



YORKE AND MID NORTH *REGIONAL SECTOR AGREEMENT*

*PURSUANT TO THE
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE
EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT 2007*

NOVEMBER 2017



**Government of
South Australia**



Government of South Australia
Northern and Yorke Natural
Resources Management Board



**Regional
Development**
Australia
YORKE AND MID NORTH



LEGATUS
GROUP

SECTOR AGREEMENT

For the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Yorke and Mid North Region

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

BETWEEN

LEGATUS GROUP

and

NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD

and

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA YORKE AND MID NORTH

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of 2017

BETWEEN

- (1) The Government of South Australia

and
- (2) The Yorke and Mid North Region (the Region), as represented by the following partners: Legatus Group, Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board and Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North.

The three partners listed under (2) are jointly referred to as the 'Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance'. The Legatus Group undertakes the co-ordination, advocacy and representation of 15 constituent councils across the region.

It is acknowledged that other entities (from both the public and private sectors) within the region may become partners in the project in the future, as implementation proceeds. If this eventuates, this Sector Agreement (Agreement) may be reviewed and amended accordingly.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Agreement between the Government of South Australia and the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance formalises leadership and acknowledges the importance of cooperative work between the signatories in responding to climate change and sustainability.

The members of the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance have a common goal to improve the resilience of their communities, assets and infrastructure, local economies and natural environment so that they can cope with the inevitable impacts and challenges of climate change in the short, medium and long term, through the implementation of the *Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan* (the Plan).

This Agreement:

- Articulates a **common goal amongst the key parties** to implement a climate change adaptation program, as resources allow, in a cooperative, co-ordinated and consultative manner in the region; and
- Has, as its key focus, **adaptation and response** to the impacts, risks, and opportunities of climate change in the region - to be addressed as per the identified priorities from the Plan, including:
 - Setting agreed objectives;
 - Cooperatively identifying and progressing partnership opportunities across sectors within the region;
 - Commitment by each of the local government partners to produce a local action plan; and
 - Cooperate in the implementation of the Plan, and its ongoing evaluation and review.

THE REGION

The region covers an area of approximately 34,930 square kilometres, and is bound by approximately 760 kilometres of coastline.

The region includes the majority of the Northern and Yorke NRM region and majority of the 15 Councils represented by the Legatus Group. For the purpose of this Agreement, the region is aligned with the boundaries of the Yorke and Mid North Region (refer Addendum 1) although all Councils represented by, or within the area of partner organisations can be included in activities under this Agreement.

Climate projections for the region indicate that average temperatures will increase across seasons, and will result in more hot days, fewer frosts, and harsher fire-weather. Projections also indicate that the region will see a decrease in winter rainfall, but an increase in the intensity of extreme rainfall events. Sea level rise will continue to increase, as will the height of extreme sea-level events.

1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 This Agreement acknowledges a joint commitment on the part of the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance and the Government of South Australia to respond to climate change by focusing on adaptation and identifying the economic, environmental, and social opportunities for the region, as part of a positive transition process.
- 1.2 This Agreement will be guided by a high level integrated approach whereby all signatories provide strategic direction for the region in tackling climate change in alignment with the Plan, and subsequent Local Action Plans.
- 1.3 This Agreement includes a Schedule outlining an Action Plan for consideration. The Schedule will be reviewed annually, on anniversary of signing, by the parties to this Agreement.
- 1.4 This Agreement acknowledges that the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance will endeavour to coordinate and implement priorities as identified in the Action Plan, as resources allow.
- 1.5 The governance arrangements are to be consistent with the State's *Prospering in Changing Climate: A Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia* (the Framework).
- 1.6 The parties recognise that the Agreement is complementary to, and supports, existing policies and programs, including *South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050 – Towards a low carbon economy*, the Local Government Association's *Climate Change Strategy*, South Australia's *Natural Resources Management Plan*, *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, regional NRM Plan and individual Council strategies and corporate climate change adaptation plans already in place.
- 1.7 While specific responses to climate change may vary, this Agreement aims to facilitate a cooperative approach across the Yorke and Mid North region to identify and address elements of common interest and benefit, recognising that responses may need to represent the risks to, or interests of, specific communities.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government of South Australia has enacted the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (“the Act”), which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the State.
- 2.2 *South Australia’s Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050 – Towards a low carbon economy*, provides an overarching framework for climate change action, including adapting to climate change, reducing emissions, and attracting low carbon investment.
- 2.3 The Government of South Australia has developed the Framework for regions to develop strategies across the State to deal with the impacts of climate change, and determine whether there are opportunities that may be presented by climate change.
- 2.4 The Government of South Australia and the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance are taking a collaborative approach to ensure the region is resilient to the changes resulting from climate change, and to identify opportunities to enhance its ongoing prosperity and quality of life in future.
- 2.5 The Yorke and Mid North Region has been implementing the Plan since 2013 focusing on regional scale collaboration and preparedness. The Region is now positioned to focus on local area implementation.
- 2.6 The Government of South Australia and the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance have sought to enter into a Sector Agreement under the Act in order to:
 - 2.6.1 Recognise differences across the region and facilitate geographically specific responses to climate change;
 - 2.6.2 Work together to support a better understanding of climate change risks and issues for communities;
 - 2.6.3 Facilitate community engagement and participation in programs designed to promote adaptation actions;
 - 2.6.4 Explore the potential for joint projects, partnerships, and Commonwealth funding opportunities; and
 - 2.6.5 Promote and showcase achievements as a template for other areas of South Australia, as well as nationally.
- 2.7 This Agreement and its Schedule identify actions to be undertaken by the parties to achieve outcomes within the areas of focus.
- 2.8 It is recognised that the parties will have an opportunity to consider and provide input into the review of national and state adaptation frameworks.

3 THIS 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.
- 3.2 The parties may amend any actions (as outlined in the Schedule) and commitments by agreement at any time.

4 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Climate Change Steering Committee of the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance (the Committee) will continue to maintain oversight of the Plan and will consist of at least one member from each of the project partners.
- 4.2 The Committee will provide regular progress reports to the Government of South Australia and to other regional stakeholders.
- 4.3 The Committee will appoint its own chairperson and determine its own meeting procedures and processes to resolve potential disputes and to manage potential conflicts of interest.
- 4.4 The Committee may, as approved by the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance, have observers at its meetings.
- 4.5 The Committee may establish sub-groups as required to support the specific objectives of the Plan and this Agreement.
- 4.6 The State Government representative may provide regular briefings to the Committee on government policy developments, as required.

5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Pursuant to this Agreement, the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance undertake to:
 - 5.1.1 Participate in Committee activities;
 - 5.1.2 Ensure consistency with relevant local, State and Commonwealth government strategies;
 - 5.1.3 Contribute in a timely fashion to reviews of all key deliverables;
 - 5.1.4 Promote the Plan's objectives internally and to relevant stakeholders; and
 - 5.1.5 Prioritise opportunities to implement the Plan on a regional scale, rather than on a Council by Council basis, where it is efficient and practical to do so.
- 5.2 Pursuant to this Agreement, one of the Yorke and Mid North Regional Alliance partners will seek to host a Regional Coordinator role with responsibility for:
 - 5.2.1 Project management of the operational and administrative needs of the Committee, including contractual obligations, management of any staff or consultants, reporting, project communications, scheduling, budgeting and quality. The role shall operate under the broad direction of the Committee.
- 5.3 The Government of South Australia undertakes to:
 - 5.3.1 Coordinate among relevant agencies and Ministers, to respond to the State regions regarding priority actions related to this Agreement and Plan through the delivery of a State-wide response to Regional Adaptation Plans;
 - 5.3.2 Collaborate to implement adaptation actions through the Plan, including exploring funding opportunities and sharing state-wide learnings regarding climate change adaptation initiatives;

- 5.3.3 Support as appropriate the development and/or coordination of any relevant funding proposal to the Commonwealth Government relating to the Plan and this Agreement;
- 5.3.4 Ensure consistency with the Framework; and
- 5.3.5 Ensure that briefings and advice are provided to the Committee on State and national policy developments and discussions, as required and relevant to this Agreement.

6 DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 6.1 This Agreement shall continue from the date on which it is made until 30 June 2020.
- 6.2 This Agreement will be reviewed at least once prior to 30 June 2020. The Agreement may also be amended more frequently, or extended on an as needs basis, with the agreement of the signatory parties.
- 6.3 This Agreement may be amended at any time if one party seeks to withdraw from the Agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other signatory parties.

YORKE AND MID NORTH SECTOR AGREEMENT

SIGNED AND ENDORSED BY

Peter Matthey

**CHAIR
Legatus Group**

.....

Date ____/____/____

Bill Vandeppeer

**CHAIR
RDA Yorke and Mid North**

.....

Date ____/____/____

Eric Sommerville

**PRESIDING MEMBER
Northern and Yorke NRM Board**

.....

Date ____/____/____

Hon Geoff Brock MP

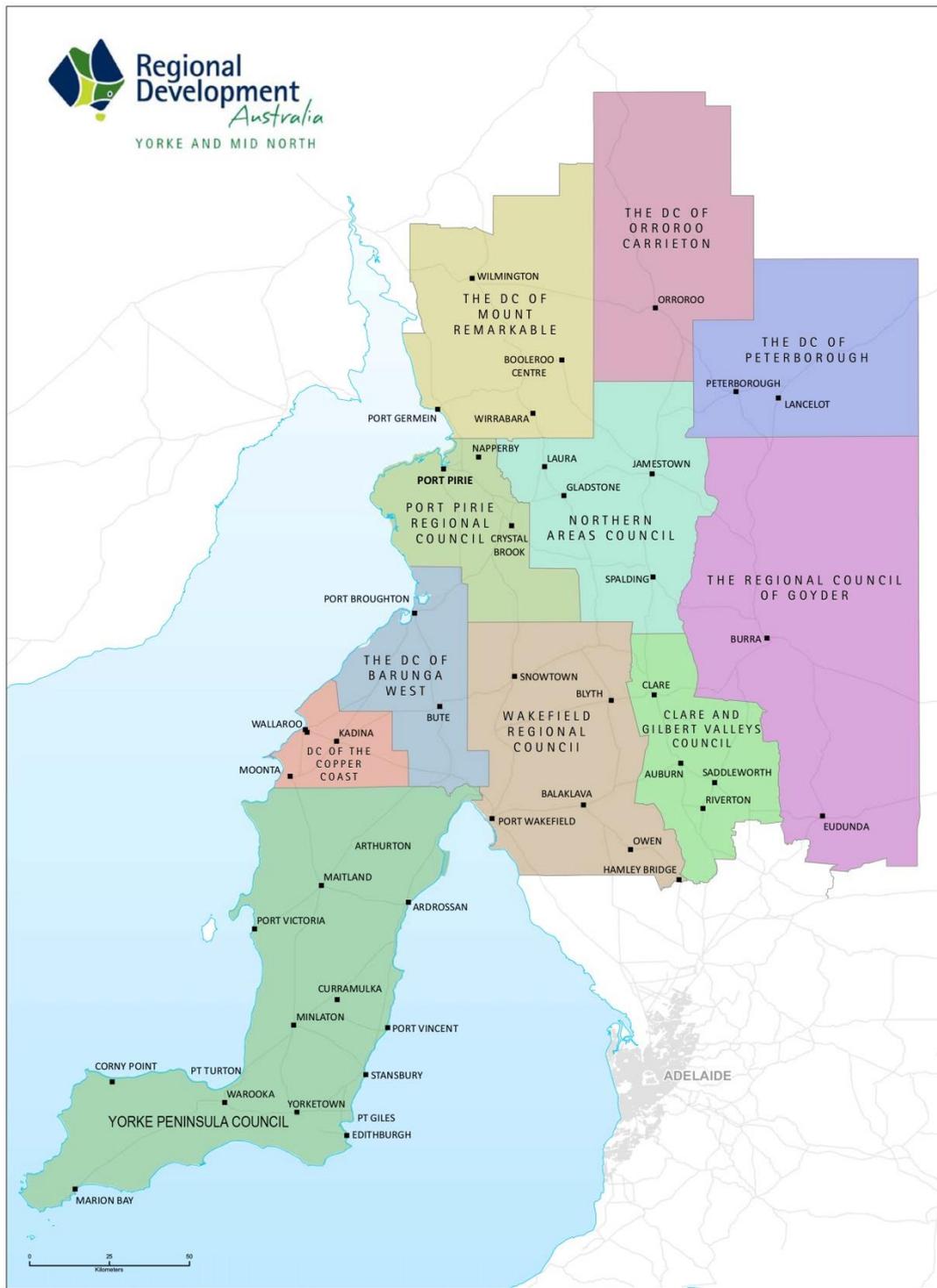
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

.....

Date ____/____/____

ADDENDUM 1

Map of Yorke and Mid North region



Prepared by:
Mapping Services
AUSTRALIA
www.mapping.com.au
Data Supplied by: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)



Local Government Areas
YORKE AND MID NORTH

SCHEDULE 1

Action Plan under the Yorke and Mid North Regional Sector Agreement.

Sector Agreement Element	Key Actions	Date	Responsible party
1. SECTOR AGREEMENT GOVERNANCE / ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS	The Committee will review progress of this Schedule on a quarterly basis.	Ongoing	The Committee
2. REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS	The Committee will provide regular six monthly progress reports to the Government of South Australia and other relevant regional stakeholders. The Committee will review the Sector Agreement three months prior to its expiration and provide recommendations to the regional stakeholders and State Government.	Six monthly from date of signing	The Committee
3. RESOURCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN	The parties will continue to explore opportunities for resourcing and funding including continuation of the Climate Change Coordinator role	Ongoing	All Signatory Parties
4. ADAPTATION PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION	<p>The parties will ensure that the regional adaptation priorities identified continue to be progressed.</p> <p>Focus will be on implementation through the Legtaus Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing dissemination of climate change information from State Government to decision makers within Councils (e.g. water resources, emergency management) • Supporting 15 Councils with interpretation of information, identification and implementation of local scale actions. 	Ongoing	The Committee and Legatus Group Councils

Sector Element	Agreement	Key Actions	Date	Responsible party
5. INFORMATION PROVISION		<p>The Government of South Australia will ensure regular briefings or updates are provided to the Committee on State and national developments and discussions, as required and relevant to this Agreement.</p> <p>The Government of South Australia will ensure relevant information is provided to the Committee as appropriate.</p>	Ongoing	The Committee and DEWNR, in liaison with State agencies
6. PURSUIT OF OPPORTUNITIES		<p>The parties will support the identification and development of opportunities in the region arising from climate change, in support of the Yorke and Mid North Region Climate Change Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>Priority activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for Yorke and Mid North Regional Forum/ Planning day event • Investigation of water resources to support adaptation 		The Committee, State Government
7. EXTERNAL SUPPORT		The parties will collaborate on supporting the development and/or co-ordination of any relevant funding proposal to the Commonwealth Government relating to this Agreement.	Ongoing	The Committee, State Government
8. COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP		The parties will share learnings with other regions across South Australia and participate in state policy activities	Ongoing	The Committee, State Government