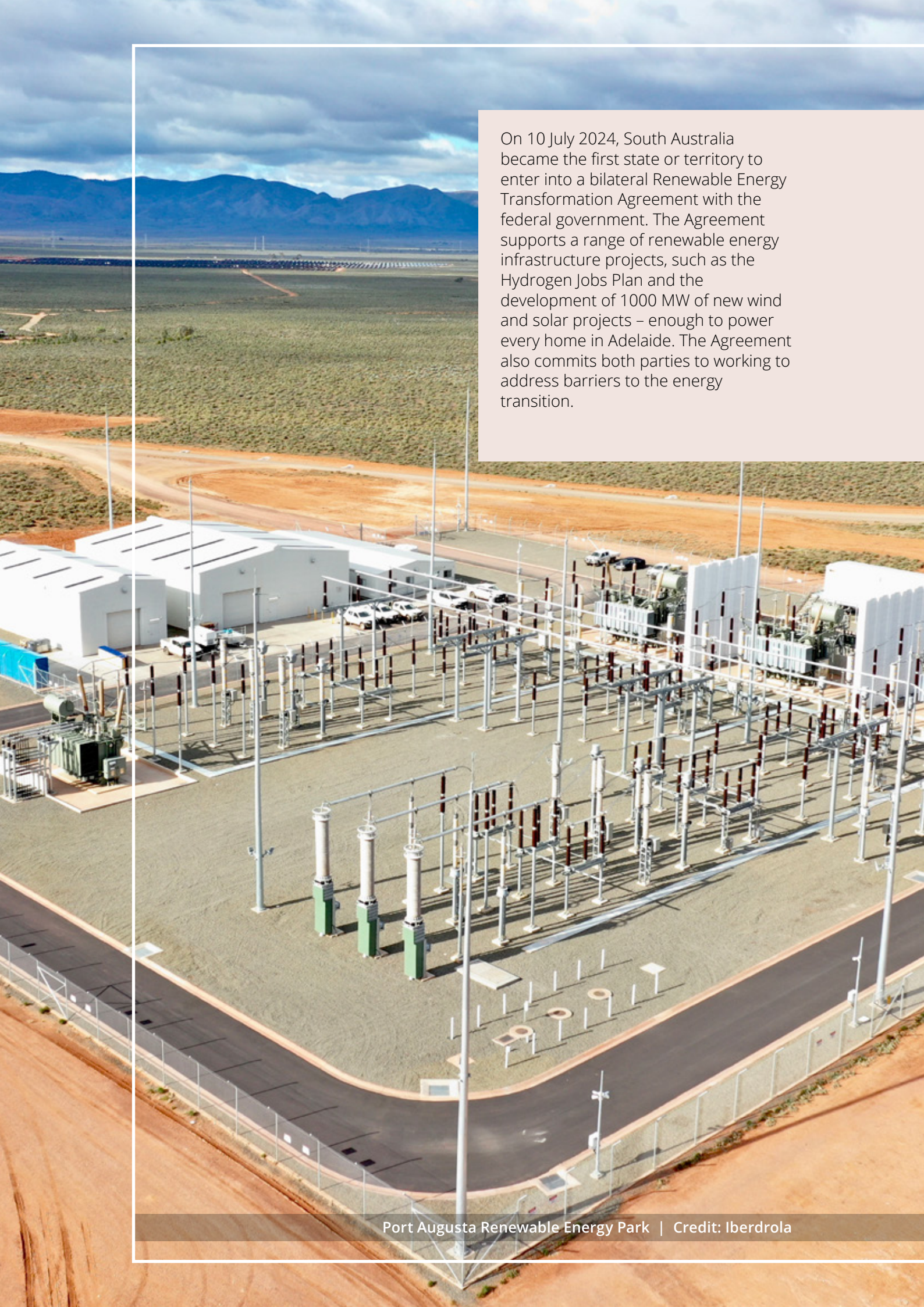
Dispatchable Electricity Capacity Scheme

Amendments to the [National Electricity \(South Australia\) Act 1996](#) enable the state government to establish a scheme for the purposes of providing adequate long duration dispatchable electricity capacity to ensure secure, reliable and affordable electricity supply for the state.

The scheme is intended to incentivise the availability of new and existing long duration dispatchable capacity to support reliability. The required amount of capacity to manage electricity reliability risks in South Australia will be determined under the new electricity planning and forecast functions of the Office of the Technical Regulator.

emPowering Magill Community Battery





On 10 July 2024, South Australia became the first state or territory to enter into a bilateral Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement with the federal government. The Agreement supports a range of renewable energy infrastructure projects, such as the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and the development of 1000 MW of new wind and solar projects – enough to power every home in Adelaide. The Agreement also commits both parties to working to address barriers to the energy transition.

SA Electric Vehicle Action Plan

Under [South Australia's Electric Vehicle Action Plan](#), the state government has supported the uptake of electric vehicles in the state. The plan includes a statewide EV charging network as well as measures aimed at leveraging lower power prices as a result of high penetration of renewable energy, abundant rooftop solar and vehicle-to-grid charging.

The state government has invested \$12.35 million in partnership with the RAA to construct the statewide electric vehicle charging network of more than 530 charging points, at over 140 sites in 52 locations throughout South Australia. As at September 2024, the network is now over 97% complete, with all remaining sites on track to being installed and operational across metropolitan and regional South Australia in 2024.

Smart Charging Trials

The electric vehicle (EV) [Smart Charging Trials](#) addresses integration challenges, service gaps and coordination of the electricity demands of charging electric vehicles. The trials will complement South Australia's EV statewide charging network and ensure that EV Smart Chargers are compatible with current vehicle models and provide optimal charging conditions during periods of high renewable electricity generation or low grid demand.

The trials also aim to simplify billing, offer customer convenience, provide route flexibility and address 'trip anxiety'. The state government has invested \$3.2 million in a range of EV Smart Charging Trials to demonstrate how electricity charging can be integrated into the grid to realise cost savings and other significant network benefits for all South Australians. These trials include partnering with Flinders University to install a fleet-based bank of bi-directional chargers, the first such installation in Australia.

Zero and low emission public transport fleet

The state government is working to develop cleaner, greener public transport to support its emissions reductions targets. Planning is being undertaken to identify solutions to complete the transition of the diesel public rail fleet to a zero emissions fleet, and to examine options for extending outer metropolitan and regional routes. As an interim measure, the state government is converting 50 diesel trains to diesel-hybrid, with 39 already in service. The diesel-hybrids reduce fuel consumption by over 20%. The state government is also completing planning for bus and depot infrastructure to support transition to a [zero emissions public transport fleet](#).



The [EV Fleet Pledge](#) initiative encourages South Australian businesses, government fleets, taxi and ride share services, to commit to transform fleets to electric vehicles.

Water and wastewater infrastructure

Together with investments included in the SA Water 2024-28 delivery program, the state government will deliver services to an estimated 40,000 new homes across the state, including 17,000 new homes in key growth areas.

SA Water 30 Year Asset Investment Plan

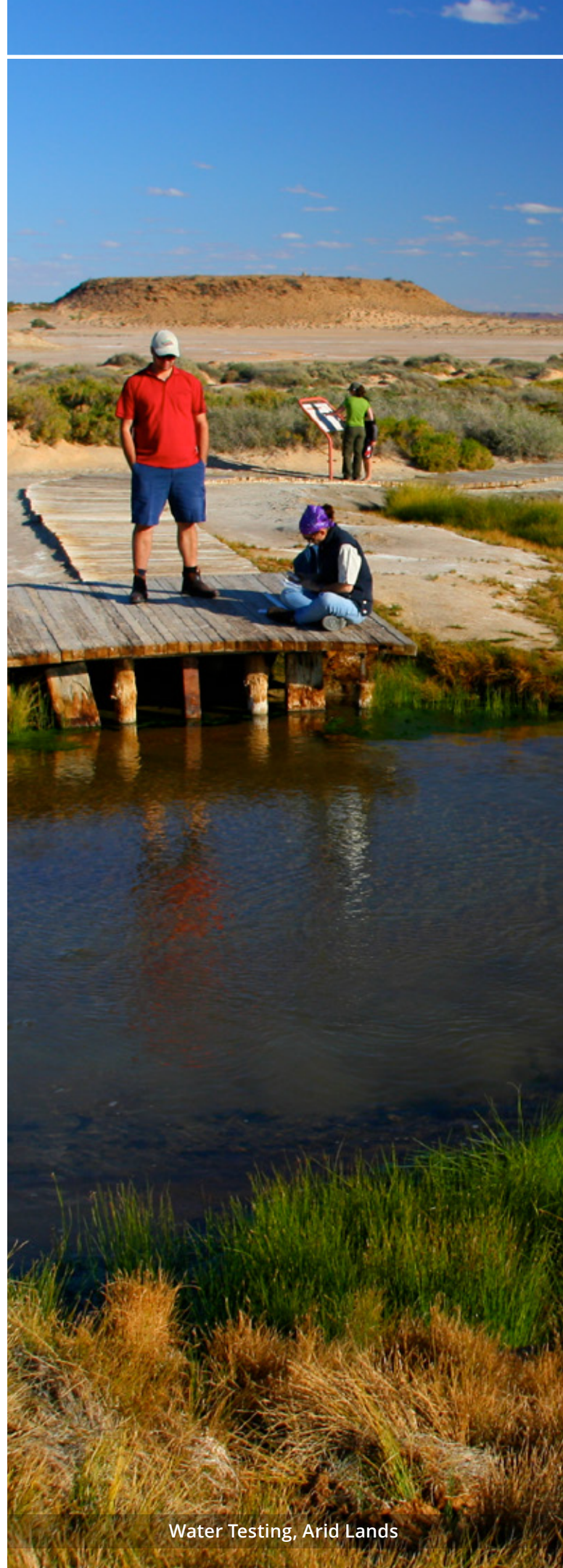
SA Water manage the state's water and wastewater networks and operates over \$14 billion of assets. Proper management requires constant investment to create, sustain and renew assets to keep up with service demand whilst meeting policy objectives such as carbon neutrality. The [SA Water 30 Year Asset Investment Plan 2022](#) supports reliable asset management and service continuity.

SA Water net zero strategy 2030

SA Water have committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 and net zero waste by 2040 in their [Net Zero Strategy 2030](#).

SA Water aims to deliver their net zero emissions target through key initiatives that include demand scheduling, energy efficiency, generation and storage, electrification of fleet and energy market levers facilitating efficient, well managed long-term energy usage.

To achieve the net zero waste target, SA Water are continuing to develop a roadmap, supported by waste generation data, for both the organisation and its construction partners. The roadmap will involve research and trials into additional opportunities to divert waste from landfill and incorporate sustainability into procurement and building design processes.



Water Testing, Arid Lands

Social

The state government provides for the socioeconomic advancement and empowerment of South Australians through continued investments and reform in the social space, as well as ensuring all South Australians have access to essential services.

Strategies in this section include those that can support public health and wellbeing, education, children and families, support services, housing and households, emergency services, social cohesion and inclusion.

Health

Development of the New Women's and Children's Hospital

The state government have commenced construction of the [New Women's and Children's Hospital](#) (New WCH) near the recently completed Royal Adelaide Hospital. The New WCH will be the first 100% electric public hospital in South Australia, with capacity for on-site electricity generation. The New WCH will have 414 overnight beds, with capacity to expand. The location of the hospital will also allow for integration with, and access to the city's Park Lands, providing an important connection to country for Aboriginal consumers, their families and communities.

Development of the New Mount Barker Hospital

The state government has committed to the redevelopment of the [Mount Barker Hospital](#), servicing the rapidly growing population of Mount Barker and the Adelaide Hills region, allowing those residents greater access to high quality health services closer to home. As a new build, the project includes electric plant infrastructure, passive solar design, building insulation, water sensitive urban design and local and low carbon material selection. The development will triple inpatient capacity and provide for specialist maternity, paediatric, rehabilitation, medical, surgical and palliative care.

New Women's and Children's Hospital | Artist Impression





Healthy Parks Healthy People SA

[Healthy Parks Healthy People SA 2021-2026](#) strategy is a nature-based approach to promoting and protecting health and wellbeing. The strategy is guided by a vision to ensure that all South Australians are connected to nature, recognising nature as a crucial component of health and wellbeing, providing a range of benefits such as water purification, air filtration, climate regulation, pollination and coastal protection. Conserving, protecting and promoting the benefits of parks and nature is a central goal of the strategy, acknowledging that the benefits of being in nature rely on the health of the natural environment itself.



Cleland Conservation Park | Credit: SATC

Aboriginal Health Care Framework

The [Aboriginal Health Care Framework 2023-2031](#) aims to drive improvement in the health and wellbeing of South Australian Aboriginal peoples, consistent with Closing the Gap principles. The framework embeds the state governments commitment to providing high quality, responsive services and improving health outcomes for Aboriginal peoples in South Australia. The Aboriginal Health Outcomes Tracker will enable the state government to systematically monitor actions from strategies, agreements and frameworks, tracking commitments at national, state and departmental levels from 2020 to 2031. These actions will inform key performance indicators for Local Health Network Service Level Agreements related to Aboriginal health. The framework is grounded in cultural respect, local planning, partnership and diversity, embracing a holistic view of health that includes physical, spiritual, mental, cultural, emotional and social wellbeing.

The SA Health Climate Change Framework

The draft [SA Health Climate Change Framework](#) provides a path for SA Health to develop an environmentally sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient health system, maintaining high quality healthcare, providing leadership across the private and public healthcare sector and empowering the community to take necessary actions to protect their health. The draft framework seeks the transformation of South Australia's health system through reducing environmental impact, achieving net zero emissions and adapting to current and future impacts of climate change at scale and at pace, in an equitable way.

Children and Families

Universal preschool for three year olds

The state government has committed to providing a [universal preschool for three year olds](#). The new preschool model will include a teacher-led, quality play-based preschool learning and development program, focused on early identification of each child's needs. This will facilitate early inclusion and unification of education, allied health and other services.

Education reforms

The state government, together with the federal government and all other Australian states and territories, extended the [National School Reform Agreement](#) to 31 December 2024. The Agreement commits parties to delivering high quality school education in government and non-government schools, supporting all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens.

All parties have committed to funding every school to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard, delivering an education system that supports young Australians of all backgrounds to achieve their full educational potential.

The [Strategy for Public Education in South Australia](#) aims to ensure every child in South Australia receives a quality education regardless of the circumstances they're born into. The strategy seeks to ensure that learners feel safe, included and valued, with ready access to the support and resources they need to build resilience, social and emotional skills and be effective learners. The strategy aims to support and empower educators through professional learning, encouraging innovation and collaboration to ensure children and young people can learn and thrive.

The strategy aims to strengthen the supports behind educators to help them better understand the needs of their learners and local community. Investment in resourcing and infrastructure will be made available to develop and sustain fit-for-purpose infrastructure where it is most needed.

The state government has also taken action to deliver on the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan, launching the Be That Teacher campaign, enabling a new enterprise agreement, facilitating Autism Inclusion Teachers in primary schools and making substantial investments to provide mental health practitioners in schools.

Wakwakurna Kanyini

The state government, in collaboration with key stakeholders such as the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON), the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and various Aboriginal community organisations, has established [Wakwakurna Kanyini](#), the peak body for Aboriginal children and families in South Australia.

Wakwakurna Kanyini will serve as a strong and independent Aboriginal-led advocate, leading efforts to represent community driven priorities to the state government. Aligned with the Closing the Gap initiative, this peak body's focus is on enhancing outcomes for Aboriginal children and families and reducing over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system.

Wakwakurna Kanyini will also play a key role in implementing recommendations from the [Holding on to Our Future report](#) from the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

Housing

The state government is boosting residential land supply and delivering initiatives that support sustainable growth with appropriate infrastructure in place as part of the [More Homes for South Australians Housing Roadmap](#).

Increasing residential land supply will support the property market and create more diverse and affordable housing to meet the needs of a growing population.

The roadmap consolidates and expands upon [A Better Housing Future](#) plan, while introducing new housing initiatives, including:

- waiving stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers.
- the largest ever land release for new homes in South Australia.
- investing in infrastructure to support more homes.
- training more workers to build more homes.
- more rights for renters including a ban on rent bidding.
- building new homes faster by accelerating planning approvals.
- more public housing.

A Better Housing Future 2023

A Better Housing Future Plan is designed to deliver more social and affordable housing for South Australians, greater protections for those who are renting, more affordable rental opportunities and more support for people to buy a home. The plan provides for more new houses in the regions and greater support for regional communities to pursue housing that meet their needs.

The plan seeks to increase and improve the public housing stock in South Australia, including building 564 new homes, undertaking major upgrades on 350 empty properties and updating a further 3,000 homes, with an aim to provide public housing for 1,144 additional households by 2026.

Bowden Development



Renewal SA Housing Developments

The state government is progressing a number of residential developments, announced in A Better Housing Future plan and in subsequent announcements, including 2024-25 State Budget. The state government has exceeded the target of 2,000 affordable housing opportunities identified by the end of 2025-26 and committed to a target of 20% affordable housing outcomes across its portfolio of direct delivery projects.

The [affordable housing policy](#) setting allows for an increase in the sale price of an affordable home where there is long-term cost benefit to the owner.

Affordable housing is housing for people on low to moderate incomes and includes both rental and home ownership. It is priced so that housing costs no more than 30% of the weekly household income. Affordable rentals are rentals offered at less than 75% of the market rate.

Development	Description
Greater Seaton Urban Renewal	Constructing 1,450 new homes in a 38.5-hectare master-planned estate. Includes the redevelopment of 400 SA Housing Trust lots as part of the project.
Noarlunga development	Constructing over 600 new homes and new public open spaces.
Playford Alive development	Developing 257 land parcels.
Prospect development	Constructing 108 multi-story townhouses.
Thebarton development	Constructing 108 multi-story townhouses.
Bowden development	Constructing 70 new dwellings at Bowden in partnership with UnitingSA.
Tapangka on Franklin development	Planned construction for approximately 392 apartments in a carbon neutral signature building.

Seaton Reserve | Artist Impression



South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy

The [South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031](#) sets out the roadmap to provide all Aboriginal peoples in South Australia with safe, secure and affordable housing. The strategy aligns with and supports broader commitments and aspirations of the state government, including genuine partnership. The co-management arrangements support the state government's Closing the Gap commitments, advance shared decision making and allow Aboriginal peoples to consider ways to support greater access and connection to country in parks.

In addressing homelessness in Aboriginal peoples, the strategy addresses a key factor in the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. The strategy provides a way forward to ensure greater self-determination in housing, where Aboriginal communities can set priorities, co-design housing services and be supported to strengthen housing management frameworks.

APY Lands Retrofit Pilot Project

As part of the Reliable Affordable Clean Energy for 2030 CRC, the state government is collaborating with the University of South Australia and industry, community and educational partners in supporting a pilot project to retrofit Aboriginal community housing in South Australia's remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. The [APY Lands Retrofit Pilot Project](#) partners will work with the APY community in Indulkana to modify a small group of houses, providing a framework for energy efficient upgrades across the remainder of the APY Lands, as well as other remote areas across Australia.

Standard retrofit solutions are not suitable for the APY Lands and materials need to be sourced easily due to the distance from major cities. As labour costs in remote regions can be double that of metro areas, any repairs need to be carried out by local workers, and affordable retrofit solutions are required. The project aims to improve energy efficiency, living conditions and health in the variable desert climate.

88 public housing homes are being constructed as part of South Australian Housing Trust's [Urban Renewal Projects](#) in Woodville, Morphettville, Blair Athol and Felixstow. This construction is enabled through redevelopment of aged South Australian Housing trust properties, to make room for modern family homes.

Learning Hub for Energy Efficient Construction

In 2023, the state government launched [Net Zero Energy Builder](#), an online Learning Hub for Energy Efficient Construction, linking free government and industry resources, case studies and nationally curated continuing professional development options for industry. The Learning Hub 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 net zero outcomes.

Regional housing assistance

The [Office for Regional Housing](#) was created in 2023 to assist regions to address unique housing challenges through key programs such as the Regional Key Worker Housing Scheme and Regional Housing Initiatives Program. Construction of 30 houses is underway for the Regional Key Worker Housing pilot project. The first expansion of the project has been announced, consisting of a 55-allotment housing development in Bordertown.

Household concessions

The state government provides a range of supports to help South Australians on low or fixed incomes with cost pressures. Initiatives include the Cost of Living Concession, concessions on electricity and water bills, and public transport. The state government is also supporting the delivery of the federal government's Energy Bill Relief Fund across 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Real Property Act Reforms

The state government is progressing legislative reform to the [Real Property Act 1886](#) to enable electronic lodgement of division dealings. The Real Property (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 has been prepared to enable division documents to be lodged electronically and aligns with the state government's Housing Roadmap. This reform will save an estimated three months from the current process. Further efficiencies are being investigated by the SA Law Reform Institute.

Social Housing Accelerator Payment

Delivered in June 2023, the [Social Housing Accelerator Payment](#) increases the supply of public homes for South Australians on social and public housing wait lists. Under the program, the state government, alongside Community Housing Provider partners, committed to building 201 new build and refurbishing 118 social housing properties.

Aspire Program

Launched in 2017, the [Aspire Program](#) is the first social impact bond to be implemented in South Australia and the first in Australia to specifically address homelessness. The program utilises a 'housing first approach' for more than 850 eligible homeless South Australians, delivering intensive service for a period of up to three years. The program helps secure better life outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and delivers the required support to lead more fulfilling, stable lives.

The program's efficacy is primarily measured in terms of reductions in hospital inpatient bed days, offence convictions and short term and emergency accommodation support periods.

Household energy

emPowering SA

The state government is delivering community batteries through the [emPowering SA](#) program to deliver renewable energy and lower residential electricity rates to at least 600 SA Housing Trust tenants in Magill, Edwardstown and surrounds.

The batteries will deliver cost reduction benefits to SA Housing Trust tenants while reducing emissions to meet South Australia's climate change targets.

Remote Area Energy Supply scheme

The [Remote Area Energy Supply \(RAES\)](#) scheme provides electricity to around 3,400 customers across 28 remote townships and Aboriginal Communities across the APY Lands, Yalata and Oak Valley. The RAES scheme ensures that South Australians in the furthest reaches of the state have stable, reliable and affordable electricity. Five sites on the RAES scheme operate a hybrid power generation system using renewable energy as a primary means of generation and only switch to diesel generation when renewables are not available or when not fully meeting electricity demand. Other RAES sites are currently being evaluated for cost-effectiveness to implementing renewable energy.

Construction is underway on a \$6.8 million hybrid renewable power station for Oodnadatta that will significantly reduce diesel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75%. Estimated project completion and full commissioning of the plant is on track for early 2025.

Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme

The [Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme \(REPS\)](#) is a state government initiative that helps households and businesses reduce their energy costs whilst contributing to the health of the state's power system. REPS supports energy demand management and demand response, improved energy efficiency activities, including installing insulation, window glazing, building sealing, heating and cooling improvements and efficient appliance procurement. REPS focuses on low income households to help ensure access to the benefits of the renewable energy transition.

In late 2023, the Minister for Energy and Mining approved changes to REPS allowing for greater benefits to priority households. The Minister will undertake a broader review of REPS, including the setting of new targets for the next five year period, by early 2025.

Energy Masters Program

The [Energy Masters Program](#) is a collaborative project between the state government, SA Power Networks and the federal government aimed at demonstrating the customer and industry benefits of demand flexibility and smart electric homes. The program was publicly launched in October 2024 and will trial smart, flexible energy management in 500 South Australian households.

The Program provisions a free home energy management system, a mobile application and subsidised energy plans and appliances in return for participation in research that seeks to strengthen South Australia's position in the global energy transition and demonstrate a simple, reliable and cost effective way to master energy usage. It is anticipated that research findings will be published in 2025 and 2026.

The technology will facilitate demand-side flexibility and enable customers to optimise their in-home energy use, whilst supporting the needs of the grid at critical times. This helps reduce the amount of generation required, as well as network and storage capacity, supporting South Australia in its renewable energy transition.

Energy bill concession policy

The [energy concession](#) helps eligible South Australians on low or fixed incomes with the cost of electricity for their principal place of residence. The concession is calculated as a flat rate per day and is indexed each financial year.

Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative

The [Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative](#) includes \$35.8 million to support a range of energy performance improvements to up to 3,500 SA Housing Trust homes, including roof insulation, upgrade of gas appliances to electric appliances, and installation of LED lighting and window glazing.

Eastern Suburbs, Adelaide



South Australia's Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) is a commitment to a new way of developing and implementing policies and programs that impact the lives of Aboriginal peoples, in partnership with Aboriginal peoples.

[South Australia's Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) (the Implementation Plan) represents the state government's tangible commitment to the task of Closing the Gap. The Implementation Plan recognises and respects Aboriginal people as the state's First Peoples and Nations and the traditional custodians of South Australian land and waters. The Implementation Plan acknowledges and commits to remedy the far-reaching intergenerational impacts of colonisation and dispossession which explicitly excluded Aboriginal peoples, resulting in entrenched, systemic and structural racism and disadvantage.

The Implementation Plan describes the state government's approach to addressing the needs, priorities and circumstances of Aboriginal people and communities in South Australia in partnership with SAACCON.

Actions include:

- shared decision making authority between Aboriginal peoples and governments, accelerating progress on Closing the Gap.
- the development of the community controlled sector to be strong and sustainable, delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people across South Australia.
- the improvement of mainstream institutions, particularly governments and their institutions who are accountable for Closing the Gap.
- the development, use and access to Aboriginal-led data to best inform implementation efforts.

APY Lands



State Disability Inclusion Plan

The [State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023](#) was the first plan prepared under the [Disability Inclusion Act 2018](#) and aimed to bring state government agencies and local councils together to reduce barriers faced by people living with disability. The process to develop a new plan has commenced, reaffirming the state government's commitment to advancing inclusivity across South Australia. The new plan will set out whole of government policies and measures which seek to achieve full inclusion of people living with disability and provide a framework which requires entities to develop their own inclusion plans. The plan will also give effect to the [Disability Inclusion \(Review Recommendations\) Amendment Act 2024](#), which was assented to in June 2024.

Gender equality

Gender Pay Gap Taskforce

The gender pay gap is an internationally established measure comparing women's economic position with men's. The [Gender Pay Gap Taskforce](#) provides high level advice to the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and the broader state government on the specific issues that underly the gender pay gap in South Australia. The Taskforce consults with subject matter experts and relevant cohorts to understand their experience of the gender pay gap, ensuring an intersectional response. The Taskforce advises the state government on how the factors that contribute to the gender pay gap apply in South Australian workplaces across all sectors.

The Taskforce makes recommendations that may be most impactful on closing the gender pay gap. Closing the gender pay gap is an important step for South Australia in becoming a fair and inclusive state in which women and girls can equally and actively participate in economic and community life.

South Australia's Women's Equality Blueprint

The [South Australia's Women's Equality Blueprint 2023-2026](#) outlines the state government's key initiatives to improve gender equality in South Australia, including programs, legislation and funding. The Blueprint articulates the pathways to a fair and inclusive South Australia in which women and girls can equally and actively participate in the economy and all aspects of community life. The Blueprint focuses on essential areas in supporting the prosperity of all women in South Australia, including women's safety and security, leadership and participation, economic wellbeing and women's health.

The state government has developed a range of measures under this plan including criminalising coercive control, introducing the Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2024 into Parliament in August 2024, passing a Gender Equality Bill, finalising the decriminalisation of pregnancy termination in 2022, funding key support services and establishing programs to support the economic prosperity of South Australian women.

The state government has also re-established the [Premier's Women's Directory](#), a resource for South Australian women who seek appointment to state government boards and committees. This Directory helps ensure that state government boards all comprise of at least 50% women.

Social inclusion

SA Autism Strategy

The [SA Autism Strategy](#) sets out a five year roadmap to create meaningful cultural change, greater access to services, inclusion and participation in the community for Autistic people of all ages. The strategy sets out seven focus areas and 25 commitments for action and supports a dedicated whole of government approach to respond to the current needs and challenges of Autistic people and their families, with a vision to create a more inclusive state for all South Australians. The strategy will guide future inclusion policies in the state, with action plans currently being developed for each of the identified focus areas.

Adult Community Education

The [Adult Community Education](#) program provides opportunities for people to engage with education and training while developing the language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills needed for study, work and life. Through positive and supportive experiences, learners gain the confidence and skills they need to participate in the community, to enter further study or upskill in their current workplace. This program will be expanded to regional communities.

Volunteering Strategy for South Australia

The [Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2021-2027](#) sets out how the state government will continue to improve the experiences for South Australia's volunteers. The strategy focuses on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and fostering diverse networks, making volunteering stronger, more inclusive and sustainable. The strategy ultimately aims to grow volunteer participation through collaborative action to connect and strengthen South Australians and their communities.

SA Youth Action Plan

The state government is developing a new [Youth Action Plan](#) for South Australia, which aims to deliver fair and equitable access to opportunities, resources and supports to young people. The plan will result in a set of actions identified through consultation with young people and youth stakeholders. The new plan is set to be launched early in 2025.

Goolwa Secondary College



Emergency resilience

Stronger Together Strategy

The [Stronger Together, South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy 2019-2024](#) aims to enable a shared understanding of disaster resilience that can be adopted and applied across the emergency management sector. The strategy identifies priority areas for disaster resilience effort and investment, practical evidence-based pilot projects and recommendations to guide action that will help build and develop a safer, more resilient South Australia.

The strategy concludes in 2024, with an evaluation currently underway. The development of the next iteration of the strategy is being considered. Pilot mapping of the disaster resilience ecosystem at the state level has been completed, with the findings providing valuable insights to guide the future direction for disaster resilience initiatives across South Australia.

State Emergency Management Plan

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is responsible for the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP), which outlines a coordinated

approach to building resilience and reducing vulnerability across all aspects of the community, including state and local government, business, the non-government sector and individuals.

The SEMC assigns Hazard Risk Reduction Leaders to manage risks associated with identified hazards. The management of hazards is an ongoing process based on risk assessment, research, experience of events and exercises. The SEMP recognises risks vary over time and that climate change and other factors such as change in land use and system and technological changes influence hazards and associated risks.

Extreme weather response for those sleeping rough

The state government's [Extreme weather response](#) supports people who are sleeping rough through extreme weather events. These events include:

- Code Red activation, where the average daily temperature is above 32°C for three consecutive days.
- Code Blue activation, where average night time temperature falls below 6°C, there is significant rainfall and/or damaging winds, for three consecutive days.

Chief Officer and Volunteers



Resources

Onkaparinga River, Fleurieu Peninsula National Park

Data Sources

The state government aims to assist businesses and the community in making informed decisions about climate risks by providing access to high quality climate information.

The [Climate change science and knowledge plan for South Australia 2022](#) provides a framework for climate action by identifying existing climate knowledge and provides a strategy for identifying priority areas for further development of climate data.

The state government has recently published:

- The [Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia 2022](#) provides a summary of the likely changes to key climate variables, including temperature, rainfall, evapotranspiration, days of severe fire danger and sea level rise under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. The Guide draws on the most up to date climate change projections for South Australia and can be used for climate change risk assessment, adaptation planning and community engagement.
- [Tracking Changes in South Australia's Environment 2023](#) report assesses the current condition of South Australia's environment, tracks environmental trends over time and evaluates the reliability of the underpinning data and information. Organised under five key themes—Climate, Biodiversity, Water, Land, and Liveability—each report card provides a snapshot of an

environmental indicator, supported by detailed technical information. Report cards provide a crucial 'point in time' assessment, highlighting statewide patterns, insights into past responses and gaps in knowledge. The report cards offer retrospective insights and forecasting of future trends and emerging challenges. The report cards provide the state with a robust and comprehensive assessment of the changing environment and are invaluable tools for informed decision making, guiding efforts to protect and conserve South Australia's natural assets for the benefit of current and future generations.

- The [State of the Environment 2023](#) report (SOE) provides information on key aspects of the environment, including: Climate, Air, Land, Water, River Murray, Sea and Liveability. The SOE is prepared every five years under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. The 2023 SOE is the 8th published report since 1988. The 2023 SOE adopts the international pressure-state-response model, provides recommendations to state government and offers suggestions that could be applied to improve environmental outcomes. The SOE provides recommendations to state government to address the most significant environmental issues and data and analysis to assist government, industry and the community to take action to improve environmental outcomes.

Other Climate Data

Other sources of climate data include:

SA Climate Ready

The CSIRO prepared downscaled climate projection data for South Australia as part of the Goyder Institute for Water Research's [SA Climate Ready](#) project. The SA Climate Ready climate projections datasets continue to be deployed in hydrological modelling and climate change adaptation planning. In 2020 DEW joined the New South Wales Australia Regional Climate Modelling (NARClIM) partnership, producing dynamically downscaled climate projections on a high-resolution grid. Projections for six climate variables were provided, including rainfall, maximum and minimum temperature, solar radiation, humidity and evapotranspiration.

Over time these are superseding the SA Climate Ready climate projections and have become a standard in the state for climate change risk and impact assessment and adaptation planning.

In 2022, South Australia became a member state of the National Partnership for Climate Projections (NPCP), which provides coordination of the climate change projection projects in progress at state and national level, including the NARClIM partnership, Queensland government, CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology.

South Australia Climate Projections Viewer

DEW has produced the [South Australia Climate Projections Viewer](#), an interactive climate projections map which displays projected changes to weather variables, including temperature and rainfall, across the state for a range of future time periods.

The climate change projection data used to develop these maps are drawn from the second generation of NARClIM projections released in 2021 (NARClIM 1.5).

The Urban Heat and Tree Canopy Mapping Project

The [Urban Heat and Tree Canopy Mapping Project](#) was undertaken in 2022, using multispectral imagery, LiDAR technology and thermal imagery to map tree canopy, green spaces, built environment and urban heat islands across the entire metropolitan Adelaide area.

This data was then analysed to calculate the percentage and total area of canopy cover, green space, permeable and impermeable surfaces and building footprint across the study area.

The project aims to drive coordinated practical action to increase tree canopy and decrease hard surfaces.

Note on climate data used in this Sustainability Report

The federal government produces state and territory greenhouse gas inventories and publishes them with a two year delay. These inventories are calculated in accordance with international guidelines and protocols and are based on data derived from multiple sources. Some data is collected specifically for greenhouse gas monitoring from Australia's large emitters, excluding governments, under the [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007](#), while other data is calculated from secondary sources.

The federal government regularly revises inventory emission factors and methodologies when new information or more accurate methodologies become available. Under the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) rules, the federal government is required to revise figures back to 1989-1990 to ensure time series consistency. These revisions can lead to changes in annual emissions figures. Emissions data produced in this Sustainability Report is accurate as at October 2024.

This Sustainability Report utilises data provided by the federal government's Department for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) through their [national greenhouse gas emissions inventories](#). The methodology for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and sinks uses a combination of methods consistent with the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) 2006 Guidelines](#), supplemented by aspects of the [2019 IPCC Refinement](#) and the [IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement](#), in accordance with international practice. These methods incorporate plant specific emissions estimations processes, characterisations of capital and technology types at the point of emissions, dynamic relationships that link current emissions outcomes with the activity levels of previous years and spatial differences in emissions processes across Australia. For more information, see the [National Inventory Report 2022](#).

Bookpurnong, South Australia



Data Sources for Figures and Tables

Figures

Figure 1: State government financial snapshot, 2022-23

Source: [Consolidated Financial Report 2022-23](https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/974366/2022-23-Consolidated-Financial-Report.pdf), https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/974366/2022-23-Consolidated-Financial-Report.pdf

Figure 2: South Australian Gross State Product by industry, 2012-13 to 2022-23

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian National Accounts: State Accounts](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-national-accounts-state-accounts), <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-national-accounts-state-accounts>

Figure 3: Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MtCO₂-e) and Percentage of Generation from Renewables, 2004-05 – 2021-22

Source: [Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts](https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au/), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, <https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au/>; National Electricity Market data, [OpenElectricity](https://explore.openelectricity.org.au/energy/nem/?range=7d&interval=30m&view=discrete-time&group=Detailed), <https://explore.openelectricity.org.au/energy/nem/?range=7d&interval=30m&view=discrete-time&group=Detailed>

Figure 4: Statewide emissions by Sector, 2004-05 to 2021-22

Source: [Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts](https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au), Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water, <https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au>

Figure 5: South Australian greenhouse gas emissions contribution to total net emissions by sector 2021-22

Source: [Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts](https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au), Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water, <https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au>

Figure 6: South Australian renewable vs non-renewable electricity generation, 2016-17 to 2022-23

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Figure 7: South Australian local electricity generation sources in 2022-23

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Table 1: Statewide emissions by Sector, 2004-05 to 2021-22

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South Australian Government Climate Actions: <https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/935664-DEW-SA-Government-Climate-Actions-doc-V8.pdf>

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South Australian Government Sustainability Report

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