

Minister Ian Hunter

Minister for Climate Change

Tuesday, 17 February, 2015

New climate data lays down the challenges for SA to meet

South Australia is well-placed to respond to future climate change challenges, with the release today of the most comprehensive set of climate projections concerning South Australia.

Climate Change Minister Ian Hunter today launched the data which is the result of the Goyder Institute's five year '*SA Climate Ready*' project at the Institute's annual conference in Adelaide.

"Science such as this underscores the leadership we have shown in building the desalination plant, and exposes the short sighted, opportunistic mindset of the Opposition," he said.

"Steven Marshall should today come out and congratulate the Labor Party for investing in helping to secure the State's water supply.

"These climate change projections – which predict a 50 per cent reduction in annual flows into our largest reservoir within the next 100 years – are based on the best available science to ensure that South Australia is on the front foot in planning for climate change impacts.

"The State Government has been preparing through critical infrastructure investments like the desalination plant, and recently the reinstatement of a climate change portfolio, and we will continue to lead the nation in climate change adaptation planning.

"What is shown today is through to 2100 a trend of less rainfall, particularly in spring, and higher temperatures – this will come as no surprise to most of our state's and Australia's population, with of course the exception of the Federal Government and a handful of irrational skeptics.

"Being as prepared as we can for the changes happening now – and that are to come – is the only course of action a responsible government should take. This is what we have done, and will continue to do."

Mr Hunter said his department led a program to test the projections in surface and groundwater models for the Onkaparinga catchment to ensure the data can be used to ensure infrastructure such as roads, bridges and farm dams are designed to withstand the impacts of climate change.

"The data will also help assess anticipated changes in extreme heat and fire risk which will inform planning for South Australia's emergency, health and social services sectors," he said.

'*SA Climate Ready*' provides a common basis on which Government, business and the South Australian community can develop solutions to future climate change challenges.

"This data will complement other State Government efforts which are helping to ensure South Australia has sufficient water resources for a healthy future – such as the *Water for Good* Strategy, the State Strategic Plan, the Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the Premier's economic priorities and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan."

The data is available at <https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/Climate/SA-Climate-Ready>
Regional data summaries are available at: www.goyderinstitute.org

The Goyder Institute for Water Research is a partnership between the South Australian Government through the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, CSIRO, Flinders University, University of Adelaide and University of South Australia.

It was established in 2010 to help the state deal with the challenges of the millennium drought and water security.