

# VCRC Newsletter



## Victoria's Future Climate Tool- a meeting between VCRC and the Victorian Governments Climate Science Team

The VCRC team and Victorian Greenhouse Alliances' representatives recently met with the Climate Science team in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

The purpose was to discuss how to promote and increase use of Victoria's Future Climate Tool and councils' needs for the tool. The tool contains authoritative climate data which is essential to inform climate change risk assessments, planning and implementation of climate change action at strategic and operational levels. Yet awareness of the tool, and how to integrate it's use with council decision making is limited in the local government sector.

Following the meeting the VCRC team outlined to DEECA local government needs in relation to the tool. This included:

1. Authoritative science to back up internal engagement and business cases for adaptation.
2. Detailed regionally and locally relevant climate data outputs that integrate with local government processes and decision points.
3. Specific granular data (e.g. range of temperatures in projections) to inform business cases.
4. Local government-specific case studies to demonstrate how to use the data and successfully integrate it with decision making practice.
5. Training and information sessions/workshops – to introduce new officers to the tool and data (addressing high staff turnover) and to show them how and when to use it.
6. Priority decision points where data is useful
7. Key decision points which require clear hard scientific data such as climate change risk assessments and vulnerability assessments
8. Councils constraints in using the VFC tool
9. Possible initiatives to increase access, useability, and value of the VFC.

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## Victoria's Future Climate Tool ctd.

The DEECA team have committed to work through these points as part of the development of the next report and updates to the tool.

Check out the link to the tool - [Victoria's Future Climate Tool](#)

## EOI for VCRC team Maternity leave position

Our Program Development Coordinator, Heather McListon is taking maternity leave from February 2024 for 7-9 months.

The VCRC team will be recruiting an officer for the mat leave in January. The role will work closely with the team and the project steering committee to finalise the VCRC program model, organise promotion and evaluation and prepare for the next stage. It will be a part-time position and we're open to a secondment.

Please get in touch for more details - [vcrcprogram@gmail.com](mailto:vcrcprogram@gmail.com)

[Climate Change Adaptation Project Officer \(WAGA\) - Wyndham City Careers](#)

## 3rd Meeting Adaptive Capacity Checklist(ACC)Pilot

Eight metro and three rural councils attended the Adaptive Capacity Assessment working group meeting. Discussion about how staff engage council leadership on climate resilience was the focus with many councils noting how co-design work with the community on strengthening resilience and climate adaptation was a strong leverage point to encourage action. Also, that this work is iterative and can be a lengthy process.

Following feedback from the working group the Adaptive Capacity Checklist (ACC) has been revised. Merri-bek, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Surf Coast and East Gippsland have commenced piloting the updated checklist and other working group councils have been given the option to comment on further required changes. An evaluation session will be held in December to finalise the update of the checklist.

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## 2nd Mtg of Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) Review

Five rural and three metro councils plus reps from the MAV and RMIT attended the CERA meeting. The East Gippsland presentation highlighted we will never be sufficiently prepared for catastrophic events; it was easier to push through a hard agenda after the fires and the importance of responding to community needs. Projects to increase the understanding of hazard disaster impacts using an Emergency Dashboard with all info in one place; Increasing resilience, adaptive capacity and preparedness of CSO's and communities and reducing exposure to risk and harm via upgrades to community venues are underway. Gt Dandenong spoke of their CERA experience, followed by discussion and questions.

## Literature review of climate change adaptation resources for local government

This report which will be available in the February VCRC Newsletter identifies resources and materials relevant to the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program that support a local government climate adaptation response. It provides an overview of existing climate adaptation literature based on a desktop review focussing on Victorian and Australian literature. The resources includes existing guidance materials such as documents, reports, case studies, websites and summaries.

## What is next?

During December the VCRC team will:

- Appoint a consultant to prepare a business case for the VCRC platform and online portal
- Finalise the literature review of climate change adaptation resources
- Refine the VCRC program, governance, funding and resourcing models
- Continue the pilots of the Adaptive Capacity Checklist (ACC) and the review of the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)
- Continue to meet with key stakeholders to provide updates on the VCRC and prepare for the next stage.

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](mailto:vcrcprogram@gmail.com)

*Thank You*