Dear Sarah,

Re: Resilient Hills & Coasts Submission on the Productive Economies Discussion Paper

This submission builds on our State Planning Policies submission on 18 September 2018.

Resilient Hills & Coasts is a partnership between six Councils (Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla), the Southern & Hills Local Government Association, two Natural Resources Management Boards (Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island) and the South Australian Government. Our goal is to strengthen the resilience of our communities, economies and natural and built environments.

With an existing reputation as a leader in renewable energy, and an emergent State Government priority to build our capital’s brand as ‘Green Adelaide’, climate resilience could be South Australia’s competitive advantage. The State Planning Reforms are the most significant regulatory lever in decades to deliver a climate resilient economy in South Australia.

Climate resilient development will deliver affordable living for our citizens, make our liveability a drawcard for tourists, students and skilled workers, and attract investment in emerging and disruptive sectors like renewable energy and the circular and purpose economies.

To deliver climate resilient development, we must foster a culture of shared responsibility in home and business owners, builders, developers and planners – helping them to understand, disclose, mitigate and adapt to climate risk. We want to see a reformed planning system that achieves this.

For our private and public realms to be climate resilient, the planning reforms will need to:

- **Green Infrastructure** – Plan for and incentivise green infrastructure as a central tenet to all development, to improve amenity and wellbeing while reducing energy demand and mitigating extreme heat, flood and water security risks.

- **Where We Build** – Ensure planning and development decisions reduce our hazard exposure, informed by state-coordinated hazard mapping that is up-to-date, fine-grained, and factors in whole-of-life climate projections. Mapping should include urban heat, canopy cover, flood risk, coastal erosion, coastal and terrestrial flooding and bushfire risks.

- **What We Build** – Set nation-leading minimum standards for climate resilient and carbon efficient building design, construction and operation, ensuring each development performs well and is fit-for-purpose throughout its life.
As the climate changes, exciting new growth industries and early-mover opportunities are emerging. The reformed planning system can and should foster the momentum of our State’s reputation as a leader in the renewable energy sector, and enable innovation and attract investment in the rapidly growing circular and purpose economies.

A climate resilient economy is a productive economy.

On one hand, our building standards are already decades behind international standards. Further back-pedaling on climate resilience in our planning system will expose our State, our citizens and our businesses to undue financial, legal, physical, transitional and reputational risks.

On the other, responding to the global challenge of climate change will require substantial investment by individuals and the private and public sectors alike. Our planning system can provide an enabling regulatory framework for our State to capitalise on substantial opportunities for economic growth from emerging and disruptive industries.

Aligned with our Adaptation Plan priorities, we encourage the State Planning Commission to consider:

- Raising awareness about the benefits of climate resilient development
- Introducing definitions and minimum standards for climate resilient development
- Using multiple levers – including incentives – to encourage cultural change in the development industry that supports adoption of climate resilient design
- Fostering a culture of shared responsibility to disclose, mitigate and adapt to risk
- Disclosing hazard exposure (risk) in state-coordinated overlays that factor in whole-of-life climate projections
- Adopting planning policy settings that require development to mitigate and adapt to whole-of-life risk.

Please note this submission was prepared by the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee and does not necessarily constitute Resilient Hills & Coasts partner views or policy positions, nor does it replace individual partner submissions.

On behalf of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee, thank you for considering this submission and for keeping us engaged in future consultations.

Regards,

Jen St Jack
Resilient Hills & Coasts Regional Coordinator
On behalf of the Resilient Hills & Coasts Steering Committee