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Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on South Australia's new Climate Change Strategy and Low Carbon Investment Plan for South Australia

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The City of Marion welcomes the development of a new Climate Change Strategy for South Australia and acknowledges the ongoing action in developing strategic approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation in South Australia.

In particular, the discussion about low carbon generation investment initiatives contained within the 'Low Carbon Investment Plan for South Australia' strategy paper is considered to be a step in the right direction. This commitment and leadership aligns well with the strategic aspirations identified in the *City of Marion Community Plan: Towards 2040*.

The City of Marion has taken a proactive role in responding to climate change through active participation in the development and implementation of Resilient South, a climate change adaptation program that has been developed for the Southern Adelaide Region by the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga.

Climate Change Strategy Feedback

The following comments are provided in response to each of the consultation papers developed for the new Climate Change Strategy for South Australia:

1. Overview:

- The guiding policy principles for the climate change strategy described in the Overview paper are supported. Having a coherent, cost-effective and evidence-based response to climate change that considers environmental, social and economic impacts is becoming increasingly important as intense heatwaves and bushfires are becoming more frequent.
- The State Government, through the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, has recognised local government's role in adaptation. The City of Marion would welcome a further opportunity to comment on a draft climate change strategy following this initial consultation phase.

2. Lead:

- The leadership role of the South Australian Government in providing policy certainty, establishing a consistent regulatory framework, and facilitating community and private sector action is recognised.
- There is a need for a coordinated response from State Government on climate change adaptation plans. A Sector Agreement between the Resilient South partner Councils and the State Government expired in June 2014. Despite attempts to renew the

agreement to have a coordinated effort in implementing the adaptation plan, there has been limited progress to date.

- The City of Marion supports the Premier's Climate Change Council recommendation to prioritise support for vulnerable members of the community to respond to climate change; as well as to engage Indigenous people in planning for climate change adaptation.

3. Innovate:

- The City of Marion agrees that there are significant economic opportunities arising from climate change action and supports an increased focus on clean tech solutions to support transition to a low carbon economy.
- Resilient South identified the important role that research institutions have in climate change adaptation. The City of Marion would support the State Government continuing to fund local research institutions to provide relevant recommendations to respond to climate change in our region. This would have the additional benefit of maintaining and creating jobs in this sector.

4. Adapt:

- The Resilient South Regional Adaptation Plan adopted by all four partner councils in August 2014 includes 10 adaptation pathways that reflect the regional priorities identified in the government's Adapt consultation paper. The full Regional Adaptation Plan and the background reports are available at www.resilientsouth.com
- Resilient South seeks to address these priority areas through a renewed Sector Agreement with the State Government. A previous Sector Agreement established under the Climate Change Adaptation Framework expired in June 2014. In 2015 the City of Onkaparinga, as host of the Resilient South program, wrote to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources with a view to renewing this agreement.
- The four Resilient South partner Councils are currently in the process of finalising the 'Southern Region Local Government Implementation Plan 2015 – 2019' for approval by Councils along with Local Action Plans. The City of Marion's Local Action Plan will integrate priority adaptation actions into our existing and new strategic management plans.
- In addition to the Resilient South program the City of Marion has implemented a number of projects and activities that contribute to our climate change response efforts and align with regional priorities discussed in the Adapt paper including:
 - Water Resources Management: Stormwater management planning with neighbouring councils; Integration of flood plain mapping in to Development Plan Policy.
 - Vulnerable Citizens: provision of support services to vulnerable members of the community through our Community Wellbeing team, and tree planting and vegetation management programs to green our public spaces and cool the urban environment.
 - Community and Emergency Services: Southern Adelaide Zone Emergency Management Planning that considers extreme storm, extreme heat, and flood risks.

5. Reduce:

- Streetlighting – the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from local government across the state. Although councils pay for the energy used, they have limited opportunity to influence the technology that is employed as the majority of streetlights are owned and managed by SA Power Networks (SAPN). While some progress is being made in this area, significant emissions reductions could be achieved

if existing street and public lighting were to be changed over to more efficient lighting technologies.

- **Vehicles** – The City of Marion supports the use of electric vehicles where possible. Further review of electric vehicle technologies, including options for local manufacturing and jobs creation in this industry sector is supported.
- **Waste** – Although the waste sector comprises only a small proportion of the state's overall emissions profile there are significant opportunities for further emissions reductions from the sector. These opportunities would be best supported through increased reinvestment of the Waste to Resources Fund, collected from the solid waste levy, into the waste management industry.

6. Carbon Neutral Adelaide:

- While the ambition for the City of Adelaide to be the world's first carbon neutral city is to be commended, a broader focus beyond the CBD to include greater Adelaide would be welcome.
- The City of Marion would welcome a partnership with governments and the private sector to progress emissions reduction projects in our region.

The new Climate Change Strategy represents an important step forward in the effectively responding to climate change and the City of Marion looks forward to working collaboratively with the South Australian Government in the delivery of its objectives.

Low Carbon Investment Plan for South Australia Feedback

The following comments are provided in response to the Low Carbon Investment Strategy Paper:

- The South Australian Government's investment in renewable energy assets and strategic focus on low carbon investments that will support the State's economic, environmental and social priorities is commended.
- The City of Marion supports in principle the use of electric vehicles where possible and welcomes initiatives that could accelerate the take up of electric vehicles and provide opportunities for local industry development and jobs creation as described in Case Study 3 – Electric vehicle incentives.
- The City of Marion is currently investigating opportunities to develop community renewable energy projects and would welcome a partnership with governments and the private sector to progress this or similar clean tech and renewable energy projects in our region.
- The Marion community is already investing in low carbon electricity generation evidenced through uptake of roof-top photovoltaic systems at just over 27% of households. Uptake as high as 38% in some suburbs, but drops to 20% in suburbs with larger proportions of public housing. Initiatives to increase access to roof-top solar for public and rental housing sectors would be supported.

The comments presented in this submission have been reviewed by Elected Members and relevant staff and have been endorsed by Council. If you have any queries regarding the submission, please contact Ann Gibbons, Manager Environmental Sustainability, by phone on (08) 8375 6857 or email ann.gibbons@marion.sa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

KRIS HANNA

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