

## Climate Change Strategy Submission – Lynda Tout-Smith

I would like to submit the following points in conjunction with the positive and thought-provoking paper released by the SA Government, *Climate Change Strategy for South Australia*:

- Cycling needs to be supported and promoted further:
  - Mandatory bike parking, preferably under cover, for shopping centres
  - Main roads need to have off-road cycle paths or wider shared footpaths
  - On-road bike paths should be better delineated at intersections and should not substitute for off-road paths for slower cyclists who need more safety
  - The design of new electric train carriages needs to be bike-friendly. The new electric trains do not have proper spaces for bicycles which makes it awkward for bike users and puts them in conflict with other train users as they must use seats to prop bikes up on
  - New suburbs need to have off-road bike paths and suburban streets which are wide enough for a car to pass a bicycle, particularly where there are no footpaths
  - Short-cuts for cyclists and walkers need to be maintained in older suburbs (eg at the end of cul-de-sacs) and to be created in new urban areas to encourage bike use
  
- Solar power needs to be supported further:
  - Incentives needed to encourage industry to use roof space for solar PV and solar hot water systems
  - The Government needs to get behind the Port Augusta solar thermal power plant proposal rather than buying in electricity made from Victoria's dirty brown coal industry. We need to show that we support local initiatives and innovation here in SA rather than sending profits interstate
  - Ongoing guaranteed feed-in tariffs will help keep SA a state and world leader in rooftop solar and will guarantee security of power supply in a low-carbon future
  - Government support for solar desalination plants such as is being developed by Sundrop Farms in Port Augusta would again show SA's commitment to innovation in low-C solutions
  
- Planning laws need to further reflect the need to conserve energy. Councils need to be mandated to consider the merits of building and design which is intended to reduce energy use, even where the measures are not conventional, to reduce energy consumption, to save space on urban properties and to reduce embodied energy of building materials, such as:
  - Underground rooms/houses. Earth ships
  - Greater inner urban densities on suburban blocks, such as hammerhead blocks, two-storey houses and well-designed units on smaller blocks
  - Carports allowed to the front of the house rather than beside, saving heat-sink concreted space and reducing deterioration and air-conditioning needs of vehicles left out in the sun on those spaces
  - Trees should be mandated for parking lots, again to reduce energy consumption for air-conditioning and vehicle deterioration

- Wall-shading for new houses needs to be mandated, either by vegetation, adjacent buildings or by verandas
  - Promotion of renewable building materials, such as hemp-based building boards
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- Biodiesel made from algae – in its research stage locally at present – should be well-supported by the State government as a low C future initiative
  - Embodied energy in manufactured goods needs to be taken into the equation of the amount of carbon South Australians are emitting. Embodied energy use can be reduced by allowing for more re-use of old unwanted items, as used to happen with hard waste collections. Instead other initiatives, such as a day when re-useable items can be put out for others to take, followed by a hard rubbish collection, should be encouraged. Shops at refuse tips should be subsidised as an embodied-energy saving initiative
  - Nuclear power is not a solution C emission reduction. The sarcophagus which contains the reactor is a massive concrete structure which creates a vast amount of GHG emissions, never to be re-used or recycled. The plants can never be fully de-commissioned, they produce toxic waste and are so unsafe that the insurance industry will not under-write them.
  - Fracking of rocks to gain oil and gas should not be allowed in SA, where water and fertile land are precious. Oil and gas need to be phased out in our low-C future, meaning that no new initiatives should be permitted.