

March edition – 2024

VCRC Newsletter



Adaptation in Action – online forum – 23 April, 1pm

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with Climate Emergency Australia to bring you Adaptation in Action, an online forum showcasing council projects and collaboration across Australia. The forum will feature a collection of council case studies highlighting innovative and collaborative adaptation initiatives, videos highlighting a range of stories from NSW, and a whistle-stop tour of key adaptation bodies and initiatives around Australia.

Adaptation in Action is a follow-up to the hybrid Climate Emergency Conference 2024 on Friday 19 April. If you are not attending to the conference, you can [book a free ticket to Adaptation in Action separately](#) – scroll down to Online Adaptation in Action forum and Day 2 – Tue 23 April. If you have already booked tickets to the conference (whether in-person or online), you don't need a separate ticket for the online forum – you'll be automatically registered. If do you want to attend the whole conference (including on Friday 19 April) and haven't yet registered [please visit the booking page](#).

Adaptation in Action

When? Tuesday 23 April, 1.00 – 3.15pm AEST

Where? Online via Teams – register to get the details

How? Register [here](#)



Disaster Ready Fund application

The Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund will provide funding to projects that support Australians to manage the physical and social impacts of disasters caused by climate change and other natural hazards. The VCRC team have submitted an application for "stage 2" of the VCRC – implementation. This will enable the development of a digital platform to deliver the program, filling gaps in resources, and staff support to help councils through the program, including additional support for rural and under-resourced councils.

The application received direct support and contributions from all Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, who will be partnering with WAGA on the implementation stage, co-contributions from 11 councils, and letters of support from 21 councils, all Alliances, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, and community organisations Jesuit Social Services and Sweltering Cities.

Funded projects will be announced by the end of the year.

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Business case for a digital platform

The current VCRC resources are collated on our website, however when the full program is implemented (pending resources) next year, we will be developing a “one stop shop” accessible digital platform to coordinate resources, communities of practice and collaboration. The platform will also integrate our monitoring and evaluation tool How Well Are We Adapting.

To start of this process we have appointed a consultant to develop a business case to identify and assess options for the digital platform to communicate the VCRC program. The business case will identify key features and aspects of the platform, options and assessment criteria, recommendations, options for incorporating HWAWA and cost, process and timing for establishing the platform next steps.

A survey will that will explore the needs of councils will be circulated next month.



Adaptive Capacity Assessment Pilot

The Adaptive Capacity Assessment pilot was run between July 2023 and February 2024, aiming to develop the first step of the VCRC program (Goal Setting and Securing Support), as well as identifying effective methods for engaging council leadership to support this first step, and identifying monitoring, evaluating and reporting options for the program as a whole.

We piloted an updated Adaptive Capacity Checklist with five councils in late 2023 following input from 13 rural and metro councils in the working group. The checklist has now incorporated the feedback from the councils and is available for councils to use along with examples of how councils have implemented the checklist. The checklist allows councils to conduct a quick adaptive capacity assessment to understand their organisational strengths, opportunities and priorities.



Connect

If you would like further information about VCRC you can find more information on our [website](#) or contact our team on vcrcprogram@gmail.com