Resilient South

Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

City of Holdfast Bay · City of Marion · City of Mitcham · City of Onkaparinga · Government of South Australia

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.

Australian Government

Prepared by URPS on behalf of Resilient South.
January 2024

URPS

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country

Marni ngadlu tampinthi ngadlu Kaurna yartangka inparrinthi.
(We acknowledge that we are on the land of the Kaurna people.)

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Kaurna Meyunna (Kaurna people), who are the Traditional Custodians of the area this plan relates to. We acknowledge that Kaurna Yerta (Kaurna Country) stretches across the Adelaide plains, farther than the subject area of this plan. Kaurna Meyunna have been present on, and cared for, this land for tens of thousands of years. We pay our respects to Kaurna Elders, past, present and emerging, to their ancestors, and to their deep and enduring, spiritual connection to Country.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we also pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Kaurna perspectives on climate change

Land and air, fire and water, sea, animals, plants and people are interconnected and interdependent. What happens to one, happens to all. When we see a tree or a kangaroo, we don't just see a tree or a kangaroo – we see kin, members of our family, and some of them also carry the spirits and stories of our ancestors. The land is who we are, and we are the land.

For thousands of years, Kaurna Meyunna (Kaurna people) nurtured, protected and cared for Kaurna Yerta. As the Traditional Custodians of this Country, we have a responsibility to care for the spiritual and environmental wellbeing of our Country. Fire management and the seasonal growing and harvesting of plants and animals were undertaken using knowledge of how all elements of Country are interconnected. As a result, the people, animals, plants, soils, water and forests all flourished. European colonisation cleared and developed the land, which prevented us from managing Kaurna Yerta as we had been doing and prevented us from undertaking most of our cultural practices. Since colonisation we have been dealing with the impacts these changes have had on generations of our people. There is no culture without Country.

Climate change will impact our land, water, sea, nature and people and the connections between them. Preparing for and reducing the impacts of climate change is everyone's responsibility, and we all have an obligation to act – Kaurna, councils, community, schools and other businesses and organisations.

We want to share our knowledge. Through programs like Firesticks we can use traditional knowledge about cultural burning to show how fire management can have better outcomes for the environment.

Caring Together

We need culturally sensitive climate actions.

We need to make decisions that prepare our community and environment for a future with a more variable climate.

We need to take a very long-term view, well beyond our lifetimes.

We need to act now to transform our systems faster and we need to be brave to make decisions that might be difficult now but will benefit our children and grandchildren.

We need to reconnect people with Country, and to remember that people are part of nature too, which means acting with reciprocity. We must value the interconnectedness between our land, water, sea, nature and people and use these values to manage Kaurna Yerta.

When we work together and walk together, learning from each other with respect and commitment, we can create a better future for all life and living beings.

Mayors' foreword

Our climate is changing. In the coming decades, the impacts of climate change will continue to increase the risks to our community, our economy and our environment. The impacts do not respect council boundaries and are impacting us all. We can curb these impacts by working together to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the climate impacts we can't avoid.

The world has changed since we established Resilient South in 2011. We've witnessed the devastation caused by bushfires and droughts, and we've seen the toll it takes on our communities and environment. There is now a united global understanding of the need for urgent and decisive action at all levels. Now, our community needs to know what to do, when and how.

Each of our councils work on their own climate projects and programs, but there's a lot of work that we can do together. Our Regional Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive, evidence driven and community focused plan that embodies our joint aspirations for a healthy and flourishing southern Adelaide and provides a roadmap to our shared vision for our region's future. We know that through collaboration, we can achieve more greening, community energy projects, coastal adaptation, community resilience building, and emergency management—all of which contribute to a more resilient and connected region.

Our aim is not just to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate, but to thrive in the face of them. By working together, we can create a sustainable and prosperous south for generations to come.

We invite you to join us in this collaborative effort.

Mayor Amanda Wilson
City of Holdfast Bay

Mayor Kris Hanna
City of Marion

Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
City of Mitcham

Mayor Moira Were AM
City of Onkaparinga

Resilient South Regional Climate Action Plan snapshot

OUR VISION

Southern Adelaide is climate resilient, with healthy and diverse natural environments, low emissions and connected communities.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Grow cooler, greener, biodiverse environments
- Create climate resilient neighbourhoods
- Transition towards a low carbon region
- Reduce climate risk

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

- Enhance the quality and quantity of public and private green spaces in our region to improve liveability and reduce urban heat
- Become a water sensitive region
- Protect and regenerate terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecosystems
- Seek regional consistency in measurement, monitoring and reporting on green spaces and biodiversity
- Educate and empower our community to understand and respond to climate change
- Promote climate resilient, low emissions development
- Promote sustainable local food production and enhance regional food security
- Embed best practise emissions reduction in council business
- Identify and foster new partnerships to empower broad-scale carbon reduction
- Support our community to reduce their carbon emissions
- Reduce climate risks to councils
- Collaborate with regional partners to deliver integrated, forward-looking hazard management and enhance disaster resilience

About this plan

This is Resilient South's roadmap for the next five years.

Resilient South is a Regional Climate Partnership between the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga and the Government of South Australia.

Councils have an important role to play in helping our communities prepare for a changing climate. By understanding the climate risks that our communities, natural environments, built assets and local economies face, we can take action to enhance and improve resilience.

Since 2011, the Resilient South partners have been working together to improve the climate resilience of southern Adelaide. By working together, we share our knowledge and skills, pool our resources and improve the services we deliver to the community.

This has allowed us to achieve so much more than we could have alone, and our work has been widely recognised and awarded. We've made a big impact in the areas of urban greening and cooling, climate risk, resilient asset management, water sensitive urban design, climate education and engagement, energy efficiency, sustainable urban design, and adaptation planning.

This plan describes our next priorities – where we can maximise our impact by working together.

Each council will determine how they prioritise the implementation of the strategies and actions in this plan.

Our impact has been recognised

2014
Local Government Climate Adaptation Champion, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility

2015
Best Planning Ideas Award, Planning Institute of Australia

2018
Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Excellence in Public Health Award, Government of SA

2018
Resilient Australia Government Award, Government of SA, Australian Government, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

2019
LG Professionals Awards for Excellence: Environmental Leadership and Sustainability – Finalist

2021
Resilient Australia Awards Highly Commended - Government Category

Global moves

The Paris Agreement (2015) seeks to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. 2023 is confirmed as the warmest calendar year on record, recording an average of 1.48°C higher than the Paris agreement benchmark.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report (2023) unequivocally concluded that humans have warmed the planet, driving more extreme weather.

The Australian Government has legislated its emissions reduction targets of 43% by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (Climate Change Act 2022), and has commenced a national climate risk assessment. The South Australian Government is seeking to do the same.

The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD, 2017) has set off a step-change in climate risk governance, assessments and disclosures and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures is integrating nature into decision-making.

Climate emergencies have been declared in 2,335 jurisdictions in 40 countries including the State Government of South Australia, the Local Government Association of South Australia and 17 South Australian councils.

We have listened to our community

Our community is at the core of everything we do.
As councils, we regularly engage with our community. Every time we do, we hear the need to prioritise and accelerate climate action.

To develop this plan, we spoke with our community to identify the specific climate actions people want to see in southern Adelaide.

As well as surveying the community, we interviewed small business owners, hosted a Regional Youth Climate Forum, and engaged with Kaurna stakeholders via Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, Warpulai Kumangka, City of Holdfast Bay Kaurna Nation Group and City of Onkaparinga First Nations People Advisory Group. We engaged broadly with council staff and Council Members, and with potential delivery partners.

When we asked for feedback on this draft plan, we heard that nearly 70% of respondents supported what this plan is aiming to deliver.

Over 900 people provided input. Their priorities have directly influenced this plan.

784
Community members provided ideas and feedback

17
Council Members attended a planning workshop

69
Council staff attended project workshops

23
Small businesses shared their ideas

15
Young people attended a Youth Forum

Hear young people sharing their climate priorities in this short film.
resilientsouth.com/recap

Top: Young people share their priorities at our Regional Youth Climate Forum
Bottom: Staff from the four partner councils share their ideas and knowledge

A snapshot of southern Adelaide

Southern Adelaide is already experiencing:

Warmer temperatures, and more frequent and intense heat waves

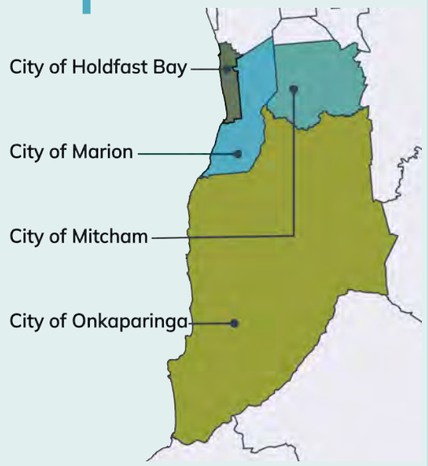
More days of extreme fire danger

Increased rainfall intensity, but less rainfall overall

Sea level rise, more coastal erosion and more frequent and higher storm surges

These changes will continue to increase in the future and as the climate continues to change.

4 Councils



Population
375,085
(2021 Census)

21%
SA's population

Onkaparinga River

Brown Hill Creek

Belair National Park

Sandy beaches and rocky cliffs

Sturt River

28%
of metropolitan Adelaide's land area

Major Land Uses

Rural residential 23%
Horticulture/viticulture 19%
Residential 16%
Livestock 11%

92% of residents live in urban areas

8% of residents live in rural areas

Kaurna Meyunna Yerta

Traditional Lands of the Kaurna people

Key Infrastructure

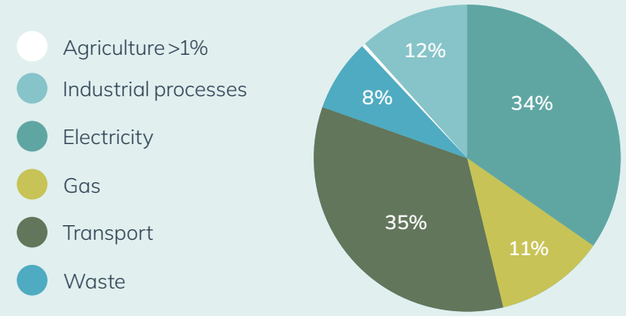
Adelaide Desalination Plant
Happy Valley Reservoir
Westfield Marion
Moseley Square
North South transport corridor

$16.08B
Gross Regional Product

10%
of South Australia's carbon emissions (1,738,000 t CO_2 e)

Resilient South Emissions Profile

snapshotclimate.com.au



How we will deliver this plan

We will work together to achieve more

Resilient South is a collaboration between its partners and others.

Delivery will be led by partner councils. Some actions will involve all councils and some won't. For example, only coastal councils will work on coastal actions.

We will work together in different ways. We will jointly advocate for policy change, build capability, scope and deliver projects, seek funding, facilitate collaborations, and form strategic alliances.

We will seek opportunities to work with Kaurna Meyunna and learn new ways to live sustainably on this land. We will nurture existing partnerships between our councils, communities, businesses and state government, and we will seek to develop new partnerships.

We will work on shared priorities with the other Regional Climate Partnerships, including Resilient East, Resilient Hills & Coasts and AdaptWest, as well as other government agencies and the Local Government Association of South Australia.

We will take the right action at the right time

To set us on the best possible path, we will continue to:

- Listen to our community and to experts in our councils and beyond
- Empower our community and businesses to improve their sustainability and adapt to unavoidable change
- Use rigorous data to understand climate impacts and how to respond to them
- Use social sciences, including theories of transition, to understand and manage change

Sometimes, unforeseen opportunities arise. We are committed to delivering this plan, and may also take on other opportunities that align with our principles.

We will co-invest and seek external funding

This plan will be delivered using a variety of funding sources, including joint investment from councils, and State and Federal Government grants.

Working together can deliver cost savings from only doing things once, and from sharing costs, resources and staff time across the four partner councils.

We will monitor and report on our progress and adapt as we go

An accompanying Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will support us to report our progress, continuously improve, and demonstrate our impact.

Our principles

The Resilient South partners follow these principles to deliver the best outcomes for our region.

- Lead action and advocate for the region
- Work together and leverage regional opportunities
- Prioritise evidence-based decision-making
- Seek external funding opportunities
- Make transparent, informed and accountable decisions
- Disclose our carbon emissions and climate risks
- Demonstrate outcomes via rigorous measures, targets and reporting
- Build capacity and share knowledge and resources
- Maximise co-benefits
- Reflect Kaurna cultural values
- Involve young people in decision making
- Promote nature-based solutions
- Maximise equity

Our governance

Our partners have committed to ongoing collaborative climate action. Mayors of the partner councils and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water have signed a Sector Agreement, under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

The Resilient South Management Committee guides and oversees Resilient South activities. Its roles and responsibilities are set out in a Terms of Reference. The Management Committee is supported by a Regional Coordinator, currently jointly funded by Green Adelaide and the partner councils.

What we will deliver

The following pages outline the actions Resilient South will take to help southern Adelaide be climate resilient, with healthy and diverse environments, low emissions and connected communities.

Grow cooler, greener, biodiverse environments

What will success look like?

- More tree canopy cover to provide a range of environmental, social and economic benefits
- Less hard surfaces to allow water to reach the soil
- Smarter use of stormwater and other water sources
- Increased abundance and distribution of native plants and animals
- Environmental management activities are informed by the Kaurna Seasonal Calendar
- Greater community support for greening and biodiversity projects

Why is this important?

We value our natural places and biodiversity for their contribution to our economy, wellbeing, amenity and sense of place, and their importance to Kaurna Meyunna.

When ecosystems are healthy, they buffer us from the impacts of climate change. Trees and green spaces reduce urban heat islands, wetlands regulate and clean stormwater for reuse, and vegetated sand dunes protect the coast from erosion and flooding. Healthy, biodiverse environments can better adapt to a changing climate. Vegetation absorbs and stores carbon, further reducing climate impacts.

Biodiversity loss is recognised by the United Nations and world's central banks as a major risk to businesses and financial capital. Global conservation organizations, institutes, and business and finance coalitions are seeking a target of nature positive by 2030, and to integrate nature into decision-making and disclosures, alongside climate change.

Who will we need to work with?

Potential partners to help grow cooler, greener, biodiverse environments include:

- Adelaide Coastal Councils Network
- Climate Ready Coasts program (LGA)
- Department for Environment and Water
- Environmental and conservation non-government organisations
- Firesticks Alliance
- Goyder Institute
- Green Adelaide
- Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
- Kaurna Meyunna
- Local Government Association of South Australia
- PlanSA
- Residents and businesses
- SA Power Networks
- SA Water
- South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance
- South Australian Coast Protection Board
- Stormwater Management Authority
- Water Sensitive SA

What are our councils already doing?

Existing council projects that help grow cooler, greener, biodiverse environments include:

- Coastal adaptation plans and programs
- Greening, biodiversity and conservation programs
- Water sensitive urban design programs and stormwater management
- Community education programs.

Resilient South actions to grow cooler, greener, biodiverse environments

What we want to achieve	How we will work together
Enhance the quantity and quality of public and private green spaces in our region to improve liveability and reduce urban heat	Provide incentives to protect, regenerate and increase greening and biodiversity on private land.
	Build and share spatial knowledge and resources to support informed decision-making in relation to urban heat and greening.
	Advocate for improvements to legislation, policy and the Planning and Design Code that promote greening, biodiversity, provision of quality green spaces and protection of natural environments.
	Work with utilities and state agencies to improve streetscape design, planning and management to deliver positive greening and biodiversity outcomes.
	Promote climate resilient reserves and streetscapes that integrate biodiversity sensitive and water sensitive urban design, and cooling by design approaches, incorporating the latest industry standards and innovative techniques.
	Participate in the Future Trees Project to understand the threats to our urban forest and how we can grow an urban forest that will flourish into the future.
Become a water sensitive region	Work with Water Sensitive SA and other experts to improve integrated water cycle management including water sensitive urban design, flood management, water recycling, and watercourse rehabilitation.
	Support the integration of climate resilience in associated modelling and delivery of cross-council stormwater management plans.
	Advocate to the State Government for holistic catchment-scale planning that integrates water quality, hydrology, biodiversity and Kaurna natural and cultural values to deliver better outcomes for the marine environment.
	Support households to become more water sensitive, including increasing indoor and outdoor water use efficiency.
Protect and regenerate terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecosystems	Improve regional biodiversity by surveying, collaborating with Kaurna, connecting and regenerating biodiversity corridors to facilitate the movement of species between councils, including the Sturt River and coastal zone.
	Advocate for stronger native vegetation protection and biodiversity laws, especially in urban areas.
	Integrate ecological conservation into effective bushfire hazard reduction activities, including the use of Aboriginal land management practices.
	Prepare a business case for engaging shared specialist staff to explore improved efficiency and consistency of regional biodiversity and urban forest management, including exploring external funding opportunities.
	Promote the use of nature-based solutions over engineered approaches where feasible.
Seek regional consistency in measurement, monitoring and reporting on green spaces and biodiversity	Investigate approaches to incorporate natural assets in council financial management systems and decision making.
	Progress the adoption of a standardised biodiversity monitoring protocol that links to state government and publicly accessible data portals.
	Progress the development of regionally consistent urban forest data standards to facilitate data sharing and reporting.

Top: Tree tags showing the environmental benefit of trees being used by the City of Mitcham
Bottom: Hart Road Wetlands at Aldinga

Create climate resilient neighbourhoods

What will success look like?

- Communities understand the expected changes in our region, and what the region is doing to prepare and adapt
- Residents understand the threats to their own properties
- Communities are better prepared for emergencies, and less reliant on emergency services for response and recovery
- Integrated hazard management is applied consistently across the region
- All new buildings are low emissions and designed for the future climate

Why is this important?

Climate change is already affecting the health and wellbeing of our community.
Our neighbourhoods and communities must adapt to reduce climate impacts into the future.

Individuals and businesses can adapt by:

- building, retrofitting and running their homes and offices in a sustainable way
- generating and storing renewable energy
- using public, green and active transport
- increasing permeable areas
- using water efficiently
- reducing waste
- responding to climate risks
- contributing to resilient food systems

We already work collaboratively to prepare for hazards, but there is more to do. People who live or work in hazard prone areas need more support to prepare for more frequent climate-related emergencies. Future development needs to be designed so our communities can thrive in the future climate, and located to avoid the most hazard prone areas.

The McLaren Vale Visitor Information Centre Green Hub

Who will we need to work with?

Potential partners to help create climate resilient neighbourhoods include:

- Australian Institute of Architects
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Adelaide Sustainable Building Network
- Business SA
- Department for Environment and Water
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Green Adelaide
- Green Industries SA
- Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
- Housing Industry Association
- Housing providers
- Infrastructure SA
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia
- Insurance Council of Australia
- KESAB
- Local business networks
- Local Government Association of South Australia
- Master Builders Association
- National Emergency Management Agency
- Planning Institute of Australia (SA)
- PlanSA
- Renewal SA
- Residents and businesses
- SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission
- South Australian Urban Food Network
- State Planning Commission
- Urban Design Institute of Australia

What are our councils already doing?

Existing council projects that help create climate resilient neighbourhoods include:

- Community programs that build community resilience and disaster preparedness
- Emergency management planning and projects
- Advocating for more sustainable and climate resilient development outcomes.

Resilient South actions to create climate resilient neighbourhoods

What we want to achieve	How we will work together
Educate and empower our community to understand and respond to climate change	Improve community understanding and preparedness for climate hazards by integrating climate change adaptation into community development and social programs.
	Share regionally consistent climate change information and climate hazard data to build community understanding.
	Support the Resilient South Environmental Educators Network to identify and deliver community education and engagement.
	Support schools to integrate climate change into classroom learning through participating in the Climate Ready Schools program.
	Support coordination of youth climate action initiatives across the region.
Promote climate resilient, low emissions development	Advocate for changes to State Planning policy including the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, Planning and Design Code, and the National Construction Code, to promote higher performing low emissions, climate resilient, nature positive and community focused development.
	Educate council staff, developers, builders, contractors, housing providers and the community to encourage high performing climate resilient development that exceeds minimum standards, including promoting exemplar projects and approaches.
	Advocate for state and federal funding to retrofit existing homes and businesses to increase energy efficiency and resilience, and promote available opportunities to the community.
Promote sustainable local food production and enhance regional food security	Participate in the regional Food Systems Network to improve the resilience of our region's food systems.
	Promote resources to support the establishment and operation of community gardens and sustainable local food projects, particularly in urban areas.

Students learn about heat hazards in the Climate Ready Schools program

Transition towards a low carbon region

What will success look like?

- Reduced council and community emissions
- Sustainable resource use
- Enhanced financial sustainability for community, businesses and government

Refer to snapshotclimate.com.au for information about the emissions profiles of each council.

Why is this important?

A low carbon region is one that is powered by energy sources that produce low levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Cutting resource use can help reduce emissions. Promoting a circular economy keeps resources cycling to reduce waste and pollution. Councils, businesses and community all have a role to play in developing a regional circular economy.

Our four partner councils are already working individually to reduce their operational emissions from energy, transport and waste. There are opportunities for us to do more by working together, learning from each other, and displaying leadership.

Resilient South also has an important role to play in empowering and supporting our communities and businesses to reduce emissions.

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the McLaren Vale Visitor Centre

Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre was recently constructed using environmentally sustainable design principles including the use of passive heating and cooling, renewable energy amd recycled water

Who will we need to work with?

Potential partners to help transition towards a low carbon region include:

- Business SA
- Department for Energy and Mining
- Department for Environment and Water
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian Government)
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Green Industries SA
- Housing providers
- Local Government Association of South Australia
- Other Regional Climate Partnerships
- Residents and businesses
- Southern Business Mentoring Program
- Southern Region Waste Resource Authority
- Tonsley Future Energy Consortium

What are our councils already doing?

Existing council projects that help transition towards a low carbon region include:

- Emission reduction plans
- Fleet transition plans
- Recycling and waste management services
- Community engagement and support initiatives.

Resilient South actions to transition towards a low carbon region

What we want to achieve	How we will work together
Embed best practice emissions reduction in council business	Promote best practice approaches to designing, building and retrofitting low/zero emissions, climate resilient and nature positive built assets.
	Promote and share outcomes of new products, technologies and approaches to reducing council emissions.
	Investigate opportunities to achieve economies of scale and financial benefit through undertaking regional projects to reduce emissions and generate and store renewable energy.
	Prepare a business case for engaging shared specialist staff to improve the efficiency, performance and consistency of carbon accounting and emissions reduction, including exploring external funding opportunities.
Identify and foster new partnerships to empower broad-scale carbon reduction	Develop common procurement principles, practices, resources and training to support council staff and suppliers to decarbonise the supply chain and improve transparency of emissions reporting.
	Identify regional opportunities for councils to claim carbon credits locally to offset emissions that cannot be avoided.
Support our community to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions	Help businesses to lower their emissions and integrate climate risk planning through business sustainability mentoring.
	Promote uptake of household and community renewable energy generation and storage.
	Promote the transition to all-electric households.
	Identify opportunities for improved links between active transport routes, public transport and strategies/plans across the region.
	Explore opportunities to participate in and support circular economies.
	Continue to deliver linked community education programs to encourage reduced resource use and waste.
	Advocate to the State and Federal Government for improved recycling facilities, including for soft plastics and other products that are currently not able to be processed locally.

Reduce climate risk

What will success look like?

- Improved outcomes in Climate Change Adaptation Governance Assessments
- Improved external assessment of council preparedness
- More resilient community assets
- Enhanced financial sustainability

Why is this important?

Increasing physical risks to council assets, functions and services are likely to increase demand for services, and maintenance, repair and renewal costs. Councils also need to manage social, legal, financial and transition risks, to be well-equipped and prepared to support our local communities and economies through major disruption and shocks.

Reducing climate risk requires a whole-of-council approach, with climate change considerations embedded into all processes and accounted for in all decisions.
All four Resilient South councils have had our climate change adaptation governance arrangements independently assessed, to understand our climate risk maturity and the opportunities to improve our policies and practice. Our councils are now implementing the recommendations from those assessments.

Who will we need to work with?

Key partners to help reduce climate risk include:

- Adelaide Coastal Councils Network
- Australian Red Cross
- Climate Ready Coasts Program
- Coast Protection Board
- Country Fire Service (CFS)
- Department for Environment and Water
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport
- Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board
- Infrastructure SA
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia
- Insurance Council of Australia
- LGA Asset Mutual Fund
- Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme
- Local Government Association of South Australia
- PlanSA
- SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission
- South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance
- State Emergency Service (SES)
- Zone Emergency Management Committee

What are our councils already doing?

Existing council projects that help reduce climate risk include:

- Emergency management
- Community engagement and support initiatives
- Coastal adaptation plan and implementation
- Adopting recommendations of the Climate Risk Governance Assessments
- Undertaking physical and transition climate risk assessments.

Resilient South actions to reduce climate risk

What we want to achieve	How we will work together
Reduce climate risks to councils	Support integration of climate risk management into council plans, projects, operations and services.
	Support assessment and disclosure of council exposure to climate-related physical, social, legal, financial and transitional risks.
	Embed climate risk considerations into infrastructure decision-making, via the Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP).
	Develop and deliver training and resources to respond to climate risks across council functions, including Council Members, in partnership with the Local Government Association and other Regional Climate Partnerships.
Collaborate with regional partners to deliver integrated, forward-looking hazard management and enhance disaster resilience	Ensure climate risks are recognised consistently by councils and emergency services, and integrated into regional hazard management that aims to enhance disaster resilience, in partnership with the Zone Emergency Management Committee.
	Work towards mitigating the impacts of climate change in the coastal zone through participation in the Adelaide Coastal Councils Network, Climate Ready Coasts program and partnership with state agencies.
	Advocate for regionally consistent climate hazard mapping, and promote evidence-based decision-making in relation to hazard management.
	Support and promote community programs for household and community emergency planning.

Top: Monitoring urban heat
Bottom: Council staff undertake climate risk assessments

Glossary

Active transport	Active transport is any mode of travel that relies on human powered mobility, including walking, cycling scootering or skating.
Biodiversity	The diversity of living organisms in a particular location. The term is particularly used for species that are endemic ('native') to a location and have evolved over time to exist in that area as part of an ecosystem
Circular economy	The Ellen McArthur Foundation describes a circular economy as: "Looking beyond the current take-make-waste extractive industrial model, a circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. Underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources, the circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital. It is based on three principles: › design out waste and pollution; › keep products and materials in use (there is no waste – all materials are resources that can be re-used); and › regenerate natural systems." www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview
Climate risks	The Taskforce on Climate related Financial Disclosure defines two main kinds of risks: **Physical risks** are associated with the direct impacts from changes in the climate. Physical risks can be associated with changes in the long term climate relating to a warmer, drier climate or sea level rise, or extreme weather events, including heatwaves, droughts, heavy rainfall events, coastal storm surge or bushfires. **Transition risks** are associated with the social, economic and technological transformation to a low-carbon economy. This includes policy changes to limit greenhouse gas emissions, technology advancement, and shifts in market supply and demand, including increased demand for low-emissions technologies and products. Governments and other organisations may also face associated legal and reputational risks. **Legal and liability risks** can arise when a person or entity is exposed to litigation in relation to not acting sufficiently to reduce emissions or address climate related physical risks that cause damage to others. Reputational risks may arise where community expectations that governments will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage climate risk are not met. www.fsb-tcfd.org/
Climate resilience	The ability of a feature or system to prepare for, recover from and adapt to the impacts of climate change while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning. Climate resilience requires an integrated approach that considers climate risk reduction, emissions reduction and adaptation. It requires partners working together using their knowledge and experience.
Climate change adaptation governance assessments	Each of the Resilient South councils has undertaken a baseline climate change adaptation governance assessment that indicates the extent to which climate change risk and adaptation is considered in a local government's core governance documents including council plans and strategies such as strategic plans, long term financial plans, asset management plans, environment strategies and annual business plans. https://climateplanning.com.au/informedcity/
Environmental Educators Network	The Educators Educators Network is made up of council staff delivering community outreach programs on the environment.
Food Systems Network	The Food Systems Network is a network of local and state government representatives and organisations that aim to build food system literacy and advocacy amongst decision makers, increase community capacity to advocate for food systems priorities and increase investment to embed food systems policy in government strategies.
Future Trees	Future Trees is a Resilient South and University of Adelaide project focused on increasing urban tree diversity through data sharing, trialling new species and developing new cultivars resilient to more challenging climates. www.resilientsouth.com/futuretrees
Nature-based solutions	Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature. www.iucn.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions
Nature positive	Nature positive refers to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, through measurable gains in the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, ecosystems and processes. The Nature Positive Initiative (NPI) represents conservation organizations, institutes, and business and finance coalitions coming together to drive alignment around use of the term 'nature positive' and support broader, longer-term efforts to deliver nature positive outcomes. www.naturepositive.org
Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP)	The Resilient Asset Management Project is being undertaken by Resilient South councils to: › Recognise how asset management decisions can either build or decrease regional resilience › Quantify the magnitude of climate change risks to selected asset classes and the functions they provide › Identify risk mitigation options › Understand how to make our assets climate-ready www.resilientsouth.com/ramp
Regional Climate Partnerships	The Regional Climate Partnerships, including Resilient South, are a network of regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical action aimed at strengthening the climate resilience of their communities, economies, and natural and built environments. Our neighbouring partnerships are: Adapt West, Resilient East and Resilient Hills and Coast.
Urban greening	Urban greening is the conservation, restoration or creation of green infrastructure, including trees and vegetation in and around urban areas that benefit people, nature and our economy, and the soils and water that support it. Urban greening types include: › Private greening – residential front and backyards, commercial car parks, market gardens, green roofs, urban renewal projects. › Streetscapes and transport corridors – street trees, green walls, verges, rain gardens, swales, and major road, rail and tram. › Green and blue corridors – coastlines, lakes, rivers, creeks, natural and managed wetlands. › Urban parks – local parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds, community gardens, conservation areas and forests www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/projects/adelaide-greening-strategy
Water sensitive region	A water sensitive region: › provides the water security essential for economic prosperity through efficient use of diverse available resources; › enhances and protects the health of waterways and wetlands, the river basins that surround them, and the coast and bays › mitigates flood risk and damage; and › creates public spaces that collect, clean, and recycle water watersensitivecities.org.au/what-is-a-water-sensitive-city
Water sensitive urban design	Water sensitive urban design is an approach to the planning and design of urban environments focused on integrating the urban water cycle (including potable water, wastewater and stormwater) with the built and natural urban landscape. www.watersensitivesa.com/about-us/what-is-water-sensitive-urban-design/

Resilient South