

Framework overview

How Well Are We Adapting?

A framework to monitor and evaluate local government climate adaptation response.

This framework will:

- Help us track how councils are managing or responding to climate change
- Monitor the impacts of climate on council operations
- Communicate with the community about climate vulnerability and council action.
- Assess the effectiveness of actions and inform future actions* (i.e. if there are maladaptive actions occurring) (*Eventual goal).

It is designed to:

- Evaluate and report on actions that help manage climate risks.
- Focus on learning rather than measuring success or failure.
- Focus on areas of commonality across all WAGA councils.

The monitoring and evaluation (ME) framework will inform **reporting** (disclosure) to two key audiences, council staff and executives, and the local community. Their objectives are listed below:

Council objectives

- To inform future decision making and adaptation activities
- To improve learning and build capacity
- For comparative purposes

Community objectives

- Improve awareness:
 - What is happening
 - What is council's responsibility
- Assure action is happening
- Climate change education

We want to monitor:

- The delivery of actions with concrete outcomes.
- Building the capacity of the council and community to respond to and manage climate impacts.

To evaluate successful adaptation, our framework will evaluate:

- How processes have changed, and whether processes have delivered good adaptation.
- How actions deliver a certain outcome, such as increased water supply, changed behaviour, reduced flooding.

We have defined successful adaptation as the processes or outcomes that:

- Continue to perform under a number of different future scenarios.
- Increase flexibility
- Build in resilience and/or redundancy
- Meet planned budgets
- Don't increase CO2e intensity
- Don't increase community vulnerability
- Avoids adverse outcomes

Why do we use indicators?

- Indicators are a useful, simple way of understanding and presenting complex information about performance and change.
- Indicators can be used to communicate effectively to a particular audience the story we want to tell. Their value is in how they are used and what they are saying. So, indicators can be used not only to monitor and track our performance, but could be used to generate a response to drive action or policy change.
- They build an evidence base where there is currently limited accessible information on local impacts and processes to address them. If we find that maladaptive processes or outcomes are taking place, then that can be used to advocate for change.

THE ME FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE

The draft ME Framework has been developed based on the findings of a [review of all literature](#) relating to monitoring and evaluation within the adaptation context by the Centre for Urban Research (RMIT).

The framework captures data at both the western region and specific council level. This structure aims to provide WAGA councils regional context of what the vulnerabilities they are facing but also how these vulnerabilities are then impacting (or not) on various facets of each of their key work areas.

Regional baseline indicators

This data gives us the context and highlights regional vulnerabilities that will inform where to target interventions. However, council policies have little immediate influence over these indicators.

Climate variables

Climate parameters such as temperature or rainfall will be tracked over time to inform council planning and response over the medium to longer-term.

Regional vulnerability or resilience

Indicators that suggest heightened vulnerability to key climate impacts, e.g. socio-economic disadvantage, demographics, physical vulnerability and flood risk, etc., will be monitored

Council service level themes

The indicators within these themes will target impacts and responses across council services, rather than at the regional scale—the climate responses described and monitored here are grounded in councils' service delivery and implemented by operational staff.

Community wellbeing & emergency management

Open space & water security

Assets & infrastructure

Planning, building & regulation

Theme components

Under each council theme, indicators have been developed according to these components identified as important for consideration in adaptation response in the literature review prepared for this project. Through combining indicators from each theme under these components, the councils and WAGA will have enough information to provide an informed story to council and the community about what is happening, and how we are responding.

1. **Service vulnerability or resilience**

Measure the ability of a service or asset to cope with and recover from the effects climate variability and change (i.e. measures vulnerability but could measure action effectiveness).

2. **Institutional capacity**

Measure the existence of appropriate structures, institutions, processes (formal or informal) or legal frameworks to respond and adapt to climate change. For example, appropriate knowledge, staff training, committees, and coordination of risk across the organisation, etc.

3. **Budgeting and Finance**

Captures the extent to which actions and processes to address climate change are costed, budgeted for, and financially provided for. (also financial impacts of changing climate)

4. **Participation and Awareness**

Assesses the extent to which climate change planning involves all relevant stakeholders and evaluates their awareness of climate change issues, use of climate information, understanding of risks and potential response options, as well as actions to promote awareness in different contexts.