



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Commitments

NOVEMBER 2023



Government
of South Australia
Department of Treasury
and Finance



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia. Further, we acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural, and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.



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An aerial photograph of a dry, rocky landscape. The terrain is covered with numerous small, dark, rounded rocks and sparse, low-lying vegetation. The colors range from light tan to dark brown. A white, rounded rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the word "Purpose" in a dark, sans-serif font.

Purpose

Sustainability underpins a better quality of life for all South Australians, and the Government of South Australia recognises the need for transparency regarding how government finance is mobilised towards achieving a sustainable and equitable future for the state.

South Australia's ESG Commitments brings together current key policy initiatives and actions that address environmental and social challenges, as well as outlining basic public services delivered by the government.

Policy initiatives and actions are presented in the context of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

This document has been primarily prepared for key government stakeholders, to support the South Australian Government Financing Authority's (SAFA) Sustainability Bond Framework, for the purposes of investors rating agencies and insurance, and to signal the government's commitment to produce more fulsome reporting in future.

South Australia Snapshot



Adelaide is ranked
12th most liveable city in the world



983,482km²
LAND SIZE



1.8 million

people live in
South Australia,
with a median
age of 41



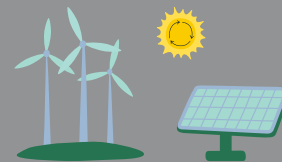
43,000

people identify as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander
(2.4% of the population)



21.5 Mt carbon dioxide
equivalent (CO₂-e) emitted in FY2021

42% reduction
in emissions since 2005



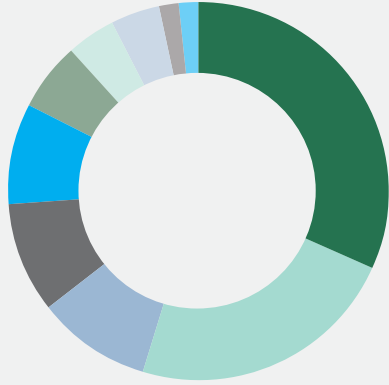
Nearly
70%
renewable energy
generation in FY2022



AUD124 billion
Gross State Product (GSP) in 2022

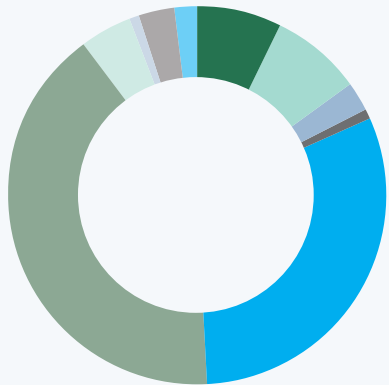
31% increase
in GSP since 2005

General Government Operating Expenditure 2022



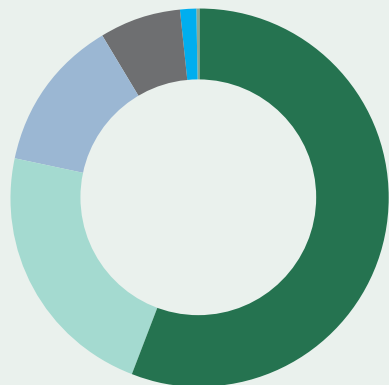
- Health (31.9%)
- Education (23.0%)
- Public order and safety (9.8%)
- Social protection (9.2%)
- Transport (8.7%)
- General public services (5.9%)
- Recreation, Culture and Religion (4.2%)
- Economic affairs (4.1%)
- Environmental protection (1.6%)
- Housing and community amenities (1.6%)

General Government Assets 2022



- Health (7.5%)
- Education (7.7%)
- Public order and safety (2.5%)
- Social protection (0.8%)
- Transport (30.7%)
- General public services (40.8%)
- Recreation, Culture and Religion (4.4%)
- Economic affairs (0.8%)
- Environmental protection (2.9%)
- Housing and community amenities (1.9%)

General Government Revenue 2022



- Grant revenues (56.2%)
- Taxation revenues (22.5%)
- Charges for goods and services (12.9%)
- Other revenues (7.1%)
- Dividends and income tax equivalents (1.1%)
- Interest income (0.2%)

South Australian Economic Statement

The [South Australian Economic Statement](#) was released in March 2023, outlining the government's intentions to pursue an economy that is smart, sustainable and inclusive.

This approach recognises the critical intersection of social, environmental and economic policy, and the link between prosperous communities and successful economies. The vision is for an economy that is fit for the future, improving the wellbeing of all South Australians.

Actions are being developed under each of the three missions identified to achieve the vision – building on significant work already underway.

A new Economic Development Board is also being established which will engage widely with industry, businesses and the community to assist the government in implementing these actions.

OUR VISION

An economy *fit for the future*,
improving the wellbeing of all South Australians.

VALUES



Smart



Sustainable



Inclusive

MISSIONS

Capitalise on the global
green transition

Be a partner of choice
in an insecure world

Build South
Australia's talent

ENABLERS

Skilled workforce

Education and
training

Effective land use
and
housing systems

Healthy ecosystem

Physical and digital
infrastructure

Energy and water

Research,
technology and
innovation

Manufacturing
capability

Population and
migration

Liveable and
connected regions

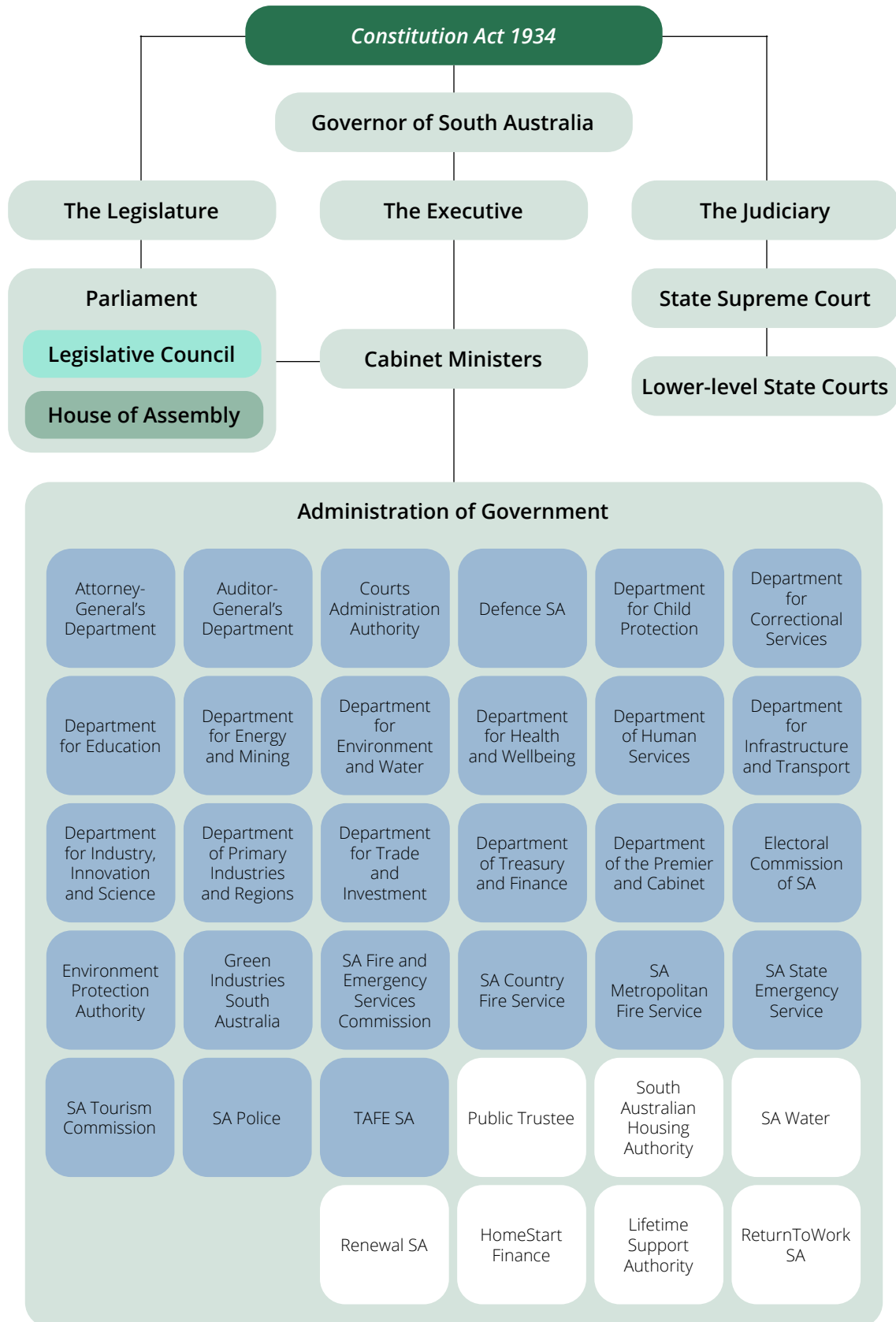
Business
environment

Investment,
confidence and
global mindset



Section 1: Governance

Government of South Australia¹



¹ List of government entities under 'Administration of Government' is not exhaustive.



South Australia is governed according to the principles of the Westminster system.

The Government of South Australia operates under responsible Cabinet Government, wherein the Governor acts on the advice of the Ministers – the Cabinet.

Cabinet is the government's central decision-making body. Chaired by the Premier, it is a forum where the ministers meet to discuss and decide issues of importance to the state and it sets the government's policy and strategic direction. Cabinet decisions are put into effect by either the Governor in Executive Council, individual ministers who derive executive power from legislation, holders of statutory office, or the Parliament.

The Cabinet has control of the public service, with the Ministers each in charge of government departments.

Ministers work with the appointed heads (generally Chief Executives) of their respective departments to ensure efficient and effective operation of government, as well as to drive strategic improvement for the state.

There are a range of Chief Executive led committees which act to support and inform the decision making of government.

A number of initiatives, bodies and Acts exist which ensure robust and ethical decision making, and that the Government of South Australia is accountable, engaged and responsive to its citizens.

Engagement

COUNTRY CABINET

[Country Cabinet](#) is a government initiative whereby Cabinet meetings are held in regional locations around the state, instead of in Adelaide's CBD, providing an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities unique to the different areas of the state. Ministers and Chief Executives also spend time visiting people, businesses and organisations across each region.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The government is committed to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a state level and, on Sunday 26 March 2023, South Australia became the first state in Australia to legislate a [First Nations Voice to Parliament](#). The SA First Nations Voice will be a direct and independent line of communication for First Nations people to South Australia's Parliament and the government.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

South Australia's [Cross Border Commissioner](#) plays an important role as a voice for cross border businesses, advocating for organisations and individuals, and identifying opportunities and strategies to support proactive and positive cross border outcomes. South Australia's first Cross Border Commissioner was appointed in December 2022.

Accountability

The government is accountable to all South Australians and delivers this through public disclosures and announcements as well as via oversight by relevant entities.

OFFICE FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

The [Office for Public Integrity](#) receives complaints and reports regarding corruption, misconduct and maladministration in South Australia's public administration and South Australia Police.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The [Independent Commission Against Corruption](#) is the state's independent anti-corruption agency, responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and minimising corruption in public administration.

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The [Auditor-General's Department](#) is a trusted and independent body that reports directly to Parliament on the audits of state and local government agencies. The department also provides recommendations to public sector agencies on improvements that could be made to deliver better outcomes for South Australians.

THE OMBUDSMAN SA

The Ombudsman of South Australia undertakes investigations into complaints about administrative acts performed by state and local government agencies.

The Ombudsman also deals with reports and complaints about misconduct and maladministration in public administration, as well as reviewing determinations made by agencies pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

In addition to these bodies, a number of commissioners provide advocacy for equal opportunity, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (such as children and young people and Aboriginal children), and other special interest groups such as small businesses and consumers.

Justice

It is a basic function of government to maintain law and order for citizens.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is responsible for providing a range of policing services 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep South Australians safe.

SAPOL actively protects life and property and reassures South Australian communities by responding in emergencies, focusing on counter-terrorism, responding to calls for general police assistance through visible and available policing services, and preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting criminal behaviour. SAPOL also provides support for victims of crime and road safety services including enforcing road rules and regulating roads.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) plays an important role in the criminal justice system of South Australia, maintaining safe and secure facilities for prisoners, supervising offenders in the community and reducing reoffending through rehabilitation, education and work opportunities.

In 2022, South Australia had the lowest recidivism rate nationally at 39.3%, having reduced reoffending through initiatives under the Reducing Reoffending: 10% by 2020 Strategy (10by20). DCS is now building on the success of 10by20 initiatives, and has committed to a new target to [reduce reoffending 20% by 2026 \(20by2026\)](#).

Several strategic priorities across DCS are also focused on Closing the Gap and reducing the rate of Aboriginal incarceration, including through reducing recidivism, increasing rehabilitation, ensuring programs and services are culturally responsive and increasing Aboriginal economic participation and partnerships.

YOUTH JUSTICE

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for supervising children and young people under community and custodial youth justice mandates.

DHS Youth Justice delivers individualised support to children and young people to meet their specific needs and circumstances. Service responses use evidence-based approaches that are trauma-informed, culturally responsive and recognise the needs of children and young people with disability.

COURTS

South Australia's courts system comprises the Supreme Court, District Court, Magistrates Court, Youth Court, Coroner's Court, the Environment, Resources and Development Court, as well as a number of tribunals and commissions. The Courts Administration Authority (CAA) provides participating courts and court users with services and facilities that support the proper administration of justice.

The State Courts Administration Council, directly and through the efforts of all the staff of the CAA and its volunteers, aims to:

- provide administrative support to the South Australian courts
 - improve court facilities
 - foster an environment in which judicial officers, staff and volunteers can contribute to effective performance of the courts system
- keep up to date with technological developments and apply those that are appropriate to improve the performance of the courts system
 - cooperate with other parts of the justice system to provide access to justice and, where appropriate, improve the overall performance of the justice system.



Government Entities

A number of government entities exist purely for the purpose of delivering social and environmental services, and to ensure that the Government of South Australia is accountable and responsive to its citizens.



Governance

Auditor-General's Department undertakes audits of state and local government agencies covering financial reports and operations, controls and matters of public interest.

Courts Administration Authority (CAA) provides participating courts and court users with services and facilities that support the proper administration of justice.

Department for Correctional Services (DCS) is responsible for the provision of custodial services and community-based supervision, in addition to rehabilitation services for offenders in South Australia.

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is responsible for providing a range of policing services 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep South Australians safe, including but not limited to preventing crime, upholding the law, preserving the peace, assisting the public in emergency situations, coordinating and managing responses to emergencies, regulating road use and preventing vehicle collisions.

Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) is the government's fiscal, economic and policy advisor. It plays a crucial role in providing financial services to the community as well as providing transparency regarding the government's financial position via budget reporting.

Electoral Commission South Australia (ECSA) is an independent agency that aims to ensure that demands for electoral services and participation in the democratic processes have been met fairly, honestly and within the law. ECOSA plays a critical part in maintaining the principles of democratic government.



Environment

Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) fosters responsible access and development of the state's mineral and energy resources to create jobs, attract investment and increase exports. The department provides leadership in energy market reform and innovation to integrate energy and climate policy within national frameworks.

Green Industries SA (GISA) is responsible for developing and implementing policy objectives in waste management, resources recovery, single-use plastics, green industry development, the circular economy, and sustainability.

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) supports South Australians to build a healthy and resilient environment, improve liveability and wellbeing and create a prosperous state for current and future generations. DEW guides the sustainable use of South Australia's natural resources (water, land and biodiversity) and heritage, to deliver economic prosperity, health and wellbeing.

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) fosters the development of innovative and productive businesses and industries in South Australia. DIIS partners with industry, academia and the business community to help build strong connections that will drive our economy and supports industry to get the skilled workforce it needs, and prepare it to face future industrial and economic challenges and opportunities.

Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) plays a leading role in driving productivity and growth in primary industries and regional communities and ensuring sustainable utilisation of agricultural and aquatic resources. PIRSA prepares for, prevents where possible, and responds to emergency events and the long-term risks, including biosecurity and climate change, that threaten South Australia's primary industries, regional communities, plants, animals and environment.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is an independent environment protection regulator. It works to protect, restore and enhance the environment through the risk-based regulation of pollution, waste, noise and radiation.



Social (including economic)

Attorney-General's Department (AGD) is responsible for developing laws and policy that support safety, diversity, rights protection, fairness and justice in the community, and provides leadership across government policy development on Aboriginal community support, as well as key services to improve safety in South Australian workplaces and industrial relations policy and support.

Defence SA is South Australia's lead government agency for all defence and space related matters, and works to capture valuable economic opportunities in the shipbuilding, cyber and systems, defence science and research, and space domains. Defence SA also plays a key role in ensuring South Australian business capabilities are stimulated by aligning local research and development, infrastructure and regulation within industry needs to expand capability by working to attract and retain talent in the state.

Department for Child Protection (DCP) works with government agencies, non-government organisations and communities to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect, to effectively intervene where necessary to support and help strengthen families, through the administration of the state's child protection and family support system and statutory framework.

SA Health is the government's health portfolio of services and agencies comprising the Department for Health and Wellbeing, the South Australian Ambulance Service, the Commission of Excellence and Innovation in Health, Wellbeing SA, and the 10 Local Health Networks. Together, these entities protect and improve the health of all South Australians by providing public health services, leadership in health reform, health and medical research, policy development and planning, with an increased focus on wellbeing, illness prevention, early intervention and quality care.

Public Trustee provides financial and administrative services to eligible South Australians, including helping those who cannot manage their own affairs.

Department for Trade and Investment (DTI) helps industry ecosystems and businesses identify and capitalise upon opportunities for job creation and economic growth in South Australia. The Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS) Directorate within DTI manages the planning and land use systems for South Australia, including planning and development, growth management, design and land use services to grow our economy and create more vibrant places for our communities.

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) works together to deliver infrastructure and transport services that make a difference to the lives of all South Australians today and into the future.

Department of Human Services (DHS) brings together a range of services, funding and policy responsibilities that together support fairness, inclusion, opportunity and choice for all South Australians, including family and domestic violence intervention services and disability services, among others. DHS has lead policy responsibility in relation to women, youth, volunteers, carers and LGBTIQ+ people.

Emergency Services Sector
The government's emergency services sector portfolio comprises South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS), South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), and South Australian State Emergency Service (SES). Together, these agencies support and coordinate efforts to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, for a more resilient South Australia.

HomeStart Finance provides a range of innovative loans that can reduce upfront costs and increase borrowing power for prospective homebuyers – making homeownership a reality for more South Australians.

Renewal SA
As the government's urban development agency, Renewal SA leads and coordinates development and urban renewal activity to increase the amount of and availability of affordable housing, create connected and sustainable communities, accelerate supply of housing in South Australian regions, and unlock land for industrial and commercial developments.

Lifetime Support Authority (LSA) funds necessary and reasonable treatment, care and support for people who sustain serious injuries in a motor vehicle accident on South Australia roads, regardless of fault, through the Lifetime Support Scheme.

Department for Education (DfE) provides a range of integrated education, training and child development services, including the school and preschool education, vocational education and training (VET) through Skills SA, and early childhood and wellbeing services, to benefit children, young people and their families.

South Australian Housing Authority (SAHA) develops, implements, and provides housing services for people who are at risk or in high need, and works with government and non-government organisations to improve the standard of, and access to, housing across the state.

SA Water manages water services in South Australia, supplying water, removing and treating sewage from homes and businesses, and treating and recycling some wastewater.

TAFE SA is the public and largest provider of vocational education and training (VET) in South Australia, delivering job-focused training across a range of industries from entry-level certificates to bachelor degrees, at locations across the state.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)
As well as being the lead agency for the South Australian public sector, DPC leads the state's strategic agenda across the arts, cultural and creative sector and cares for the state's collections, buildings and other assets within that sector.

South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) supports South Australia's tourism industries by marketing South Australia as a holiday destination nationally and internationally, builds the state's events calendar by securing, developing and expanding major events and festivals and supports industry and businesses to grow the visitor economy and create jobs for the state.

ReturnToWork SA provides work injury insurance that protects South Australian businesses and their workers in the event of a work injury.

Section 2: Environmental



CLIMATE ACTION



In May 2022, South Australia declared a climate emergency, committing to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to net zero emissions.

South Australia has state-wide goals of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030, achieving net zero emissions by 2050, and achieving net 100% renewable energy generation by 2030. The government is also seeking to achieve net zero emissions from government operations.

The state's progress to reduce emissions is regularly measured and publicly reported. See [South Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting](#).

A range of actions are being delivered to progress towards these targets and strengthen South Australia's climate change response. [South Australia – Responding to Climate Change](#) and [the South Australian Government Climate Change Actions](#) outline current government actions to address climate change.

The [Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan for South Australia](#) was developed to strengthen knowledge of the implications of climate change for the state and to ensure that community, government and business decisions are made with the best available information.

South Australia is currently modernising its climate change legislation and developing a new state-wide net zero pathways strategy, including plans to decarbonise different sectors, support the transition to a net zero future and harness economic opportunities.

The Premier's Climate Change Council, an independent advisory body to the South Australian government, has a role in monitoring and reviewing government climate change action.

LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL SYSTEMS



South Australia's healthy environment is recognised for its critical role in growing a sustainable and inclusive economy that's fit for the future, and improving the wellbeing of all South Australians.

Our protected area network, including national parks and marine parks, protects South Australia's unique plants, animals and geological features and provides the opportunity for everyone to connect with nature. Across the state there are now 345 national parks which cover more than 20% of South Australia, and marine parks covering almost 45% of state waters.

We have established co-management arrangements for national parks. A partnership with Aboriginal groups to help manage parks that combines traditional knowledge with contemporary park management. There are now 12 co-management agreements in place over 35 of South Australia's parks and reserves, covering 13.5 million hectares.

An established network of 323 pastoral leases across the state provide a best practice framework for the pasturing of livestock, to support carbon farming, renewable energy development and promote conservation. Our pastoral estate covers over 40% of South Australia.

Adelaide is Australia's first [National Park City](#) and the second globally. Being a National Park City promotes and connects people with on-ground action to look after our environment for everyone's health and wellbeing, as well as boost our economy through increased tourism.

South Australia has more than 5,000 kilometers of coastline (including offshore islands) and more than 90% of South Australians live on or near the coast. Managing and protecting our precious coastline is critical for our environmental, social and economic wellbeing. The [Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia 2020-2025](#) seeks to accelerate action to protect and restore coastal ecosystems through a range of blue carbon measures that also reduce emissions and facilitate social, environmental and economic benefits.

The [Carbon Farming Roadmap for South Australia 2022-2026](#) includes key pillars and associated actions to unlock the opportunities to increase participation in carbon farming across South Australia.

These opportunities help store carbon and can also provide productivity, environmental and income diversification benefits.

The development of a new Biodiversity Act will boost biodiversity conservation in our state, while integrating the goals of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. Importantly the Act will also incorporate the knowledge of Aboriginal South Australians in the management of land and respect for its ecosystems.

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION



South Australia is at the forefront of the global energy transition, having transformed its energy system from one where all electricity was generated from fossil fuels to now being recognised as an international renewable powerhouse, all in under two decades.

South Australia has received global recognition for its transition to renewable energy, with around 70% of the electricity currently generated in our state coming from intermittent renewable sources.

South Australia is one of the few places in the world that can meet its total energy demands using renewable energy.

With vast expanses of available land and high-quality wind speeds and solar radiation, combined with progressive regulation and targeted investment, South Australia is primed to become a first-mover, low-cost hydrogen supplier.

The Government of South Australia has committed more than half a billion dollars to the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to build a world leading hydrogen power plant, electrolyser and storage facility in the Whyalla area, by December 2025. As well as creating jobs for South Australians, this investment will continue our state's clean energy transition leadership and help to unlock a pipeline of renewable energy developments and associated manufacturing opportunities.

The Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub is anticipated to be South Australia's first large-scale clean hydrogen production precinct for both export and domestic markets. This is an integral part of South Australia's first mover strategy to enter the global hydrogen market.

The state has shown leadership by coordinating, orchestrating, and deploying energy storage. With government support, [South Australia's Virtual Power Plant \(SA VPP\)](#) was the first in Australia and is the largest network of home solar and battery systems, lowering energy costs for thousands of public housing tenants while providing critical energy network services. More than 10 virtual power plants (VPPs) now operate in the state, providing opportunities for home battery owners to benefit from incentives such as upfront discounts, lower electricity tariffs, and payments over time. As of March 2022, there were more than 10,500 home batteries in South Australia enrolled in a VPP of some kind.

[Project EnergyConnect](#), a high voltage transmission line between the New South Wales and South Australian power grids, is nearing completion.

This substantial piece of infrastructure will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy across Australia and improve the feasibility of future renewable energy projects in South Australia.

TRANSPORTATION



Transport was the largest contributor to South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020-21, accounting for 29% of total emissions.

The government has commitments to reduce transport emissions by supporting the uptake of low and zero emissions vehicles and fuels, aligning transport and urban planning with low emissions transport, and supporting increased use of public transport and active travel.

Low and Zero Emissions Vehicles and Fuels

In order to facilitate the uptake of low and zero emission vehicles by South Australian people and businesses, the government supports a range of actions, including:

- [South Australia's Electric Vehicle Action Plan.](#)

- Support for the National Electric Vehicle Strategy and the National Fuel Efficiency Standards Review, and commitment to the Net Zero Emissions Vehicle Declaration.
- Introduction of a [subsidy package](#) comprising a \$3 000 purchase subsidy and a three year registration exemption for the purchase of eligible new battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.
- A partnership with the RAA to fund, construct and operate Australia's first [statewide electric vehicle charging network](#) to facilitate greater use of electric vehicles across the state, particularly in the regions.
- Funding of smart charging trials to address integration risks, service gaps and ways in which electric vehicles can be coordinated to charge.
- A range of actions to support lower emissions freight, including a weight limit exemption trial facilitating the adoption of electric and low-emission trucks.



Public Transportation and Active Travel

The government has a range of actions aimed at reducing travel demand, facilitating the shift to low emissions modes of transport, and realising the considerable health and wellbeing benefits associated with active transport. These actions include the recently released [draft 2022-2032 Cycling Strategy for South Australia](#), which builds on existing [community programs](#) to drive a shift in transport behaviours and help South Australians make safer, greener and more active travel choices.

The government's commitment to transition to a [zero-emission public transport fleet](#) will improve customer experience, reduce operating costs, and reduce noise and air pollution.

Actions underway to support the transition include:

- Trials of battery electric and hydrogen buses.
- Transition planning for depots and the remaining bus fleet.
- Technology review for the remaining non-electrified rail corridors.
- Interim actions, including implementation of energy storage systems on the existing diesel train fleet to recover and store excess energy from braking, reducing fuel consumption by up to 20% while providing a more comfortable journey.

Increasing the uptake of public transportation across the state is a well understood way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The government is trialling vehicles that will both reduce the emissions from the public transport network as it currently stands and encourage commuters onto public transport generally, with a view to transition the government's fleet of trains and buses to zero emission.

Battery electric buses offer a more comfortable, quieter ride for passengers while eliminating fuel-based emissions. The government has nine battery electric buses on order, with one currently in operation on the Adelaide Metro network.

Two hydrogen fuel cell buses that eliminate fuel-based emissions are being trialled. These have a greater range and faster refuelling than other forms of zero emission transport. A greater range is a key consideration in being able to offer more services in the outer metro areas and regions.

The existing fleet of diesel railcars is being converted to Australia's first hybrid-diesel trains with the first of two hybrid railcars now in service on the Outer Harbor, Grange and Belair lines. The hybrid system will be fitted to 50 railcars by the end of 2024, reducing noise emissions and pollution. Planning is underway for the replacement of these older diesel-based railcars within the next ten years with either an electrified network or with emerging technology such as battery or hydrogen.

The government also recognises the importance of public transport for economic and social integration, and is working to deliver more accessible services through implementation of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 (DAIP).

INDUSTRY TRANSITION



The government is seeking to build on its industrial capabilities in a way that respects natural resources and supports greater biodiversity.

Capitalising on the global green transition is a fundamental part of the government's economic ambitions and will enable the use of the state's natural endowments to provide green energy, products and services to the world.

The Green Industrial Transition Roadmap, currently under development, will provide the blueprint for how significant investment in renewable energy projects will drive our industries to plan, build and operate in a low emissions environment.

The initial step for the roadmap is the development of a green iron/steel strategy to capitalise on South Australia's abundant potential for the co-location of renewables, hydrogen and high-quality magnetite and leverage the Whyalla Steelworks transition to green steel by 2030.

The government, in partnership with Business SA, supports the [Accelerating Net Zero Business program](#) to assist businesses to move to more sustainable business models, save money and capitalise on the opportunities of a net zero economy.



WASTE AND WATER



Waste

South Australia has shown leadership and a high level of commitment to transforming the way South Australians use and value resources.

In addition to policy approaches, such as its ban on single use plastics and plastic straws, Green Industries South Australia (GISA), underpinned by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) circular economy regulations and policies, drive and support South Australia's transition to a circular economy. This is documented in its [Supporting the Circular Economy: South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025](#). This strategy will be complimented by a circular economy road map ([for current information](#)).

GISA promotes innovation and business activity in waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors as well as promoting waste management practices. In particular, [Valuing our Food Waste](#) highlights policy measures and support for industry to address food waste in South Australia.

Water Resource Management

As populations increase and climate change advances, greater demand will be placed on water resources.

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the state has a well-developed framework for managing water resources that aligns with requirements of the National Water Initiative. Where there is a high demand and/or risk to natural surface or ground water resources, the resource is prescribed by regulation under the Act and a statutory water allocation plan is prepared to ensure that water use is managed within sustainable limits, including in response to climate risk. Water allocation plans are required to ensure that the needs of the environment are taken into account when determining how water is made available for consumptive purposes. The plans are based on the best available science and are prepared in collaboration with key stakeholders and communities. South Australia remains one of the only jurisdictions in the world to have explicitly accounted for and managed the water interception effects of large-scale plantation forestry in its statutory water allocation planning.

In addition, the government's statutory [Water Security Statement](#), acknowledges the need – under a changing climate – for statutory water allocation planning to be supplemented by water security planning that has regard for all available alternative water sources.

Water Services

The *Water Industry Act 2012* provides for the independent economic and technical regulation of water and sewerage services in South Australia.

The water and sewerage industry is made up of around 70 licensed entities, who provide drinking water services to approximately 770,000 customers and sewerage services to approximately 693,000 customers across South Australia. Potable water supplies are required to meet the requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2011*.

SA Water is South Australia's government owned water utility.

SA Water's [30-year investment plan](#) includes substantial investment in assets to improve the environmental performance of the business.

SA Water is undertaking a comprehensive project to create and deliver an urban water security plan for Greater Adelaide. The [Resilient Water Futures](#) project will help inform planning for the next 50 years to enhance Greater Adelaide's resilience in the face of future uncertainty and increasing extreme weather events.

SA Water is one of the single largest electricity users in the state and has ambitious and proactive environmental commitments, including achieving [net zero emissions by 2030](#) and net zero waste by 2040. It has made substantial investments in renewable energy assets to assist in achieving these goals. The [recycling of water](#) is an important part of SA Water's business and it is the second largest recycler of water in Australia.

The government is developing a business case to investigate the potential to build a [desalination plant and pipelines](#) to meet the increasing demand for water for industries crucial to achieving net-zero goals, including the emerging green energy and hydrogen industries in the northern regions of the state. This substantial investment would provide a new, climate independent water source for the Far Northern, Upper Spencer Gulf and Eastern Eyre Peninsula regions of South Australia.

RESILIENCE AND REMEDIATION



Government supported [Regional Climate Partnerships](#) are delivering practical actions to strengthen the climate resilience of communities, economies and natural and built environments.

The government is investing in effective disaster resilience measures, coordinating efforts at the state and local level in line with the principles of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. [Stronger together, South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy 2019-2024](#), highlights the government's principles and processes for addressing disasters, providing a foundation for government, businesses, and community to work together to survive, adapt and grow.

The SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission administers around \$76 million (2022-23) annually in Federal and State Grants, overseeing the delivery of disaster risk reduction and resilience projects at the state strategic and community level.

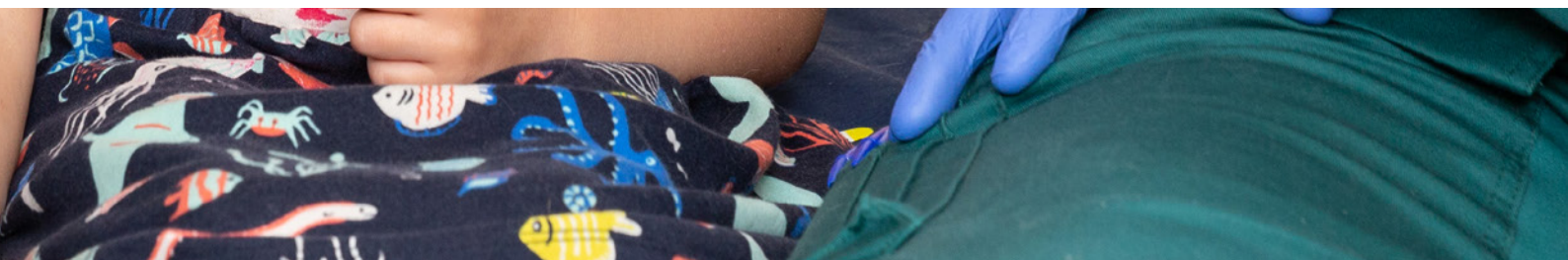


Section 3: Social



The South Australian Economic Statement recognises that inequality constrains economic growth, that social inclusion and economic success go hand in hand, and that a vision for an inclusive economy must put South Australians and their wellbeing front and centre.

The government is continuing to build on a long and proud history of supporting the socioeconomic advancement and empowerment of South Australians through continued investments and reform in the social space, as well as ensuring all South Australians have access to essential services.



EDUCATION AND SKILLS



[Our Strategy for Public Education in South Australia](#) sets out the government's vision for a world-leading public education system.

Four interrelated areas of impact describe what will be prioritised and resourced to support the children and young people of South Australia to learn and thrive now and into the future – wellbeing, equity and excellence, learner agency and effective learners.

The government has committed to delivering universal three-year-old preschool in South Australia. [The Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care](#) was released in August 2023, providing recommendations to enable more equitable and improved outcomes for South Australian children, and consider how out of school hours care can support the labour force participation of parents.

The government is working to immediately implement 13 of the recommendations, including the roll out of universal three-year-old preschool with priority given to the most vulnerable children in the state.

Significant reforms are underway to support a more inclusive and equitable approach to educational excellence, with reforms such as Autism Inclusion Teachers in every primary school and the recruitment of 100 additional mental health and learning support specialists.

[Five new technical colleges are being built](#) in South Australia to support students in years 10 to 12 complete their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) while also getting a vocational education and training (VET) qualification.

A long term, ambitious [South Australian Skills Plan](#) is also being developed which will be released in early 2024.

The [Roadmap for the Future of TAFE SA](#) signals the government's renewed commitment to TAFE SA and the vision, purpose, goals and associated recommendations will now shape a 10 year strategic plan.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING



The government is committed to protecting and improving the health of all South Australians and provides public hospital services across the state.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing supports the delivery of public health services, formulates health policy and monitors the performance of the South Australian health system.

Significant investments are being made in health assets and infrastructure as well as increasing the number of directly employed health care workers.

Investments include the development of a [new Women's and Children's Hospital](#) (WCH) to be located in close proximity to the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), and the [Adelaide BioMed City](#). The new WCH hospital will be the first brand new hospital in Australia to be 100% electrified, avoiding an estimated 2,100 tonnes of greenhouse emissions each year, the equivalent of taking approximately 700 vehicles off the road.

A new and bigger Mount Barker Hospital will be built in the coming years, tripling inpatient capacity in the area, and increasing community and allied health, outpatient and clinical support facilities. The hospital will also incorporate the recently completed Mount Baker Emergency Department, a 12 bed mental health unit, rehabilitation, obstetrics and palliative care services.

Further investments are also being made to ensure all South Australians have access to better health care services now and into the future, including but not limited to the establishment of a new State Health Control Centre, expanding and permanently extending adult and child and adolescent virtual care services, the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre, and increased funding for safeguarding services for vulnerable adults.

The 2023/24 Budget provided funding for a significant investment in South Australian Ambulance Service infrastructure, with five new stations, 4 rebuilds, 10 upgrades and a new South Australian Ambulance Service headquarters.

The government is committed to working in partnership to improve the lives of South Australian Aboriginal peoples. As part of this, SA Health is working to address the health inequities faced by Aboriginal peoples and reduce the gap in health outcomes between South Australia's Aboriginal peoples and the rest of the state's population. The SA Health [Aboriginal Health Care Framework 2023-2031](#) is an evidence-based policy framework that sets the long-term strategic intent in guiding SA Health's efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of South Australian Aboriginal peoples.

The government invests in a range of grant programs and services delivered by community organisations that support individual and community wellbeing, through the Department of Human Services and Wellbeing SA. These investments support various aspects of wellbeing, including physical, mental, social/community, and financial wellbeing.

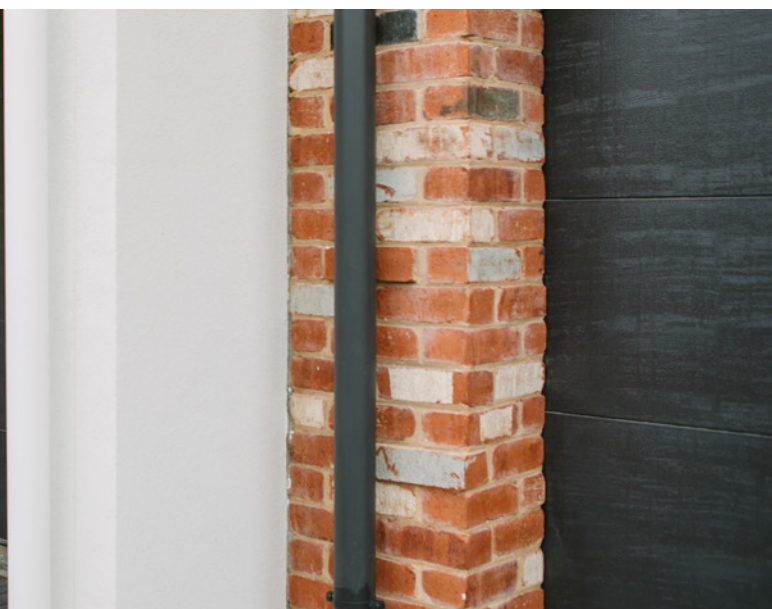
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



The government, through the SA Housing Authority (SAHA), delivers a range of public housing services, including low cost rental housing options across the state, housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and provides emergency accommodation and homeless services.

SAHA aims to continue to deliver better housing choices for South Australians, working in partnership with its customers and the housing sector to address the immediate challenges of today, while also planning ahead to anticipate the housing challenges of the future. SAHA is committed to providing housing that is both socially and environmentally affordable and sustainable, with all new homes being built in alignment with the [Design Guidelines for Sustainable Housing and Liveable Neighbourhoods](#).

Released in early 2023, the government's plan for [A Better Housing Future](#) is estimated to directly support the building of around 3,600 homes over the next five years, including delivering more social and affordable houses, greater protections for those who are renting, more affordable rental opportunities and more support for people to a buy a home. It will also provide more new houses in the regions and greater support for regional communities to pursue housing projects that meet their needs.



DISABILITY SUPPORT



The government is committed to ensuring South Australia has genuine access and inclusion for people with disability.

The Department of Human Services provides a range of services to support South Australians living with disability to live the life they choose in their homes and communities, or where they are best supported, including supported independent living and assistive technology.

Inclusive SA, the [State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023](#), brings together state and local government entities to reduce the barriers faced by people living with disability in South Australia. The 2022 Interim Review of the Plan also commences the realignment of the existing Inclusive SA actions to the new national strategy, Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.

Work is occurring with the autistic and autism communities to co-design the state's first [Autism Strategy and Charter](#). This is an important step towards creating a more inclusive and knowledgeable society where autistic people can meaningfully participate in the community. Enhanced support services for children and students with autism was introduced in the education system from 2023, including an Autism Inclusion Teacher in every primary school and providing more specialist staff in schools.

DHS also administers the Companion Card, which provides support for South Australians with disability by providing free entry to events or venues for a support companion.



ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS



The government supports the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities of South Australia through legislation, policy and service delivery.

The government is a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, a historic agreement between Australian governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations that seeks to overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The government has agreed an [Implementation Plan](#) with the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network that identifies key actions to be undertaken in genuine partnership to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Support, via targeted programs and services for Aboriginal peoples and communities, is provided directly via government agencies such as health, education and human services as well as via government funding of services provided by non-government organisations, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs). Funded services and programs across government are outlined in the recently completed [South Australian Indigenous Expenditure Report 2021-22](#).

As part of the government's commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the government is currently developing approaches that will increase the amount of programs and services that are delivered to Aboriginal peoples and communities by ACCOs.

Once established, the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament will be a direct and independent line of communication for First Nations people to South Australia's Parliament and the government.



GENDER EQUALITY



The government is committed to making South Australia a fair and inclusive state for women and girls. While South Australia has made significant strides toward equality of opportunity, including by supporting women's leadership, the government acknowledges that further action is needed to fully achieve gender equality.

[South Australia's Women's Equality Blueprint 2023-2026](#) expands on the 2023-24 State Budget Women's Statement. It brings together current and future policies and practices that will guide South Australia towards advancing gender equality. The initiatives in the *Women's Equality Blueprint* are an expansion of the government's focus to create a fair and inclusive state.

The government is committed to actions to prevent violence against women, to support and empower women experiencing violence, increase women's participation and representation in leadership so that women's voices are

heard in and influence all aspects of public life, and to increase support for women's health issues to enhance wellbeing and quality of life.

The government is also committed to promoting women's economic wellbeing and increasing women's economic and housing security across the lifespan.

[The South Australian Gender Pay Gap Taskforce](#), over a two-year period commencing in 2022, will identify and make recommendations to the government on steps that can be taken to eliminate the gap between the average earnings of men and women across the state.

The government is committed to ensuring that all State Government boards and committees comprise at least 50% women. This includes through the re-establishment of the Premier's Women's Directory in 2023 as a resource for South Australian women who seek appointment to State Government boards and committees.



SOCIAL INCLUSION



The government is committed to ensuring that young people, LGBTIQ+ people, volunteers and carers are included and supported in South Australian society.

The Department of Human Services is responsible for initiatives that improve social inclusion for these groups. This involves development and implementation of the South Australian Youth Action Plan, supporting the implementation of the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia, funding services and developing public policy that supports carers, funding LGBTIQ+ services and organisations, and funding peak bodies that engage with and represent these groups.

The government has also established LGBTIQ+, Youth and Disability Minister's Advisory Councils, which provide strategic advice to the Minister for Human Services and support the government when making decisions on policy and legislative reform.



CHILD PROTECTION



The South Australian Government has invested heavily in the child protection and family support system and is committed to ensuring all South Australian children are safe, nurtured, loved and participating in community life.

The government is re-shaping the South Australian child protection and family support system, developing a single vision and a single plan for children that places their voices and their experiences of living in South Australia at the centre.

The government is committed to creating an authorising environment that empowers our community's collective ability to think, challenge, be informed and be involved to deliver generational change.

In shaping the vision for children and young people and bringing the plan to life, the government is working with children, young people, families, carers, partners from across government agencies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, non-government organisations and communities. A key objective of the vision and the plan is to close the gap for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

To oversee this important work the government is implementing new comprehensive governance measures, including the Chief Executive Governance Group (CEGG) established by the Minister for Child Protection and the Child Protection Expert Group.

ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION



The government provides funding for a range of arts and cultural institutions across the state, as well as some major organisations such as the Adelaide Fringe, Tandanya and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. The Arts and Culture grants program also provides a range of grants to individuals and organisations in the arts and cultural sector.

The Office for Sport, Recreation and Racing provides a range of grant programs to support local sporting organisations across the state. Major investments include an \$18 million grant program for dedicated female sporting facilities and improvements.



Section 4: Reporting and Risk Management



South Australia is continually building its capacity to ensure climate-related risks are understood, integrated into decision-making, and acted upon.

Several projects within this space are already underway within government, including:

- Government Climate Risk Management Program
- State Climate Risk Assessment
- Priority Infrastructure Risk Assessment

The government has published the new [Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in SA 2022](#). This document was produced and is readily available to be used for climate change risk assessment, adaption planning and community engagement, providing a summary of the likely changes to key climate variables, such as temperature, rainfall, evapotranspiration, days of severe fire danger and sea level rise, under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.

The government has committed to producing the first South Australian Sustainability Report by the end of the 2024 calendar year. The report will seek to provide transparency over how climate-related risk consolidates to fiscal risk at the whole-of-government level and will aim to align to the AASB's² Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards as they become available. It will also capture progress against South Australia's major ESG commitments, and any policy updates overtime.

It is intended that the level and complexity of reporting will increase over time as capability in this space develops and the transition to net zero continues. This includes ensuring that reporting will support any future disclosure standards and requirements that may come to apply in Australia.

Work will be undertaken to develop the inaugural report over the coming year.

² Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Commitments

NOVEMBER 2023

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