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Submission to the *Climate Change & Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (SA)* Review Consultation Paper

SACOME welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the *Climate Change & Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 (SA)* Review consultation process.

We recognise that the Act provides a framework for government to work with business and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

SACOME further recognises that the Act mandates a review of its operation every four years to assess the *'extent to which the Act's objects are being achieved, information regarding climate adaptation measures implemented by state government, additional legislative measures that may be required to achieve the targets set by the Act, and any other relevant matters determined by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water'*. We note that the current review covers the period from 2022 to 2025.

We note the South Australian Government's declaration of a 'climate emergency' in May 2022 and setting of climate targets as follows:

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% compared to 2005 levels by 2030.
- Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- Attain 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027.

While *South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2035* sets the overarching objectives for the state's transition to a net zero future, we note a range of initiatives listed in the consultation paper that are of particular relevance to the resources sector, including:

- *Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Act 2023;*
- *Biodiversity Act 2025;*
- *Amendments to the Environment Protection Act 1993;*
- *South Australia's Transport Strategy and accompanying Freight & Supply Chain Strategy;*
- *South Australia's Advanced Manufacturing Strategy;*
- *Green Iron & Steel Strategy;*
- *State Infrastructure Strategy;*
- *Beyond Recycling: Moving SA Towards a Circular Economy Discussion Paper;*
- *Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme;*
- Government involvement in Cooperative Research Centres, notably the *Future Fuels CRC, Future Batteries Industries CRC, Heavy Industry Low Carbon CRC* and *CRC for Transformations in Mining Economies.*
- Support for Carbon Capture & Storage projects through the *Energy Resources Act 2000* and policy development to provide investment frameworks for CCS.

SACOME acknowledges the extensive activity that has occurred over the last four year period, noting that we have provided comment to a many of the consultation processes attached to key initiatives.

In addition to the above initiatives, we also acknowledge the State Prosperity Project as major policy framework aimed at decarbonising heavy industry by harnessing South Australia's abundant renewable energy resources to drive green iron, steel and copper production.

Comment

SACOME submits that the activities listed in the consultation paper reflect concerted effort in progressing the objects of the Act across the review period of 2022 to 2025.

In considering priority initiatives for the South Australian resources sector over the next four-year period, SACOME makes the following comments:

- South Australia's energy system is in the midst of transition, creating reliability and cost pressures for heavy industry operating in this jurisdiction.

While the '100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027' target is on track to be realised, ensuring this generation can be harnessed for industrial use in a reliable and affordable manner is critical to realising the state's economic development and industrial transformation ambitions.

- Linking renewable energy generation sources to project sites is fundamental to realising industrial transformation in a manner envisaged by government. Development of infrastructure like electricity transmission lines and water/gas/hydrogen pipelines will ensure that these critical industrial inputs are linked to the production of resources necessary to facilitate decarbonisation.

SACOME continues to advocate for implementation of the Resources Infrastructure Corridors initiative to establish infrastructure project pathways to major South Australian resources provinces. This includes holistically resolving land access, approvals and logistics issues to provide project proponents with a de-risked and expedited path to project development.

- SACOME notes the strong alignment between the Federal and State climate and industrial policy at this juncture.

The Australian Government's *Future Made in Australia* framework, along with its recent announcement of updated 2035 climate change targets; and Net Zero Sector Plans for Resources; Electricity and Energy; and Industry demonstrate shared thinking and an opportunity for focused collaboration.

We further note that 2025 amendments to Section 14 of the Act granted the Premier powers to direct government agencies to prepare state sector plans. Consistency between sector plans at a state and national level offer a means of facilitating a nationally coordinated approach to industrial transformation; and to better leverage Federal funding.

SACOME remains committed to working collaboratively with the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and the South Australian Government to progress outcomes that advance the both the objectives of the Act and the decarbonisation of the South Australian resources sector.

Yours sincerely



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