

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [Wednesday 1 April 2026]

A week of climate action is coming to Adelaide — and everyone is invited to be part of it

This July, Adelaide will transform into a city-wide festival of climate action, from dance floors to boardrooms, coastlines to community halls.

[Adelaide Climate Action Week](#) (ACA), running 27 July — 2 August 2026, is South Australia's first community-led climate action festival and everyone is invited to help build it.

More than 100 leaders from government, industry, First Nations, health, energy, community, and the Pacific Islands gathered at Ayers House yesterday to launch the initiative.

The launch did not announce a festival program, it opened one.

Event submissions are now live, with organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals across the state invited to create their own events as part of the week.

The possibilities are many from climate comedy nights to panel discussions, nature walks to investor briefings, home energy clinics to yarning circles.

Because the message from the room was clear. South Australians don't want to sit on the sidelines of climate action. We want to be in it together.



Lord Mayor Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM captured that sentiment.

"This is a call to action. The important word is not even Adelaide — it's action."

Climate action is already happening everywhere in South Australia across boardrooms, communities and backyards. But it doesn't always come together in a way that's visible or connected.



Adelaide Climate Action Week is designed to change that.

ACA will be a concentrated week of momentum bringing people, ideas and initiatives into the open, and building the relationships and momentum that carry forward long after July.

The festival grew out of Adelaide's COP31 bid. When Adelaide didn't secure the global summit, the community chose to create its own platform.



Co-founder Jen St Jack said the response was immediate. *"When we didn't get it, that ecosystem and that ambition did not go away. People showed up, not because they had to, but because they wanted to be part of something."*

Co-founder Mark Rowland, who also started Climate Action Week Sydney, said the event is grounded in openness and shared ownership. *"We are going to make this the most transparent,*

collaborative Climate Action Week that has ever existed — every decision made in public, every dollar accounted for."



Minister for Climate, Environment, Water and Tourism, Emily Bourke, said South Australia's progress shows what's possible. *"In just 16 years, we've gone from 1% renewable energy generated in South Australia to 74%. It shows we are running. There's more to do, but we have made significant changes in a relatively short time."*

The launch also showcased the breadth of climate action already underway, with voices from health, energy, innovation, conservation and community sectors demonstrating how their work contributes to climate outcomes.

Pacific perspectives grounded the global context of the week. **Rowena Seutatia MacDonald, Youth Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Council of South Australia**, said:

“The Pacific has been leading global climate ambition for many years, as people contributing the least to the climate crisis, yet experiencing the worst of it.

My responsibility as a Samoan born on Kurna country is to communicate that the impacts in the Pacific are connected to the heatwaves, algal blooms and droughts we are experiencing here.”



The event opened with a Welcome to Country by Kurna Elder Uncle Moogy Sumner, recognising the deep knowledge and stewardship of Country across generations.

ACAW Producer Adelaide Xerri closed with a clear invitation: *“We are not giving you a recipe. We’ve built a broad enough umbrella, with clear enough guardrails, for something special to happen.”*

Event submissions are now open at acaw.org.au, with partnership and sponsorship enquiries welcome via collaborate@acaw.org.au. The festival runs 27 July — 2 August 2026.



From left to right: Greg Hodgkinson, Jen St Jack, Marco Cicchianni, Adelaide Xerri, Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM, Mayor Anne Monceaux, Mark Rowland, Minister Emily Bourke, Mayor Angela Evans, Mayor Moira Were AM, Mayor Michael Hewitson AM

About

Adelaide Climate Action Week (ACA W) is South Australia's first community-led climate action festival, running 27 July — 2 August 2026.

Born from SA's COP31 bid and the Heaps Good COP movement, ACA W brings together government, industry, First Nations, and community under five action areas: Learn, Care, Use Wisely, Restore, and Be Ready.

Events are independently organised and open to all. Anyone can submit an event. Anyone can attend.

WHAT: Adelaide Climate Action Week official launch - opening event submissions, public engagement, and partnership conversations

WHEN: Tuesday 31 March 2026, 11:30 AM

WHERE: The Conservatory, Ayers House, 288 North Terrace, Adelaide



[Website](#)
[Instagram](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[TikTok](#)

WHO: Over 100 leaders from government, industry, First Nations, health, energy and community sectors. Speakers included:

- Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, and Tourism, Emily Bourke
- Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM
- Martin Haese, Chair of Premier's Climate Change Council
- Jen St Jack and Mark Rowland, ACAW Co-founders (**interview opportunities available**)
- Soapbox speakers:
 - Dr Kate Wylie, Executive Director of Doctors for the Environment Australia;
 - Manikya Maxim, Global Shaper and Project Support Officer at SA Power Networks
 - Joanna Kay, Program Director, International at The SuperPower Institute
 - Rowena Seutatia MacDonald, Youth Coordinator of Pacific Islands Council of South Australia and SA Coordinator for the Pacific Climate Warriors
 - Prof Ariella Helfgott, Foresight Director at SA Futures Agency
 - Kirsty Bevan, CEO of Conservation Council SA.

WEBSITE: acaw.org.au

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Photos/videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/152dQHYqhhQyTnvR4N3zDcGBWK5oBjaMQ?usp=drive_link