

VCRC Newsletter



VICTORIAN CLIMATE
RESILIENT COUNCILS

Welcome back for 2024

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break over the new year. We are off to a busy start for the VCRC program development project for 2024. Some of the things we're working on now are finalising the Adaptive Capacity Assessment pilot and taking the recommendations from that pilot, along with the literature review to inform an updated VCRC program model. The work with the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) working group will continue this year, and we are working on a funding application for the full implementation of the VCRC program. We've got further details on these activities in our newsletter update below, and will be in touch with further developments soon.



Disaster Ready Fund application

We are preparing an application to the Disaster Ready Fund to resource the next stage of the VCRC program that will focus on implementing a Victoria-wide roll out of the VCRC program to local governments, which we have been developing through this development phase. We will be requesting funding for program staff to support local government implementation of the program, with assistance for all councils and additional support for rural councils, along with funding to develop a digital platform, ongoing program governance and the development of critical program resources, where gaps have been identified.

We are partnering with the Victorian greenhouse alliances in this application, who will play an important role in the implementation phase, as they have done through the development phase. We are inviting any local governments or partner organisations who would like to support the application and assist us to scale up our resourcing request to get in touch with us promptly for further details at vcrcprogram@gmail.com

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Community Emergency Risk Assessment working group

The Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) working group of local government emergency management officers and sustainability officers from across Victoria, will continue to look at how to integrate climate change considerations into emergency management processes through bi-monthly working group meetings and advocate on key issues to the sector. The working group will also develop guidelines on communities for practice that will be supported by the VCRC program. To find out more about the working group, or to express interest in joining, contact vcrcprogram@gmail.com



Staff updates

Heather McListon, VCRC Development Coordinator is due to start parental leave this month and we are pleased to welcome Karen Gardham to the team to back fill Heather's role. Karen brings extensive experience in local government climate change programs, and has previously worked for the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action. Karen will begin in the role at the end of February.

Darren Wilson from City of Greater Dandenong has finished up on the project and we thank him for his contribution to the project team, particularly the work he led on the Community Emergency Risk Assessment trial. The VCRC project team will continue to support the CERA working group through this year.

Becoming Climate Ready course

The Climate Ready Initiative have developed an online climate risk management training course (covering mitigation and adaptation) aimed at local government leadership and managerial staff. The course requires a time commitment of 2 hours per week, and covers 8 modules over 10 weeks. The course will run multiples times a year, with the first course running in April 2024. For more information, visit the course [website](#).

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

Thank You