



# VICTORIAN CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNCILS

Monthly update

May 2023

## 1. The Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) is back!

The VCRC team is back after the kick-off of the second funding agreement. Brimbank and Wyndham City Council are Co-leading the establishment of the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) on behalf of the [Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action](#) (WAGA) Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA).

The program received funding provided by the Australian Government in partnership with the States and Territories under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for Disaster Risk Reduction, managed by the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, Emergency Management Victoria to develop and pilot program elements and establish the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program from November 2022 – November 2024 ('the development period').

The first Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in February with the Executive Officers from the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances. The Greenhouse Alliances will inform the program's development through quarterly PSC meetings to coordinate program development with the needs of their member councils and other initiatives across the state.

## 2. Meet the team

Project Team Role	Name	Position
<b>Responsible Officer and co-project manager</b>	Fran MacDonald	WAGA Coordinator, based at Brimbank City Council
<b>Co-project manager key project staff</b>	Helen Kerley	Coordinator Climate & Resilience, Wyndham City Council
<b>Program Development Coordinator</b>	Heather McListon	WAGA Climate Adaptation Project Officer, Wyndham City Council
<b>Stakeholder Engagement Officer</b>	Andrea Fernandez	Sustainability Officer, Wyndham City Council
<b>Manager of Climate Vulnerability Assessments Pilot with Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees (MEMPCs)</b>	Darren Wilson	Environmental Planner, City Greater Dandenong

### 3. Program development overview

## VICTORIAN CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNCILS

Victorian Climate Resilient Councils' (VCRC) will be a coordinated, state-wide program of support for Victorian local governments to strengthen their knowledge, skills and capacity to prepare, manage and reduce increased disaster risk of heatwaves/ extreme heat, storms and other hazards due to climate change. The aim of VCRC is to accelerate best-practice climate change adaptation for the direct benefit of Victorian communities.



### WHY VCRC?

Our climate is changing, and local governments are responding to more frequent emergency events, operational risks and service delivery disruptions.

Multiple reviews and inquiries have found that the local government sector needs more support so we are prepared to adapt to climate change.

Consultation with sustainability and emergency management staff across 56 Victorian councils at the start of 2022 highlighted that



There is a gap between local governments' experience of climate change impacts and their readiness to respond



The gap is exacerbated by limited resourcing and the skills, knowledge and capacity to engage with internal audiences



At the local government level in Victoria, funding and guidance for climate adaptation is fragmented



There is uneven progress across the sector and inequitable distribution of resources and capacity between metro, regional and rural areas

### The VCRC program will:

- Help local governments and their key partners take a strategic, long-term approach to responding to climate change
- Meet the needs and local contexts of individual councils (rural, regional and metro)
- Engage and inform senior decision makers to provide leadership and support for climate resilience across their council
- Support sustainability officers to build their council's response and access resources
- Collate tools, resources and guidance to progress implementation processes where guidance is currently fragmented
- Raise the capabilities and capacity of internal service areas – starting with the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees – and community facing services, to prepare for and manage extreme impacts and relieve the pressure on emergency management
- Develop resources and processes for risk and governance teams to oversee climate resilience as a whole-of-council response
- Establish a climate risk management community of practice for risk and governance officers

## TIMELINES AND ACTIVITIES

The Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) has received funding provided by the Australian Government in partnership with the States and Territories under the National Partnership Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction to:

- 1 Develop the VCRC program model and identify requirements: January – May 2023
- 2 Develop supporting program elements: May 2023 – Feb 2024
- 3 Initiate and trial program components: May 2023 – Feb 2024
- 4 Evaluate and prepare ongoing key components: March – Sep 2024
- 5 Evaluate VCRC development phase: April – November 2024



WAGA will work with other Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and supporting councils to develop the program and pilot key program components.

### Key program components will include:



Adaptive Capacity Assessments and training with Councillors and Executive Leadership teams



Guidance for emergency management staff on including climate change scenarios in their assessments



Curated set of program resources



Communities of practice for council officers

We will also engage a range of stakeholders and partners in the development of the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils to ensure we coordinate with existing resources and projects that aim to support the sector to adapt to climate change hazards.

You can download the full infographic from our website just click [here!](#)

## 4. What's Next

The VCRC team is working hard to develop the program model and its requirements. We are also developing the plans for the pilots of the Climate Vulnerability Assessments with MEMPCs and the Adaptive Capacity Assessment. We'll be sending information regarding this topic soon. Keep our eye on our [VCRC website](#) for further information.

## 5. Connect with us

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