

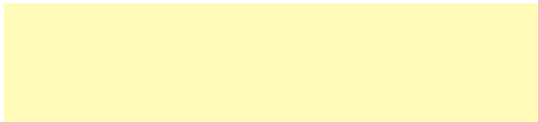


**Government  
of South Australia**

**Treasurer**

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TRS22D0725



Thank you providing the South Australians for Climate Action election submission.

Please find attached a consolidated response on behalf of the Government to your questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rob Lucas'.

**Hon Rob Lucas MLC**  
*Treasurer*

6 March 2022

## 2022 South Australian Election

### Response to the South Australians for Climate Action

#### 1. Clean Energy for All Uses

*Complete the transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030*

The Government is pleased to advise that it has already committed to achieve net-100% renewable energy by or before 2030.

*Ensure a rapid path to replacement of all fossil fuels with the best available renewable alternatives, such as renewable electricity and green hydrogen*

The Government is accelerating the replacement of unabated fossil fuels with zero emissions alternatives. This is consistent with our Climate Change Action Plan which targets a halving of South Australian emissions by 2050, our Electric Vehicle Action Plan which is accelerating the uptake of electric vehicles, and our Hydrogen Action Plan which is focused on the decarbonisation of other emitting primary energy sources.

*Convert all forms of land transport to carbon-free energy*

Converting all forms of land transport to carbon-free energy is the aims of the Government's EV Action Plan and the Hydrogen Action Plan.

*Support the adoption of world standards for vehicle emissions*

The Government notes that the adoption of world standards for vehicle emissions is already in our EV Action Plan.

*Accelerate the development of renewable refuelling facilities for cars, trucks and buses*

This is covered by our EV Action Plan and Hydrogen Action Plan. On 12 February 2022 the Government announced that it had awarded a \$12.4 million grant to the RAA to construct and operate Australia's first statewide rapid electric vehicle charging network. The network will comprise 536 fast and rapid charging points across 140 electric vehicle charging sites in 52 rural, regional and metropolitan service locations. The statewide EV charging network is a key component in South Australia's electric vehicle transformation, giving motorists the confidence to travel further by eliminating range anxiety.

The Government is also working with heavy vehicle users to understand the transition pathways and potential charging network requirements.

*Set strong targets for increasing the share of public and active transport*

The Government is committed to making South Australia's public transport fleet greener and more energy efficient through the procurement of electric or hybrid vehicles. As part of the Electric Vehicle Action Plan, the Government is undertaking a

bus integration study to develop a plan for the best transition to a zero-emissions bus fleet.

Through the 2021-22 State Budget, forty-five of the state's 70 diesel rail cars will be upgraded with hybrid energy storage and recovery systems as part of a \$10 million initiative aimed at reducing the fleet's fuel consumption, noise, vibration, and diesel emissions. The recent order of 20 new buses valued at \$12 million, including 17 new hybrid electric buses and three new articulated diesel buses, is being supplied by contractor Scania Australia, and bodied locally by South Australian business Bustech.

*Convert government vehicle fleets to zero-emissions by 2030, and act to accelerate the universal uptake of zero emission vehicles in private and business fleets*

The Government has already committed to this in our EV Action Plan through our fleet procurement and our fleet pledge program.

*Accelerate the replacement of natural gas with renewable alternatives and oppose the development of new natural gas fields*

The Government has accelerated the replacement of natural gas in power generation, having taken renewable energy from 49% to 66% in four years by reducing gas generation. We will continue to support reduced gas demand by supporting the SA-NSW Interconnector.

We do not support a ban on new natural gas fields, due to the need to supply households and industry with affordable fuel whilst we accelerate the transition to net zero emissions.

*Strengthen energy efficiency standards for the built environment*

The Government has been a strong supporter of cost-effective increases to energy efficiency in the National Construction Code and has supported achieving these standards consistently across the country.

A re-elected Government would seek the implementation of improved energy efficiency through improvements to the National Construction Code. In addition, the Government would as per the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings consult with community about the potential implementation in South Australia of key measures, namely the disclosure of energy efficiency at time of lease or sale, and minimum standards for rental housing.

This consultation would focus on how disclosure and minimum standards may be phased in over a significant period of time and in a way which would not create perverse outcomes such as impacts upon rents, and how such a system can be flexible to accommodate the significant variety in housing in South Australia.



*Provide transition support for SA companies, workers and communities whose businesses, careers or opportunities are significantly impacted in the move away from fossil fuels*

The Government is supporting regional communities to diversify through our regional growth initiative and workers to diversify through our Skilling South Australia initiative. We intend to make the transition to renewable energy one which supports regional development and helps businesses grow and employ more workers.

*Expand support for low income households through programs to improve rental housing energy efficiency and access to renewable energy technologies*

The Government is rolling out our \$118 million Home Battery Scheme the 4,100 household SA virtual power plant (VPP) in the SA Housing Authority, has provided batteries to those impacted by bushfires, and is rolling out batteries in SA Government buildings. A key aim is to expand access to these programs for those on lower incomes or who rent. The Government is rolling out the Switch for Solar trial, which is providing concession holders with the choice of foregoing their energy concession for a solar system which delivers even larger bill savings and will consider options to expand this trial.

A re-elected Government will also seek to expand access to the \$118 million Home Battery Scheme, with a particular focus on innovative ways of accessing batteries through community batteries, and batteries in settings such as supported accommodation and apartments.

*Keep oil and gas exploration and drilling out of the Great Australian Bight*

There are no current plans being advanced for the Great Australian Bight, and the Government notes that the industry have indicated that it is unlikely there will be further interest in exploration.

*Support innovation in industry and research to develop new technologies (eg for recycling and environmentally-sensitive mining for minerals critical to green technologies).*

The Government has led the investment of record amounts of funding into South Australia's circular economy, particularly through the targeted programs being led by Green Industries SA. Previous Labor governments stockpiled the Green Industries Fund to balance the state's budget, however this Government has used this fund to invest in our nation-leading waste management and resource recovery sector. These investments are improving the quality of waste streams and enhancing the processes behind the development of products derived from recovered resources, which improves competitive opportunities for the circular economy. Furthermore, the Government is pioneering legislative action to address single-use plastics, thereby creating market development opportunities for alternate products.

## 2. Climate Smart Land Use

### *Accelerate SA food waste & biogas capture programs and decrease methane*

The Government of South Australia is a partner with the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) which is based at Waite, South Australia. The CRC brings together state and Commonwealth governments, industry and researchers to find innovative ways to reduce waste in the food supply chain. It is estimated eliminating food waste will save \$20 billion per annum across Australia, delivering improved profitability for our primary production and food manufacturing industries and minimising impacts of waste on the environment.

The Marshall Liberal Government has invested \$1.5 million over two years to support the establishment of a commercial seaweed industry in South Australia. It is anticipated a new seaweed aquaculture industry will grow stock feed supplements able to boost ruminant productivity growth while also reducing methane emissions.

### *Recognise and respect First Nations' traditional land uses and rights and incorporate their knowledge in landscape management*

After the Government was elected in 2018, the Premier initiated an Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan which included the implementation of an Aboriginal Fishing and Aquaculture Program under which the Government is working to incorporate representatives of Aboriginal traditional fishing interests onto key fishery management advisory committees constituted under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. The program, run by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA, has had several positive outcomes including:

- Aboriginal staff employed to support the delivery of the program;
- the Narungga Nations Traditional Fishing Agreement signed in February 2021, which recognises the traditional fishing rights of the Narungga People and ensures appropriate cultural considerations in the management of our fisheries. It is the first such agreement in Australia; and
- the employment of a number of Fisheries Officer Trainees and the transitioning of trainees to full-time employment as Authorised Fisheries Officers.

Furthermore, training and employment of aboriginal rangers, and opportunities for indigenous co-management of our national parks are being increased.

The Government's 2021-22 Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan commits to supporting the establishment of three new co-management arrangements to add to the 12 co-management agreements already in place.

Each co-management agreement represents a willingness by both parties – the Aboriginal community and the government – to work together for mutually beneficial outcomes.



*Fund the development of climate-smart actions through SA's eight regional landscape boards; and establish a regional emissions reporting framework to measure their progress*

If re-elected the Government will continue with the implementation of the South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025 which was developed during this term of government. This plan was developed with wide-ranging cross-government support, including endorsement from renowned climate economist Professor Ross Garnaut, is focused on practical action to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

*Incentivise land management practices that build healthy soils, sequester greenhouse gases, increase on-farm biomass, and encourage revegetation for productivity and biodiversity.*

The Government has delivered on its commitment to reform natural resource management as part of the Landscape South Australia reform. This reform has focused on back-to-basics land management principles, specifically targeted on improving the management of soil, water and pest plant and animals. Regional Landscape Boards across the state work with communities to improve landowner environmental practices in line with these specific focus areas.

### 3. Protection of Biodiversity

#### *Protected areas*

Since forming government in 2018, this Government has vastly increased the status of the protected areas network – expanding the number of national parks in South Australia from 21 to 29 (3.9 million hectares, to just over 7.9 million hectares). This record expansion of the protected areas network (including the creation of the Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert National Park where the Kalakoopha Creek is protected via an exclusion buffer zone) has been complemented by the biggest Government investment in parks ever.

The Government has recently endorsed a significant piece of work undertaken by the Parks and Wilderness Council, the Building our Parks System: Protected Area Establishment Directions Statement 2022-2032. This directions statement will be released for public consultation imminently, and is intended to provide strategic guidance to the Government in our approach towards making additions to the protected area system. Protected areas in South Australia now cover more than 30% of our land and approximately 45% of our marine waters, and this policy will assist with strategic acquisitions into the future - to ensure that priority is afforded to land acquisitions that protect bioregions that are either under-represented in the current protected areas network, or not protected at all.

#### *The National Parks and Wildlife Service and Landscape Boards*

This government has a back-to-basics approach towards environmental management, from reform of natural resources management to the reinvigoration of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Landscape Boards were created to replace the old,



outdated Natural Resource Management framework, proving the Government's commitment to deliver better natural resources management across the state. The Boards have been designed to deliver a stronger, back-to-basics system with an emphasis on effective water management, pest plant and animal control, as well as soil and land management. The regional Landscape Boards, along with the dedicated Board for metropolitan Adelaide (Green Adelaide), play a crucial role across our regions by partnering with community groups, local government and industry to ensure our state's regional landscapes and farming industries are thriving, resilient and sustainable. Through the creation of the Landscape Priorities Fund, the regional Landscape Boards have the opportunity to partner with other groups and individuals to develop multi-year funding programs which will deliver significant environmental outcomes. During the 2020-21 funding allocation, \$4.2m was distributed across nine projects, which are being advanced across the state.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has been reinvigorated by this Government, seeing a 45% increase in the ranger workforce from a low of 93 in 2018, to 134. This is in addition to the creation of the volunteer ranger service, with more than 110 volunteers contributing toward practical environmental outcomes. The Friends of Parks grants programs has been increased more than ten-fold, from \$60,000 per annum, to a record \$750,000 in 2021/22. This is made up of \$250,000 for small grants, plus \$500,000 for the new Partnership Grant program, which has provided Friends of Parks groups with the opportunity to leverage investment from other organisations and local government to deliver significantly expanded programs.

#### *Indigenous Ranger Program*

Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan which included the establishment of an Aboriginal Ranger Employees Pathway to increase employment of rangers by the Department for Environment and Water. The plan is to continue increasing the number of rangers that are employed in parks and reserves across South Australia, with retention and career progression opportunities for Aboriginal Rangers. Since forming government, we have grown the ranger numbers employed in South Australia by approximately 45%. This is delivering tangible, on-ground results for the benefit of our environment across the state.

#### *Supporting Private Landowners with conservation*

In addition to protecting the environment through public parks and reserves, the Government has also recognised the importance of protecting the environment which is held in private ownership. There is more than 1.8 million hectares of land protected by private landowners through native vegetation heritage agreements, and the Government has backed the preservation of this environment through grant funding available for holders of native vegetation heritage agreements, from \$4,000 per annum (under the previous Labor government), to \$3 million over 2 years, through the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program. To date, \$2 million in grant funding has seen an in-kind contribution of \$4.5 million.

## *The Murray-Darling Basin Plan*

The South Australian Water Minister has made numerous public statements not ruling out support for voluntary buy-backs if we do not reach the 450 gegalitre target by 1 July 2024. The Government has put an end to the fake fights, kept MDB states at the table and (for the first time ever) seen commitment of the delivery of water towards the 450GL from efficiency measures from both NSW and Victoria. Over \$100 million has been secured to improve the environmental conditions of the Coorong and surrounds, and Riverland wetlands, as part of the Project Coorong and Sustaining Riverland Environments programs.

### 4. Greenhouse Gas Neutrality of Business and Agriculture

*Establish a service to assist small businesses to achieve certification as carbon neutral and to help landowners and farmers earn carbon credits*

There are already commercial and not-for-profit organisations which support business to calculate their carbon profile and provide suitable advice. Governments should not ‘crowd out’ development of and investment in such commercial enterprises and benevolent services.

The Government has invested \$1 million in the 2021-22 State Budget to establish a pilot program to build South Australia’s carbon farming sector. The pilot program will invest in and grow carbon farming adoption across the State’s primary industries. The Government has also been consulting on potential reforms to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* which are intended to make it easier and more profitable for lessees to engage in carbon farming.

The Government has also worked closely with the University of Adelaide to establish the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, which is being supported by the Future Drought Fund. The Government is contributing \$4.4 million cash and in-kind over four years to support the work of the Hub develop programs to improve drought resilience and innovation.

*Prioritise zero-carbon options in government procurement*

The Government has delivered major reforms in procurement arrangements for the SA Public Sector, following a review by the SA Productivity Commission. This led to a repeal of the *State Procurement Act 2004*, and new governance arrangements including the creation of Procurement Services SA, a new Treasurer’s Instruction, and a number of new procurement policies and guidelines.

A guideline has been issued pursuant to the Treasurer’s Instruction called “Green Procurement Guideline” (available at [procurement.sa.gov.au](http://procurement.sa.gov.au)). This guideline seeks to promote green procurement outcomes and encourage public authorities and suppliers to improve practices that balance different and sometimes competing procurement priorities, achieve value for money and minimise the impacts on the environment.

The guideline includes numerous examples of how a public authority could define and prioritise their green procurement objectives and how this information will be presented to potential suppliers in the market.



The Government encourages you to engage with Procurement Services SA via [contact@procurement.sa.gov.au](mailto:contact@procurement.sa.gov.au) to provide any feedback of suggestions in relation to ongoing review and improvement of procurement practice in this area.

The Government is also pleased to advise that it has developed a draft wood encouragement policy which is currently undergoing consultation with key stakeholders. The wood encouragement policy seeks to encourage state and local government to use quality sustainable plantation timber products (for example in construction, furniture and landscaping).