



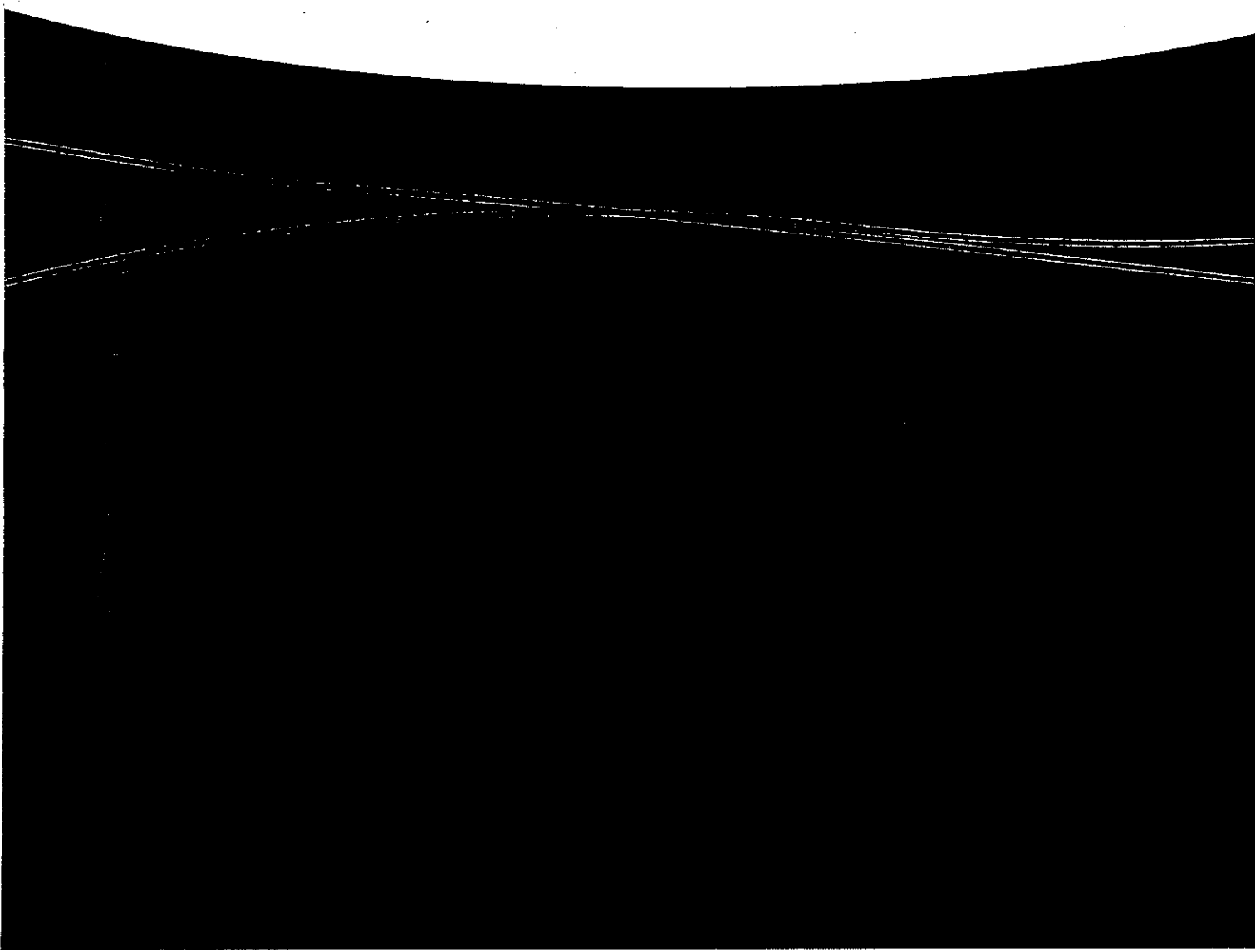
Government of South Australia

Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

South Australian Local Government Sector Agreement

*Pursuant to the Climate Change and
Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*

June 2008



SECTOR AGREEMENT
ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THE
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT
2007
FOR THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR
BETWEEN
THE MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SA

THIS AGREEMENT is made the [4] day of [June] 2008

BETWEEN

- (1) the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change ("the Minister") and
- (2) the Local Government Association of SA (referred to as the "LGA")

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The establishment of an agreement between State and Local government that acknowledges the importance of cooperative work on climate change and sustainability.

1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 This agreement acknowledges a joint commitment on the part of State and Local government in South Australia to respond to climate change by focusing on adaptation to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.2 This agreement is formed under the principles of cooperation and communication between State and Local government that are established in the *State/Local Government Relations Agreement*¹ and reflected in South Australia's Strategic Plan.
- 1.3 The parties recognise that the agreement is complementary to, and supports, existing policies and programs, including Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy, the Local Government Association Climate Change Strategy and LGA Policy "Climate Change and Fossil Fuel Vulnerability".
- 1.4 The parties commit to progressing specific elements outlined in this agreement in order to improve readiness for climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in particular through a program of activities set out in Schedule 1 (annual program) to be reviewed annually and as required updated by agreement of the parties.
- 1.5 While specific responses to climate change may vary between councils, this agreement aims to facilitate a cooperative approach among councils to identify and address elements of common interest and benefit recognising that councils represent the interests of their specific communities.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government of South Australia seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the State and has enacted the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 ("the Act"). The Act is committed to the Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change ("the Minister")

¹ *State-Local Government Relations Agreement 2006* between the State Government and the LGA signed 21 November, 2006 (Refer http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/State-Local_Government_Relations_Agreement_2006.pdf)

- 2.2 Local government, through the policies of the Local Government Association of SA, as constituted under Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 and its constitution, also seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the State and to ensure responsible adaptation strategies are adopted. In doing so it acknowledges the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 (Section 8) for councils to participate with other governments in setting public policy and achieving objectives; to give due weight in their own plans to state and national objectives and strategies; and to seek to co-ordinate with other governments in the planning and delivery of services.
- 2.3 The Government of South Australia and the LGA are taking a collaborative approach on these issues in order to further the objects of both the Act and the Local Government Act 1999, and consistent with Clause 13 of the Schedule – Priorities for 2007-08 to the State/Local Government Relations Agreement.
- 2.4 The Minister and the LGA President have sought to enter into a sector agreement under the Act in order to:
- 2.4.1 collaborate in efforts to achieve South Australia's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% of 1990 levels by 2050;
 - 2.4.2 better promote the deployment of energy efficiency measures and investment in renewable energy;
 - 2.4.3 work together to support State and Local government to gain a better understanding of climate change risks and issues for communities;
 - 2.4.4 explore potential for joint projects and Commonwealth funding opportunities;
 - 2.4.5 better facilitate community engagement and participation in programs designed to promote behaviour change;
 - 2.4.6 recognise differences across South Australia and facilitate geographically specific responses;
 - 2.4.7 better promote and showcase Local government achievements to date and explore and communicate learning and opportunities;
 - 2.4.8 explore opportunities and benefits that may arise from joint research and planning in relation to regional or State-wide adaptation and risk management response; and,
 - 2.4.9 ensure each sphere of government is better informed about initiatives being undertaken by the other government.
- 2.5 This agreement and its schedule identifies reciprocal actions that are to be undertaken by the parties to achieve outcomes within the areas of focus set out in Clause 4.
- 2.6 It is recognised that the parties will consider and provide input to national frameworks for greenhouse data and reporting and as far as is agreed will work in a manner that is consistent with those frameworks.
- 2.7 It is acknowledged that the Local Government sector and individual councils have already taken significant leadership steps in policies and actions (such as the purchase of accredited GreenPower and in developing a program for adaptation risk assessment).

3 SECTOR AGREEMENT DOES NOT CREATE LEGALLY BINDING OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1 This agreement does not create any legally binding contract between the parties and does not give rise to any legally binding obligations.

4 KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 4.1 The parties agree to develop and implement an annual financial year program as set out in the attached Schedule, which shall be revised each year. As at the date of signing, the parties acknowledge that the Schedule exists in draft form only for the first financial year. The parties commit to finalising the Schedule for the first financial year within 12 weeks of signing this agreement.
- 4.2 The parties may amend the Schedule by agreement at any time. The Schedule, when revised, shall address at least the following areas of focus (although it may also identify other areas of focus) and it shall identify clearly relevant and measurable outcomes in relation to each area of focus.
- 4.2.1 Progressing more efficient public lighting (including street lighting); the parties will participate in discussions to facilitate the staged introduction of efficient public lighting within South Australia.
- 4.2.2 Future collaboration and information exchange on green power procurement including green power; the parties will continue to investigate opportunities and implications for increased uptake of accredited green power and investigate opportunities and implications for green procurement in a collaborative manner.
- 4.2.3 Adaptation and risk assessments (council business); the parties will support councils to review and incorporate climate change vulnerability assessments as part of their risk management frameworks.
- 4.2.4 Adaptation and risk assessments (regional and community impacts); the parties will support Local government in the development of risk assessment projects through the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme and in the development of possible joint Local and Federal government approaches to regional climate change modelling and vulnerability assessments.
- 4.2.5 Offsets and sequestration; the parties commit to the provision of best available strategic advice on best practice investment in carbon offsets and sequestration by Local government.
- 4.2.6 Energy efficiency; the parties will work towards improved energy efficiency use and standards by supporting relevant initiatives and exploring all funding opportunities.
- 4.2.7 Community education and behaviour change; the parties will consult on broadscale implementation of a community education and behaviour change program and continue to develop information and awareness initiatives focusing on the role of households in the reduction of greenhouse emissions.
- 4.2.8 Information provision across government; the parties will continue to disseminate information between State and Local government, by staging climate change events and promoting other communication opportunities.

- 4.2.9 Strategic planning; the parties will support State and Local government to fully consider the policies and plans of each sphere of government in the formation of strategic plans and programs in relation to climate change.
- 4.2.10 Emissions trading; the parties will support Local government in the consideration of councils' role in future emissions trading schemes and the impact that these schemes will have on the Local government sector.
- 4.3 As a foundation for the work program Schedule the LGA commits to investing \$600,000 over 2 years for the progressive development of climate change plans for individual councils under the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Planning project through its Mutual Liability Scheme. The LGA commits to the completion of 25 plans within 18 months of the commencement date of this agreement.
- 4.4 As a foundation for the work program Schedule the South Australian Government will provide \$100,000 to support community education initiatives focussing on the role of households in the reduction of greenhouse emissions.
- 4.5 The State Government will also provide the LGA with research advice on a regional basis commencing with research advice directed by the Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change on flooding risk and sea level elevation in coastal areas and on forecasts of the frequency and severity and impacts of extreme weather events.

5 CREATION OF STEERING GROUP

- 5.1 The Minister and the LGA undertake within 2 months of the commencement date of this agreement to establish a steering group to review progress of this agreement on a quarterly basis. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the LGA will provide regular briefings to this forum.
- 5.2 The steering group will comprise up to three nominations by the Minister and five nominations by the LGA.
- 5.3 The steering group will review the agreement on an annual basis and provide recommendations to the Minister and to the LGA.
- 5.4 The steering group will provide regular progress reports to the Minister's State/Local Government Forum.
- 5.5 The steering group will appoint its own chairperson and decide its own meeting procedures, and may as approved by the Minister and the LGA have observers at its meetings.
- 5.6 Additional members with independent expertise may be appointed to the steering group with agreement between the Minister and the LGA.
- 5.7 The State Government will provide administrative support to the group in its first year of operation.

6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LGA

- 6.1 Pursuant to this agreement, the LGA undertakes to:
- 6.1.1 continue to provide a strategic and policy framework for councils to encourage and support leading practice in climate change initiatives in SA Local government;
 - 6.1.2 co-ordinate, publish and promote an annual report of mitigation and adaptation actions or programs implemented by councils and liaise with councils and the steering group on the form of the report;
 - 6.1.3 provide information to councils regarding issues related to this agreement at appropriate times and in appropriate forms;
 - 6.1.4 provide relevant advice to the Australian Local Government Association consistent with this agreement in relation to national issues;
 - 6.1.5 provide information and advice to the State Government regarding initiatives, actions, concerns and perspectives from Local government;
 - 6.1.6 publicly acknowledge the support provided by State Government to Local government consistent with this agreement.

7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER

- 7.1 Pursuant to this agreement, the Minister undertakes to:
- 7.1.1 ensure relevant information is provided to the LGA or to councils as appropriate,
 - 7.1.2 co-ordinate among relevant agencies and Ministers and promote a whole of government response to Local government regarding issues related to this agreement;
 - 7.1.3 ensure that South Australian government agency support described in Schedule 1 is provided to Local government;
 - 7.1.4 ensure regular briefings are provided to the LGA on state and national developments and discussions relevant to this agreement;
 - 7.1.5 support the LGA in relation to its annual reporting commitment at 6.1.2 above;
 - 7.1.6 publicly acknowledge the achievements of the LGA and Local government;
 - 7.1.7 ensure advice provided to the steering group from Local government regarding government policies and programs relevant to this agreement is fully assessed and considered.

8 DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 8.1 This agreement shall continue from the date on which it is made until 30 June 2012. The parties acknowledge that the term of this agreement can be extended.

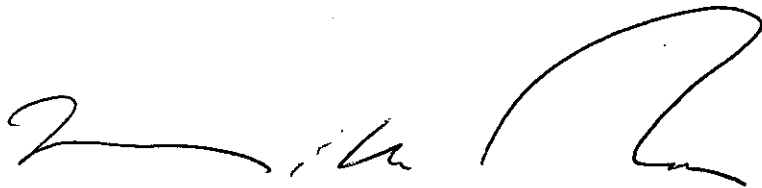
9 RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

- 9.1 In the event of any of the bodies convened to address issues of mutual interest under this agreement being unable to reach a common position on any matter(s) before them, following appropriate communication collaboration and co-operation, the matter(s) will be referred to the Chief Executive(s) of the responsible agencies and the Executive Director of the LGA for a determination.
- 9.2 In the event of an issue, having been referred in accordance with 9.1 above remaining in contention, either party may refer it to the Minister and the President of the LGA for a final determination.
- 9.3 The decision of the Minister and the President of the LGA shall be binding on all parties.



**MAYOR JOY BALUCH AM
PRESIDENT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Date 04/06/08



**HON MIKE RANN MP
MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Date 4, 6, 08

SCHEDULE 1:

Annual Program for 2008/09

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The parties agree and commit to:

Key Focus Areas	Associated goals	Anticipated program 2008/09	Link with Objectives in Tackling Climate Change: SA's Greenhouse Strategy
1. Progressing efficient public lighting (including street lighting)	The parties will participate in discussions to facilitate the staged introduction of efficient public lighting within built up areas within South Australia, with a view to have reached agreement and commenced a replacement program from 2012.	The LGA Research and Development Scheme project on efficient street lighting will be completed and the outcomes assessed. Based on this project, future steps towards the introduction of efficient street lighting will be identified.	
2. Future Green Power procurement and supporting uptake of renewables	The parties will: Investigate opportunities for increased uptake of accredited GreenPower before the conclusion of the agreement; Investigate opportunities for green procurement in a collaborative manner (including an increased emphasis on supporting options for the deployment of renewable energy technologies).	The Local government sector electricity supply contract will be reviewed and councils surveyed regarding their interest to increase to 30% accredited renewable energy sources for electricity consumed by council facilities (and 50% by 2012). This will assist in the identification of barriers to greater use of renewable energy by councils.	Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy
3. Vulnerability assessments (council business risks)	The parties will provide support for councils to review and incorporate climate change vulnerability assessments as part of their risk management frameworks, including a review of the potential impacts of Emissions/Carbon Trading for Local government.	Building upon pilot studies the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Planning project will be rolled out across councils with the aim of having climate change plans in place for 25 councils in December 2009. This is the first stage in the implementation of this project. Funding of \$600,000 over 2-years has been provided by the LGA through its Mutual Liability Scheme. A carbon accounting framework will be developed to ensure that all councils have the capability to establish their carbon footprint in anticipation of emissions trading.	Objective 2.1 of Tackling Climate Change

SCHEDULE 1:

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Key Focus Areas	Associated goals	Anticipated program 2008/09	Link with Objectives in Tackling Climate Change: SA's Greenhouse Strategy
<p>4. Adaptation and risk assessments. (Regional and community impacts).</p>	<p>The parties will support Local government with the development and provision of regional climate change modelling, providing information on areas of significant interest or impact to Local government, and provide guidance to vulnerability assessments, in distinct regions in South Australia.</p>	<p>Work will be undertaken to ensure that the risk assessment tool utilised for the Local Government Climate Change Planning project enables a profile of climate change adaptation risks and opportunities. In the roll out of the project, councils, as clusters, will be assisted to identify common data and research priorities. Research advice on flooding risk and sea level elevation in coastal areas and on forecasts of the frequency and severity and impacts of extreme weather events will be provided by the SA Government through the Sir Hubert Wilkins, Chair of Climate Change.</p>	<p>Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 of Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy</p>
<p>5. Local government investment in offsets and sequestration.</p>	<p>The parties will provide appropriate technical information and guidance to Local government on incorporating Climate Change impact and risk assessments in the planning stage of significant projects and regional master planning exercises.</p>	<p>Assistance will be provided to the LGA through the State Government to build the capacity within councils to assess the greenhouse gas implications of major developments.</p>	
<p>6. Progress energy efficiency through various sectors by 2010.</p>	<p>The parties will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate strategic investment opportunities for carbon offsets (including food waste / organics diversion and revegetation) and provide advice on best practice. • identify and promote ways to improve energy efficiency in residential developments including existing and new residential dwellings and fixed appliances. • support incentives and explore Commonwealth funding opportunities for the commercial and industrial buildings sector by 2010. 	<p>Councils will be further engaged in the development of these new policy areas through guest speakers, special forums and ongoing communication. The current use of offsets and sequestration through the Local government sector will be analysed in order to identify barriers to greater and more strategic use of these programs.</p>	<p>Objectives 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 of Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy</p>

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Key Focus Areas	Associated goals	Anticipated program 2008/09	Link with Objectives in Tackling Climate Change: SA's Greenhouse Strategy
<p>7. Community education and behaviour change.</p>	<p>The parties will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a community education and behaviour change program, including the development of a community emissions reduction target that households can readily adopt and that is aligned with the State's emissions reduction targets; and • Monitor and publicly report on the community's performance in reducing their greenhouse emissions and ecological footprint at a household and community level. 	<p>The SA Government will provide \$100,000 to support community education initiatives focussing on the role of households in the reduction of greenhouse emissions. Market research on effectiveness of "Black Balloons" Campaign will be reviewed and outreach opportunities identified. Community education will be incorporated as an integral part of the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Planning project seeking to engage households in thinking about energy and water consumption. Information and awareness initiatives focusing on waste avoidance and reduction, and the relationship between consumption, waste and greenhouse emissions will be developed. A program to report back to households on their achievements in assisting the State with its energy and water conservation targets will be developed.</p>	<p>(p. 21, 56-57 Tackling Climate Change: South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy) Objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.3</p>
<p>8. Stage climate change events and communication opportunities in a regular engagement forum.</p>	<p>The parties will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information and educate elected members and senior managers; • Provide an update on latest research; • Highlight emerging climate change implications and risks for local government; • Acknowledge mitigation and adaptation initiatives; • Identify opportunities for carbon offsets and behaviour change; and • Engage with communities and households. 	<p>The LGA will conduct an Annual Climate Change seminar to provide update for councils on progress and developments. The LGA will also provide a regular bulletin on climate change issues and the roll out of the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation project. The State government will develop opportunities for regular council updating on national and state developments.</p>	

