

**SECTOR AGREEMENT**

**For the Northern and Yorke Region PURSUANT to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007***

**BETWEEN**

**LEGATUS GROUP**

**and**

**NORTHERN AND YORKE LANDSCAPE BOARD**

**and**

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA YORKE AND MID NORTH**

**and**

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA BAROSSA GAWLER LIGHT ADELAIDE PLAINS**

**and**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**





**THIS AGREEMENT is made the                      day of                      2021**

**BETWEEN**

- (1) The Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) on behalf of the Government of South Australia  
and
- (2) The Northern and Yorke Alliance, as represented by the following partners: Legatus Group, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North and Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains.

The partners listed under (2) are jointly referred to as the 'Northern and Yorke Alliance'. The Legatus Group is the trading name of the Central Local Government Region of South Australia and undertakes the co-ordination, advocacy and representation of the 14 constituent councils across the Region.

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

This Agreement builds on the previous *Yorke and Mid North Regional Sector Agreement*, which was signed on 3 November 2017 and expired on 30 June 2020.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This Sector Agreement (the Agreement) between the Government of South Australia and the Northern and Yorke Alliance formalises leadership and acknowledges the importance of cooperative work between the signatories in responding to climate change and sustainability.

The members of the Northern and Yorke 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 2013 *Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan* and the *Adapting to Change – Forming New Habits: Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the RDA Barossa Region* (these are referred to as the Plans).

This Agreement:

- Articulates a common goal amongst the signatory parties to implement climate change adaptation actions, as resources allow, in a cooperative, coordinated 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 Plans via:
  - setting agreed objectives
  - cooperatively identifying and progressing partnership opportunities across sectors within the Region
  - committing to report on delivery of the Plans
  - cooperating in the implementation of the Plans, including their ongoing evaluation and review

- acknowledging that the identified priorities from the Plans also align with, and help support state-wide priorities and policy directions as outlined in this Agreement.

## THE REGION

The Region includes the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region. This encompasses the Yorke Peninsula, significant areas of Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent, the southern Flinders Ranges, parts of the Rangelands, the Mid North, the northern Mount Lofty Ranges, the Barossa and northern Adelaide Plains. The Northern and Yorke region extends for 38,500 square kilometers. It is a varied and productive portion of South Australia and includes approximately 1,300km of coastline and adjacent marine areas.

The Region includes the traditional Aboriginal lands of the Narrunga, Nukunu, Ngadjuri, Kaurna and Peramangk people. 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 Northern and Yorke 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.
- 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 Plans.
- 1.3 This Agreement acknowledges that the Northern and Yorke Alliance will endeavour to coordinate and implement actions and priorities as identified in Schedule 1, as resources allow.
- 1.4 The Agreement complements and supports existing policies and programs, including:
  - the Government of South Australia's [Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia](#) policy statement and priorities outlined in the [South Australia's Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities](#) report
  - the [South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025](#)
  - [Stronger Together – South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy](#)
  - regional plans including those of the RDA Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains, RDA Yorke Mid North, Legatus Group and Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
  - Northern and Yorke Coastal Management Action Plan, and
  - individual Council strategies that incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation plans already in place.
- 1.5 The Northern and Yorke Alliance will work to identify common priorities and opportunities for collaboration to address the regional impacts, risks, and opportunities of climate change.
- 1.6 The Agreement and Schedule 1 support the achievement of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, whilst assisting with the implementation of the Plans.

- 1.7 While specific responses to climate change may vary, this Agreement aims to facilitate a cooperative approach across the 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 Adaptation Framework (2012) assisted regions to develop strategies across the State to deal with climate change impacts and potentially benefit from opportunities presented by climate change.
- 2.3 The Government of South Australia's *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia* policy statement includes a policy direction for the state government to support South Australian communities, industries, businesses and the environment to manage risk, harness opportunities, adapt and build resilience to climate change.
- 2.4 *South Australia's Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities* report released in September 2020 has informed the government's response on mitigation and adaptation including carbon farming, climate data and information, more efficient water use and adapting agriculture.
- 2.5 The *South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025* describes government-led objectives and actions to help to build a strong, climate smart economy, further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support South Australia to adapt to a changing climate.
- 2.6 The Government of South Australia seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate within the State. The government aims for South Australian greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by more than 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. The government is aiming to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- 2.7 The Government of South Australia and the Northern and Yorke 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 the Region's ongoing prosperity and quality of life in future.
- 2.8 The Yorke and Mid North Region completed the *Northern and Yorke Climate Change Action Plan* in August 2013 and has since been implementing its priorities, focusing on regional scale collaboration and preparedness in a changing climate. In February 2020 the *Emerging Themes for Drought Response and Climate Change Resilience Report* was completed which collated the key information about plans and projects that have occurred within the region in the past, identified past priorities and gaps that have not been addressed by drought or climate change works since 2011.
- 2.9 The *Adapting to Change – Forming New Habits Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the RDA Barossa Region* (the Barossa Adaptation Plan) was completed in 2015 and updated in 2020. The inclusion of the RDA Barossa as a partner of this Sector Agreement will ensure implementation of, and reporting on, the Barossa Adaptation Plan and *Northern and Yorke Climate Change Action Plan* will be inclusive of the whole Northern and Yorke region.
- 2.10 The Government of South Australia and the Northern and Yorke Alliance are entering into a Sector Agreement under the Act in order to:
  - 2.10.1 recognise differences across the Region and facilitate geographically specific responses to climate change

- 2.10.2 work together to support a better understanding of climate change risks and issues for communities
  - 2.10.3 facilitate community engagement and participation in programs designed to promote adaptation actions
  - 2.10.4 explore the potential for joint projects and partnerships; and Australian Government and other funding opportunities, and
  - 2.10.5 promote and showcase achievements as an example for other areas of South Australia, as well as nationally.
- 2.11 This Agreement and Schedule 1 identify actions to be undertaken by the parties to achieve outcomes within the areas of focus.

### **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 1) and commitments by written agreement at any time.

### **4 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 A Committee will be formed to support the delivery of the schedules.
- 4.2 Membership of the Committee will include Chairs and CEOs from each of the partners of the Northern and Yorke Alliance and a representative from the Government of South Australia.
- 4.3 The Committee will provide regular progress reports to all signatory parties.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 The Committee may, as approved by the Northern and Yorke Alliance, have observers at its meetings.
- 4.6 The Committee may establish sub-groups as required to support the specific objectives of this Agreement, the Plans and delivery of actions outlined in Schedule 1.
- 4.7 The South Australian government representative may provide regular briefings to the Committee on government policy developments, as required.
- 4.8 The Committee will review Schedule 1 annually, on anniversary of signing.

### **5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1 Pursuant to this Agreement, the Northern and Yorke Alliance undertake to:
  - 5.1.1 Participate in Committee activities.
  - 5.1.2 Endeavour to coordinate and implement actions and priorities as identified in Schedule 1, as resources allow.
  - 5.1.3 Ensure consistency of pursued climate change action with relevant Local, State and Australian government strategies and integration with broader regional / state / national climate adaptation plans.
  - 5.1.4 Ensure evidenced based approaches are incorporated into climate change adaptation planning and action along with balancing cultural considerations.

- 5.1.5 Contribute in a timely fashion to reviews of all key deliverables.
- 5.1.6 Promote the Plans' objectives internally and to relevant stakeholders.
- 5.1.7 Consult with First Nations peoples and give consideration to traditional owners' land protection and conservation practices that may be particularly beneficial for climate adaptation.
- 5.1.8 Prioritise opportunities to implement the Plans 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, the Northern and Yorke Alliance partners will seek to identify funding for a hosted 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 Participate in Committee activities.
  - 5.3.2 Promote relevant objectives and achievements internally and to relevant stakeholders.
  - 5.3.3 Collaborate on initiatives that support the Government's *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia* and the *South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025*, including exploring funding opportunities and sharing state-wide learnings regarding climate change response initiatives.
  - 5.3.4 Collaborate, as appropriate, to implement priority actions identified in the Barossa's Adaptation Plan (Schedule 3) and Northern and Yorke Climate Action Plan, and to support the climate change related work of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.
  - 5.3.5 Support, as appropriate, the development of any relevant funding proposals to the Australian Government or other funding bodies.
  - 5.3.6 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.

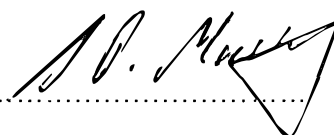
## **6 DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT**

- 6.1 This Agreement shall continue from the date on which it is made until 30 June 2024.
- 6.2 The Committee will review this Agreement at least once prior to 30 June 2024 with the involvement of all of its signatory parties. 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.

**NORTHERN AND YORKE SECTOR AGREEMENT**

**SIGNED AND ENDORSED BY**

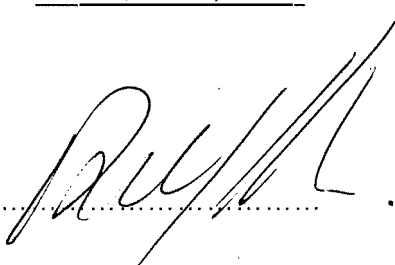
Mayor Peter Matthey OAM  
**CHAIR**  
**Legatus Group**



.....

Date 8 / 4 / 21

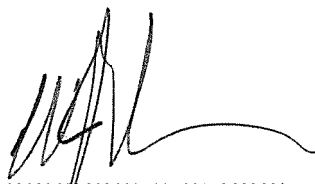
Rolf Binder  
**CHAIR**  
**RDA Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains**



.....

Date 28 / 4 / 21

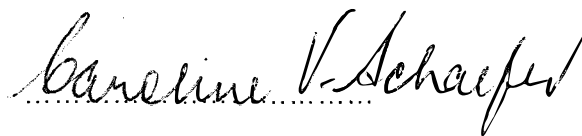
Bill Vandepier  
**CHAIR**  
**RDA Yorke and Mid North**



.....

Date 14 / 5 / 21

Caroline Schaefer  
**PRESIDING MEMBER**  
**Northern and Yorke Landscape Board**



.....

Date 8 / 4 / 2021

Hon David Speirs MP  
**MINISTER for Environment and Water**

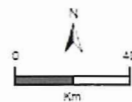
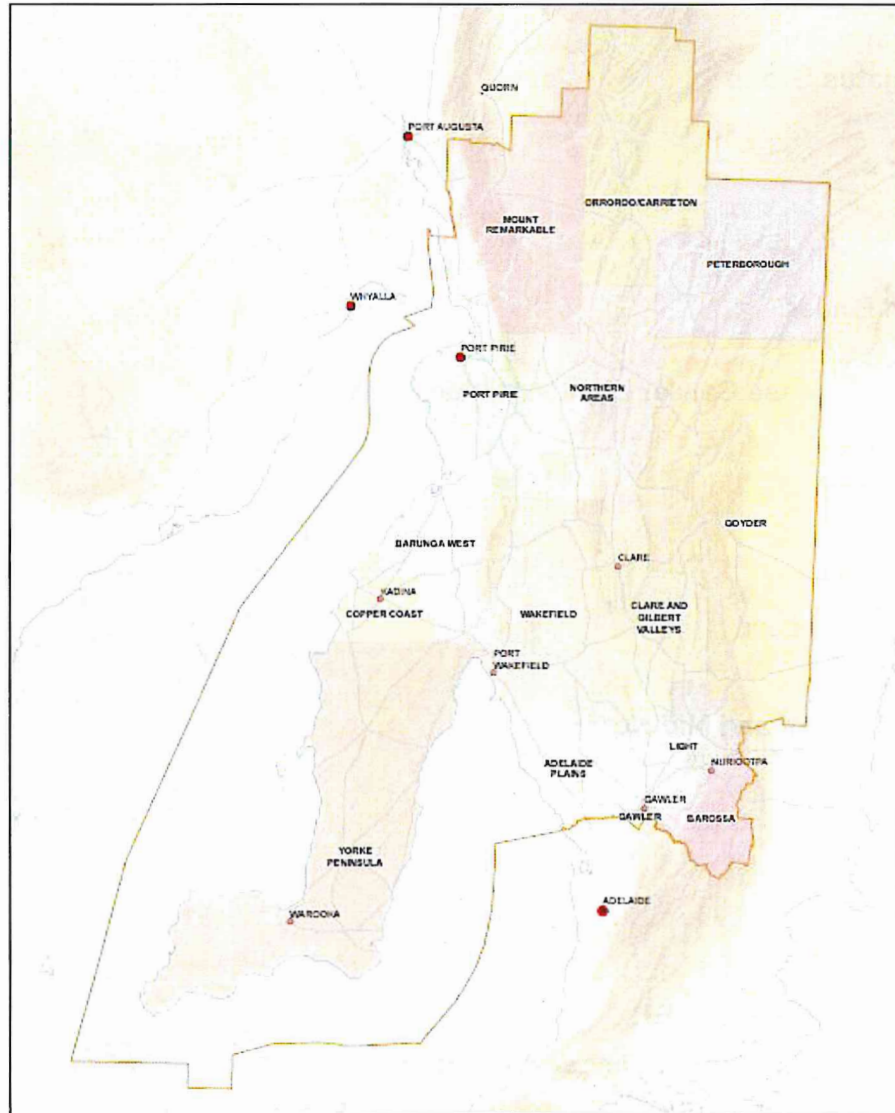
.....

Date  / /



ADDENDUM 1

*Northern and Yorke Landscape Board*



## SCHEDULE 1

### Action Plan for the 2020/21 -2023/24 Financial Years

Ref	Detailed action areas	Timing for completion
1.	<p>Regional Coastal Management Action Plan (CMAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a range of small-scale environmental works in partnership with coastal councils to progress priorities of CMAP.</li> <li>• Develop a large scale, multi-year collaborative project application under the Landscape Priorities Fund to implement priority actions identified in the CMAP.</li> <li>• Through the CMAP identify opportunities and funding to support the Adelaide Plains Council Natural and Coastal Areas Management Plan 2016 which details strategies to manage sea level rise impacts on coastal areas and retreat opportunities for vegetation communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Mid-2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2.	<p>Continue to deliver the 4 Catchments River rehabilitation program to increase environmental resilience of this system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver priority work along the Wakefield River in line with Landscape Board priorities and 2020/21 funding.</li> <li>• Seek funding to expand this program through Farm Biodiversity Funds or other external funding stream.</li> </ul>	<p>Mid 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
3.	<p>Regional Sustainability Hub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Concept Plan for a Mid North Sustainability Hub and seek to further develop the recommendations from this concept plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Concept plan by Feb 2021 and then next stages to be confirmed</p>
4.	<p>Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with Councils, the Emergency Services Sector, Zone Emergency Committees, and others, identify plans and preparedness initiatives that will build regional resilience to climate change and natural hazards.</li> </ul>	<p>2021/2022</p>
5.	<p>Living Flinders Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue control of feral herbivores causing unsustainable grazing pressure impacting on soil stability, native vegetation and farm viability in drying conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>Mid 2021</p>
6.	<p>Drought-proofing South Australia's Upper North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two project applications for funding under the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund program have been developed and submitted:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Below the Goyder Line includes a range of strategies for farmers to plan and improve drought resilience in the transitional zone.</li> <li>2) Innovative Revegetation in the Southern Flinders seeks to provide demonstration sites that apply innovative direct seeding techniques to establish cross slope strips of perennial vegetation for erosion management and soil health.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>Pending</p>
8.	<p>Continue to support the <i>Marna Banggara</i> (Great Southern Ark) rewilding project on the Yorke Peninsula aimed at improving resilience in this farming landscape:</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Mid 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce fox and cat numbers impacting on both farm productivity and native fauna.</li> <li>• Establish 25 km predator exclusion fence across peninsula.</li> <li>• Release nationally endangered Bettongs, which are critical to halting decline in health of native vegetation.</li> </ul>	Autumn 2021
9.	<p>Continue to identify opportunities to reduce energy and resource consumption for significant operational cost-savings and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light Regional Council Strategic Plan 2016-29</li> <li>• other regional plans.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
11.	<p>Undertake a coordinated approach to water resources management including linkages to the Water Security Plans, Integrated Water Management Plans and Water Allocation Plans (WAP) as per Yorke Far North Regional Climate Change Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a coordinated approach to delivering on water resources management priorities outlined in Water Security Plans such as investigating options for alternative / imported water supplies for Clare and Barossa, including access to the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme.</li> <li>• Progress the review of the Clare Valley WAP in line with recommendations from Clare Valley Wine and Grape Association.</li> <li>• Finalise review of the Barossa WAP including community consultation.</li> <li>• Develop the draft Baroota WAP.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
12.	<p>Investigate funding opportunities available through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund for projects aimed at increasing landscape resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoring / establishing shelterbelts and areas of native vegetation to reduce soil erosion risk, impacts on stock from increasing winds and temperatures, habitat for native pollinators and beneficial insects and native bird species.</li> <li>• Facilitating development of grower groups focussing on Regenerative Agriculture and other sustainable farming practices.</li> <li>• Information on local climate variability and advice on climate risk applied to specific locations including weather station and soil moisture monitoring networks as decision making tools.</li> <li>• Establish water efficiency demonstration sites using strategies such as contour embankments, sheeted catchment water harvesting, dam construction techniques and rationalisation.</li> </ul>	Annual program Ongoing
13.	<p>Develop engagement strategy incorporating the Councils included in the expanded Landscape Board region to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a series of Community Action Planning events to engage local government, community and stakeholders in identifying priorities.</li> <li>• Develop a new 2021-26 Landscape Region Strategic Plan to align Landscape Board annual expenditure with regional priorities.</li> <li>• Provide representation and input into the <i>Town of Gawler Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group</i>.</li> </ul>	Mid 2021
14.	<p>Continue coordination between the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, Primary Industries and Regions SA, the RDA Northern and Yorke and RDA Barossa to ensure the effective delivery of natural resources management projects focussed on drought related</p>	Ongoing

	biodiversity conservation. This will allow improved community engagement and the ability to work collaboratively with Landcare groups and Friends of Parks groups within the region.	
15.	Investigate funding opportunities for ensuring the water security of the region through the utilisation of recycled water in towns, with a focus on incorporating these concepts in Stormwater Management Plans. Investigate funding opportunities for projects that encourage the uptake of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles in regional towns that will increase greenspace and maintain street trees providing community wellbeing and economic returns.	Ongoing
16.	Investigate opportunities to deliver regenerative farming demonstration trials that incorporate sustainable agriculture, holistic management, and natural resources management across the management of farms and regions through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regenerative farming training</li> <li>• integrated projects that demonstrate better models for land management.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## SCHEDULE 2

### Governance and Implementation Schedule under the Northern and Yorke 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 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 signatory parties.	Six monthly from date of signing	The Committee
3. RESOURCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS	The parties will continue to explore opportunities for resourcing and funding including for a Climate Change Coordinator role	Ongoing	All Signatory Parties
4. ADAPTATION PLANS – IMPLEMENTATION	The parties will ensure that the regional adaptation priorities identified continue to be progressed.	Ongoing	The Committee, the Legatus Group Councils and the other parties as relevant
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 other relevant information is provided to the Committee as appropriate.</p>	Ongoing	The Committee in liaison with state government agencies



<b>Sector Agreement Element</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsible party</b>
6. PURSUIT OF OPPORTUNITIES	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 2013 and other relevant Plans such as the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Barossa Adaptation Plan 2015 and the 2020 Legatus Group Region Emerging themes for drought response and climate change resilience report. This will include the pursuit of opportunities outlined in Schedule 2.	Pursue webinar/ Zoom Conference	The Committee, Government of South Australia
7. EXTERNAL SUPPORT	The parties will collaborate on supporting the development and/or co-ordination of any relevant funding proposal to the Australian Government relating to this Agreement.	Ongoing	The Committee, Government of South Australia
8. COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP	The parties will share learnings with other regions across South Australia and participate in state policy activities, particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with stakeholders</li> </ul>	Ongoing	The Committee, Government of South Australia

**SCHEDULE 3**

**A Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the RDA Barossa Region**