

Annual Progress Report

October 2018



Proudly supported by the Natural Resource Management Boards of Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island.

This report is presented to the Minister for Climate Change to meet the reporting requirements of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Sector Agreement, pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*.

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

Jen St Jack, Resilient Hills & Coasts Regional Coordinator

_____ Signature _____ Date

Who we are

Resilient Hills & Coasts 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 Natural Resources Management Boards – Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, and
- The South Australian Government.

The partners work together through a Steering Committee to progress priority actions laid out in our 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, the partners agreed to continue working together until at least 30 June 2020 to implement the priorities in the CCAP by signing up to a Regional Sector Agreement.

During the reporting period, members of our Steering Committee were:

PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE
<i>Adelaide Hills Council</i>	Sharon Leith	Strategic and Sustainability Officer
<i>Alexandrina Council</i>	Shen Mann	Senior Governance and Strategy Officer
<i>Kangaroo Island Council</i>	Pip Masters	Elected Member
<i>Mount Barker Council</i>	Greg Sarre	Manager Strategic Planning & Economic Development
<i>City of Victor Harbor</i>	Brian Doman	Manager Environment & Recreation
<i>Yankalilla Council</i>	Matt Robertson	Manager Strategy, Environment and Development
<i>Southern and Hills LGA</i>	Graeme Martin	Executive Officer
<i>Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board</i>	Zafi Bachar	Climate Applications Coordinator
<i>Kangaroo Island NRM Board</i>	Phillipa Holden	Community Engagement Manager
<i>Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (now DEW)</i>	Rhiannon Niven	Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change
	Chris Wright	A/Regional Director

Our priorities

Our goal is to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and natural and built environments to respond and adapt to our changing climate.

As laid out in our Climate Change Adaptation Plan, our eight regional adaptation priorities are to:

- incorporate infrastructure design allowances for increases in extreme events
- develop climate-ready guidelines for public realm and streetscape management
- improve management of native vegetation on private properties
- undertake adaptive management of protected areas on public lands
- develop more energy efficient inputs for housing
- support diversification of agricultural activities
- restrict development in hazard prone areas
- deliver water quality improvement measures.

To focus its efforts on the priorities it can best influence with the available resources, the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee has committed to advocacy and action to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making under two strategic themes:

- WHAT WE BUILD – provide leadership in climate-ready development
- WHERE WE BUILD – improve development planning and management in high risk areas.

Our progress

PROJECT STAGE	KEY ACTIVITIES	STATUS
1. Establishment and Knowledge Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Steering Committee • Knowledge Audit & Regional Profile • Community Engagement – 13 workshops 	ALL COMPLETE
2. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Vulnerability Assessment • Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Dec 2016) • Regional Sector Agreement (June 2017) 	ALL COMPLETE & ENDORSED
3. Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Action Plans for all partner Councils 	COMPLETE
<i>See below for more details</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic projects to promote and facilitate climate change adaptation across the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coastal Hazard Mapping ○ Community Energy Program ○ WSUD Capability Raising & Investment ○ Urban Greening ○ What We Build, Where We Build 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and engagement to embed climate resilience in everyday decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate Risk for Council Briefings ○ Cities Power Partnership ○ Engagement in State Planning Reforms ○ Engagement in NRM Reforms 	In progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure project funding beyond 2018-19 	In progress

Our local action plans

Since our Regional Sector Agreement was signed in June 2017, each of our six partner Councils has developed a Local Action Plan to plan for, record and monitor local action. Line of sight is drawn from each action to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan priorities and Council-specific strategies. Councils use the plans to document their existing climate-related initiatives, as well as identify new and emerging actions or initiatives against regional priorities.

Our strategic projects

COASTAL HAZARD MAPPING

We are informing Kangaroo Island communities about coastal hazards, using LiDAR spatial sensing to create inundation, storm surge and erosion maps. We have run five community workshops to support locals to understand the hazards and take part in planning their own communities' response.

This is the first project of its kind in South Australia, and we intend to refine and extend the pilot to other coastal Councils in future.

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM

We are exploring how local government can support a regional Community Energy Program that will keep power bill spending within the region and aid the transition to renewable energy.

We have invested in designing the preferred delivery model, with nation-leading Moreland Energy Foundation partnering with local company Tandem Energy to devise the optimal model for regional South Australia.

We recently secured \$45k of LGA R&D funding to develop legally and financially sound procurement and governance processes. When this process is complete in March 2019, we will have a toolkit to enable other South Australian communities to adopt our model.

Our partner Councils will assess whether to invest in the proposed model in the coming year.

WSUD CAPABILITY RAISING & INVESTMENT

Following a WSUD Asset Audit across all partner Councils, we identified a need to raise our collective capability and confidence in planning for, approving, accepting construction standards and maintaining WSUD assets

In AMLR NRM Board's 2018-19 Water Sensitive Cities funding round, we collectively submitted five proposals. The first project is a partnership between the cities of Mount Barker and Onkaparinga to develop new guidelines on retrofitting outdated stormwater detention basins into WSUD assets, and test them on two pilot sites. The second is to raise the capability of asset and infrastructure planning, construction and maintenance staff across our region.

The remaining three are for on-ground works that will see planned streetscape upgrades incorporate green infrastructure, which would not have happened without the NRM grants.

URBAN GREENING

We secured a \$40k grant from the Department of Environment and Water to undertake an Urban Greening project in Strathalbyn, which will see a highly visible parking overflow space transformed into a key piece of green infrastructure for the town.

WHAT WE BUILD WHERE WE BUILD

We have partnered with the Insurance Council of Australia to attract matched Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding (decision expected in October 2018) for our \$169K Where We Build, What We Build project. The project aims to provide evidence for, and encourage the development of, disaster resilient and climate-ready homes in our region.

Our advocacy and engagement

CLIMATE RISK BRIEFINGS

Our six partner Councils have co-invested with Resilient South partner Councils to bring leading climate risk experts to McLaren Vale for a briefing and workshop on 16 October 2018. These events will help Council executives and officers in governance, risk & audit, planning, infrastructure and finance understand and respond to the legal and financial liabilities posed to local governments by climate change.

STATE PLANNING REFORMS

We consider these reforms to be the most significant lever in decades to encourage a shift to climate-ready and resilient development in our region. Such development will minimise community vulnerability during extreme events, while providing improved liveability, affordability and health and wellbeing for households every day.

Our submission on the State Planning Policies focused on integrating climate-readiness and disaster resilience into all aspects of where we build and what we build. We emphasised the need to foster a culture of shared responsibility in homeowners, builders, developers and planners – helping everyone to understand, disclose, mitigate and adapt to climate risk.

CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Four of our Councils have joined the Cities Power Partnership – the Climate Council’s national program which exists to celebrate and accelerate the emissions reduction and clean energy successes of Australian towns and cities.

NRM REFORMS

Our submission on the proposed NRM Reforms focused on five points.

First, we support continued investment in climate change adaptation, including via representation on Resilient Hills and Coasts.

Second, we want reforms to embed climate resilience into everyday decision-making by Landscape Boards, and acknowledge that there is more work to do to get us there.

Third, our partner Councils seek opportunities to enhance our partnerships with Landscape Boards, including by hosting outposted staff or delivering contracted, levy-funded services.

Fourth, resilient communities, economies and landscapes cannot be achieved when stakeholders act in isolation – to ensure we are efficiently moving in the same direction, state-level coordination, advocacy and incentives are still required.

Lastly, we see an opportunity for regional boundaries to be revised to reflect more than just water catchment boundaries.

Our funding

We operate on a lean budget, enabled by significant in-kind contributions from all our Steering Committee representatives. Our budget 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.

The total budget for 2017-18 was \$134,000, comprising \$60,000 from Council partners and \$60,000 in matched funding from the AMLR NRM Board, plus a rolled over saving of \$14,000 from 2016-17.

The total budget for 2018-19 is \$80,000, which comprises \$46,000 from Council partners and a rolled over saving of \$34,000 from 2017-18. Project funding is secured only until 30 June 2019 – a lack of ongoing funding presents a significant risk to our ability to continue this project.

Our future plans

Over the next year, we will focus on progressing our five strategic projects:

- Complete the Coastal Hazard Mapping pilot on Kangaroo Island and evaluating it for potential enhancement and extension to other coastal Councils in our region and around the State
- Undertake an LGA-funded project to ensure that risk-mitigated legal, governance and community engagement models are in place for our proposed Community Energy Project, including creating a toolkit for broad adoption, and seeking support from our partner Councils to invest in delivering the project
- Implement WSUD capability raising and on-ground works projects for which we sought AMLR NRM Board funding
- Complete the South Australian Government funded urban greening project in Strathalbyn
- If we are successful in securing National Disaster Resilience Program funding, we will progress our \$168K What We Build Where We Build project.

And the following advocacy and engagement initiatives:

- Following the 2018 Council elections, raise newly Elected Members' awareness about climate risk and the imperative to integrate climate-readiness and disaster resilience into all aspects of what we build and where we build
- Support Council officers, including governance, audit and risk specialists, engineers, and asset, infrastructure and development planners to understand, disclose and mitigate against climate risk, including by replacing and upgrading infrastructure to minimise hazard exposure
- Continue to engage in the State Planning Reforms and other relevant State and LGA system reforms and policy and strategy development
- Provide feedback on the Department of Environment and Water's strategy for coordinating spatial data to support climate sensitive decision-making.