

## Media Release

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### FOUR SA COUNCILS WIN NATIONAL AWARD FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Onkaparinga, Holdfast Bay, Marion and Mitcham councils have been recognised for action on climate change, picking up a national award today in front of 400 climate experts at the 2014 Climate Adaptation Conference on the Gold Coast.

The Resilient South Project, a collaboration between the four councils, won the Local Government Champions Award at the conference, hosted by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF).

"This award recognises that Resilient South sets the benchmark for local government response to climate change," NCCARF Director Professor Jean Palutikof said.

"NCCARF recognises the Resilient South initiative as an Adaptation Champion in 2014 for demonstrating there is strength in numbers, and that action to address climate change can deliver more resilient and sustainable Australian communities," Professor Palutikof said.

The award win coincides with the release of the Resilient South Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, prepared with direct involvement from government, business and community organisations.

The plan provides 57 preferred adaptation options and a timeline for how southern Adelaide can respond to and actively manage the challenges of climate change, including more frequent and intense heatwaves and bushfires, declining rainfall, and rising sea levels.

The City of Onkaparinga's Resilient South project coordinator Natalie Stalenberg said the plan focuses on the impact of climate change in relation to the region's economy and infrastructure, environment and natural resources, and social and community values.

"We assessed how vulnerable the things we valued are to climate change, and then worked with our project champions to develop actions that would improve the resilience of those values," Natalie said.

The plan includes a range of actions to improve awareness about the effects of climate change on business and vulnerable people, build greater social connectivity, increase the number of trained emergency services volunteers, and encourage changes in how public and open spaces are managed.

"Working with more than 100 project champions throughout the project and drawing on their valuable local knowledge and specialist expertise makes us confident the plan is relevant and practical."

"While we can all play a role in adapting to changes in our climate individually, through planning and acting together we can strengthen the southern region," Natalie said.

The project is consistent with the National and South Australian Climate Change Adaptation Frameworks and has received funding from the National Disaster Resilience Scheme, the South Australian Government and the four partner councils.

“We’re now working to prioritise the adaptation options and to develop new agreements with our existing partners to work on implementation of the plan, particularly where there are common issues across the region or the state.

“We are also keen to develop new partnerships with business, industry and community organisations,” she said.

The Resilient South Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan is available online now at [www.resilientsouth.com](http://www.resilientsouth.com)

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