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## EPA's role in adapting to climate change

The Environment Protection Authority's first position statement on its role in climate change adaptation includes a clear and robust regulatory framework to help businesses become more resilient, prepare for more frequent extreme weather events and reduce waste to enable the advantages of a more circular economy.

EPA Board Presiding Member Catherine Cooper said the EPA began implementing its approach with the 2021 EPA Board Summit, which was aimed at small to medium businesses and covered climate change risks, liabilities and remedies.

"This role statement outlines the action the authority will take to help licensees build resilience in adapting to climate change," Ms Cooper said.

"The climate is changing and will continue to do so, and by adapting we can all become more resilient to the consequences of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events.

"The EPA will work with businesses licensed under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* to help them understand climate change risk and liabilities. It will prioritise licences exposed to climate-related changes for review and/or support.

"Support for licensees will include providing them with accessible science and other information to help them reduce emissions, particularly through circular economy activity.

"The EPA will continue to focus effort on a clear, transparent and robust regulatory framework that incentivises innovation to reduce waste and encourage greater re-use and recycling of materials."

A circular economy that keeps material resources in use for as long as possible can reduce dependence on new raw materials, reduce waste and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Initiatives that promote and extend the circulation of materials can also stimulate sustainable economic growth and development opportunities.

"This is good for the environment, our liveability here in South Australia, and good for business and prosperity," Ms Cooper said.

The EPA role statement sets out how it will support adaptation to 2025, contributing to the State Government Climate Change Action Plan.

The statement can be found [here](#).