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MEDIA RELEASE

Adelaide Climate Action Week announces final program: 70+ events for every kind of climate brain

"This isn't about one big decision. It is thousands of decisions across every single portfolio." — Minister Emily Bourke, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Bring your rageful teenager, your CFO, your sustainability officer, your neighbour. From policy roundtables to tree planting, live music to investor forums: South Australia's inaugural climate action festival opens across Adelaide and beyond on 27 July.

Adelaide Climate Action Week (ACA W) today released the final wave of its 2026 program, bringing the total to more than 70 events across South Australia from 27 July to 2 August, with more than 600 tickets already claimed.

South Australia has a habit of going first. The world's first ban on single-use soy sauce fish, Australia's first container deposit scheme in 1977, thirty years before any other state followed. The first jurisdiction in the world to legislate a 2050 emissions reduction target. Now 74% renewable electricity generation, targeting 100% net by 2027. ACA W is the next chapter in that story.

The program is genuinely community-built across government, industry and grassroots. More than 60 organisations are independently hosting events across the week. From high-level policy roundtables to tree planting in McLaren Vale, from a Pacific climate festival to DJ sets opposite Lot Fourteen, ACA W's final program delivers on its founding vision: a festival that reaches across sectors, generations and postcodes.

"Climate action starts with people," said Jen St Jack, Co-Founder of Adelaide Climate Action Week. "When we connect with new perspectives, reflect on what matters, and commit to one meaningful action, those individual moments create collective momentum. And that's what Adelaide Climate Action Week is designed to create."

"This is what it looks like when a city decides climate action belongs to everyone," said Adelaide Xerri, Executive Producer of Adelaide Climate Action Week. "Scientists and artists. Investors and communities. Farmers and founders. All in the same week."

A flagship opening for a COP31 year



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Adelaide Climate Action Week opens on Monday 27 July at the Adelaide Convention Centre with the **ACA W Opening + COP31 Roundtable**, bringing together more than 150 leaders from government, business, academia, First Nations and Pacific communities to help shape South Australia's contribution to COP31.

Professor Tim Lenton, one of the world's leading climate scientists and a pioneer of positive tipping point research, will headline the opening alongside Minister Emily Bourke, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Tourism and other Australian and South Australian climate leaders. SA Young Australian of the Year Tiahni Adamson, Pacific leader Rosanna Mauaiva MacDonal and explorer Barney Swan are among those contributing to the day's conversations.

The afternoon COP31 Roundtable will culminate in an **ACA W Communiqué**, capturing shared priorities and opportunities ahead of the global climate summit.

Beyond the grid

As South Australia approaches its target of **100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027**, ACA W will turn its attention to the next challenge: decarbonising industry, freight, mining and the built environment.

Beyond the Grid: The Next Decade of Decarbonisation, presented by Festival Partner **Windlab**, will bring together senior leaders in energy, infrastructure, investment and government for a candid conversation about what comes next. Joanna Kay (The Superpower Institute) will moderate a panel including Richie Merzian (Clean Energy Investor Group), Nathan Blundell (Windlab) and others.

Where climate meets investment

Tuesday sees two flagship events bringing together climate finance leaders alongside climate tech founders, funders and innovators.

The **Innovation Leaders Network Capital Conversations x Climate & Clean Tech Showcase**, delivered by the Department of State Development, connects venture capital with South Australian startups to explore investment opportunities in the state's growing clean economy.

Running alongside it, **Where Climate Meets Capital** brings together leaders including Dr Amanda Cahill (The Next Economy) to tackle four of the biggest questions in climate finance: **who pays, what gets funded, who benefits, and who decides?**

Culture, community and connection



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The weekend shifts the focus from policy to people. Saturday's highlight is **Art for Living Forests** at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, featuring live performances by Anya Anastasia, Adela May and Naomi Keyte, a panel with Tiahni Adamson and Alex Mac, and works from the Art for Takayna Residency, with profits supporting the Bob Brown Foundation.

On Sunday, a community planting day in McLaren Vale offers a chance to restore native ecosystems in one of South Australia's iconic landscapes, before the **Pacific Climate Festival** brings Pacific voices, music and culture to the heart of the city — a fitting close to a week that has kept the Pacific front and centre throughout.

Not just what we do — how we show up

Adelaide Climate Action Week has a shared festival experience inspired by the **Inner Development Goals**. Through a simple **Connect. Reflect. Commit.** framework, conversation prompts and a **My One Thing** campaign, participants will be invited to build new connections, reflect on fresh perspectives and commit to one meaningful action.

No one can do everything. Everyone can do one thing. Together, we're aiming for **1,000 One Things** — unlocking a \$1,000 community grant and showing how collective climate action starts with one simple step.

Where the conversation continues

Award-winning lounge Honeydrinker will serve as the festival's social hub, with coffee offers, DJs and informal networking throughout the week. Stone & Chalk at Lot 14 is the festival's main event hub — hosting more than 10 events across the seven days.

There is genuinely something for every kind of climate brain

Join a climate quiz night. Find out how to electrify everything. Explore warm data. Unpack climate finance. Experience the intersection of art and climate. Get on Country. Nerd out on tipping points. Dance at the closing party.

Whatever your climate brain, Adelaide Climate Action Week invites you to find your place in climate action.

Find the full program is at acaw.org.au. Events are free unless otherwise noted.

ENDS



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ADDITIONAL STORY OPPORTUNITIES

Media are invited to contact ACAW regarding interviews, feature stories and exclusive access opportunities, including:

- Tipping points, planetary boundaries and why the science still holds hope — w/ Professor Tim Lenton [subject to confirmation]
- The real challenge after the grid goes green: decarbonising industry — w/ Joanna Kay, The Superpower Institute; Nathan Blundell, Windlab
- What Pacific communities need Australia to understand about climate finance — w/ Rosanna Mauaiaivao MacDonald, PICSA; Dr. Amanda Cahill, The Next Economy
- Australia's first climate festival to integrate the Inner Development Goals — Connect. Reflect. Commit. — w/ Wendy Harper, Ambassador, ACAW

Additional interview opportunities and exclusives are available with festival founders, climate experts, local government leaders, industry innovators and event hosts.

Launch photos/videos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/152dQHYqhhQyTnvR4N3zDcGBWK5oBjaMQ>

