

**SPEECH - CRC FOR LOW CARBON LIVING ANNUAL
PARTICIPANTS FORUM**

Australian Maritime Museum, 2 Murray Street, Sydney

Thursday, 26 November 2015, 1:45 – 2:45 pm

Traditional Welcome

Before I begin I'd like to pay my respects to the traditional owners of the land that we stand on today, and acknowledge their deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country.

Acknowledgements

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of:

- Hon Dean Brown AO, Chair of the UniSA Research Node for Low Carbon Living
- Deo Prasad, CEO of the CRC for Low Carbon Living,

Speech

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words today.

This time next week I will be in Paris for the COP21 meeting.

I am going because I want our voice to be heard.

We have a fantastic story to tell in South Australia...

...and I am a strong believer in the positive effect of local, regional and State-based activity when it comes to acting on climate change.

Very shortly, I will be releasing South Australia's new Climate Change Strategy.

It is the result of extensive consultation with community and industry, including recommendations from our expert panel comprised of Dr John Hewson, Dr Frank Jotzo and Anna Skarbek.

The report of the expert panel was released yesterday [25 November 2015].

We have accepted their main recommendation of committing to net zero emissions by 2050 – making us, once again, a leader in driving the push to a low carbon economy.

Further details will be announced when we release our Climate Change Strategy.

Without giving too much away at this stage, I do want to say that am proud and excited about this strategy.

It involves an unprecedented level of cooperation with local government, business, researchers and the community.

It is designed to energise activity around mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change...

...and, importantly, demonstrate the enormous opportunities that exist as we transition to a low carbon, resilient economy, with advanced manufacturing and green technologies that attract investment, drive innovation and create jobs.

An important part of this strategy is our partnership with the Adelaide City Council to make the City of Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city.

We want Adelaide to be a type of laboratory where we generate and trial innovative and new ways of doing things that can be rolled out in other centres.

Currently, the City of Adelaide is estimated to generate around one million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, and the majority of these come from the built environment and transport.

So clearly these two areas will be strongly targeted through our strategy.

An important part of this is identifying ways to integrate key low carbon building design features more broadly into South Australia's housing stock.

The State Government has set itself the target of improving the energy efficiency of government buildings by 30% by 2020.

We have just closed an EOI process for the installation of a \$1.1 million battery storage demonstration in government buildings that will show the multiple benefits of integrating battery storage with solar photovoltaics.

And we recently opened a new EOI process that could see all of the Government's energy needs come from low carbon generation, and included a call for proposals to help reduce government energy needs.

In July we doubled the Adelaide City Council's Sustainable City Incentives Scheme to incentivise the installation of energy efficiency solutions; a scheme that includes Australia's first consumer rebate for energy storage.

And, earlier this year, we introduced a Bill into Parliament to establish a Building Upgrade Finance mechanism in South Australia designed to help unlock investment in environmental improvements of existing our commercial buildings.

Today we launched an initiative that we are calling “Smart City Technology”.

It is based on the successful partnership that resulted in free wi-fi throughout the Adelaide CBD.

And it involves the global technology company, Cisco, undertaking a number of pilots including smart parking and lighting, and new technologies to manage traffic, pedestrians, and power use in government buildings.

This will be complemented by our initiatives to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.

In addition, we have set up “An Internet of things Innovation Hub” at the Adelaide City Council that will assist innovators and businesses, and showcase the great initiatives around the city to the wider community.

And this brings me to the work you do.

Because, without your work and your contribution, we wouldn't be implementing many of the strategies we have planned.

I look forward to working closely with many partners including the CRC for Low Carbon Living to ensure that South Australia remains a leader in climate change action.

The message we are sending to businesses around the world is clear:

If you want to innovate, if you want to perfect low carbon technologies necessary to halt global warming - come to South Australia.

This is the message I will be taking to Paris.

Thank you.