



# Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island Region

## Resilient Hills & Coasts Climate Adaptation Annual Progress Report

September 2021

This report is presented to meet the reporting requirements of Sector Agreement for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island Region 2020-2025 pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

Submitted on behalf of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee by:

Monika Rhodes, Resilient Hills & Coasts Regional Chair

*M. Rhodes*

Signature

21 September 2021

Date



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# **Reporting required by the Resilient Hills & Coasts Sector Agreement pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007***

## **Governance and Reporting - Timeframe**

The Regional Sector Agreement contains a Governance section:

### **4. Governance**

4.2 The Committee will provide an annual progress report to all signatories

Annual progress reports are required to be submitted to the Department for the Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water.

## **1. Organisation and governance arrangements**

Resilient Hills & Coasts (RH&C) is a collaborative project to promote and facilitate climate change adaptation across the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island region.

Resilient Hills & Coasts is one of twelve climate adaptation regions across South Australia that were established in 2014 as part of the South Australian Government's push to prepare our communities for a changing climate.

We are a regional, intergovernmental partnership between:

- Six Councils – Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla
- The Southern & Hills Local Government Association
- Two Landscape Boards (Hills & Fleurieu; Kangaroo Island)
- Regional Development Australia - Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island and
- The South Australian Government.

The partners work together through a Steering Committee (RH&C) to progress priority actions laid out in our Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), which was developed in consultation with our communities and adopted by our partner Councils in late 2016. In June 2017, Resilient Hills & Coasts partners signed a Regional Sector Agreement, agreeing to keep working together to implement the Adaptation Plan. That agreement expired on 30 June 2020, and in 2021 a new Regional Sector Agreement 2020-2025 was signed.

The S&HLGA Regional Climate Change Adaptation Committee (Resilient Hills & Coast) held meetings on:

Date	Host
8 October 2020	District Council of Yankalilla, Yankalilla
2 December 2020	Adelaide Hills Council, Stirling
11 March 2021	Alexandrina Council, Goolwa
25 May 2021	Adelaide Hills Council, Stirling

## 2. Current programs, projects, strategies and initiatives

### Action Plan 2020 to 2025

In 2020, we evaluated our progress against the Adaptation Plan and refocused our efforts to where we can make the most impact. Our current priorities for action are:

- Climate-ready development: Leverage our leadership and networks to encourage residential and infrastructure development that avoids natural hazards, is built to maximise resilience, and is energy efficient and water sensitive.
- Disaster risk reduction: Support partners and communities to map, understand, plan for to adapt to coastal, bushfire and urban heat hazards.
- Resilient agriculture: Build on and spread regional best practice in enabling agriculture that is sustainable, water smart, resilient to a variable climate, and supports carbon farming as part of a zero emissions pathway.

## 3. Our progress 2020-2021

Priority Activity	Description	Key Activities	Status
2020-2025 Sector Agreement	Co-ordinate and sign new 2020-2025 Regional Sector Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advocacy and engagement</li> <li>○ Presentations and briefing papers to partners and collecting signatures</li> </ul>	Complete
Landscape Boards	Input into Landscape Boards Strategic and Annual Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentations and workshop participation</li> </ul>	Complete

Priority Activity	Description	Key Activities	Status
Premiers Climate Leaders Award	Submission to 2020-2021 Premiers Climate Change Adaptation Leaders Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preparation and submission of “Where we Build What we Build” project</li> <li>○ Attendance at the Awards function</li> </ul>	Complete
SACCA	Input into South Australian Coastal Councils (SACCA) proposed governance and funding model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advocacy and Engagement</li> <li>○ Presentations and briefing papers to S&amp;HLGA Coastal Councils</li> <li>○ Representation on the Governing Committee</li> <li>○ S&amp;HLGA to act as member subscription collection agency</li> </ul>	Complete

#### 4. Our funding

We operate on a lean budget, enabled by significant in-kind contributions from all our Steering Committee representatives. Our budget usually funds an RH&C Regional Coordinator to support the Steering Committee, identify and pursue funding opportunities, support strategic projects, and undertake advocacy and engagement. Funding to deliver strategic projects is raised separately via partnerships, grants and Council budget bids.

However, in the 2020-2021 financial year due to COVID-19, no funding was available for a Coordinator. The RH&C Partnership was coordinated through the RH&C Steering Committee with secretarial and administration provided by S&HLGA CEO. The lack of a full time coordinator resource impacted significantly on the opportunities to deliver projects and apply for external grants.

The member Councils of S&HLGA with assistance from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board have agreed to fund a regional co-ordinator for 2021-2022.

## 5. Future priorities/aims/objectives for the region

Priority Activity	Timeframe	Parties Involved	Potential Outcome
Appoint Regional Co-ordinator	By December 2021	S&HLGA member Councils, S&HLGA and Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support the RH&amp;C Committee</li> <li>○ Advance Regional Action plan priorities</li> <li>○ Undertake advocacy and engagement on behalf of the region</li> <li>○ Identify and pursue external funding opportunities</li> </ul>
2020-2025 Regional Action Plan	Ongoing	All Sector Agreement signatories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deliver strategic projects as identified in the Regional Action Plan</li> <li>○ Advance State regional climate mitigation and adaption strategies and policies</li> </ul>