

VICTORIAN CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNCILS

The 'Victorian Climate Resilient Councils' (VCRC) will offer 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
- 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 organisation
- Support sustainability officers to build their organisation'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 – particularly the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees -MEMPCs- 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-organisation response
- Establish a climate risk management community of practice for risk and governance officers

TIMELINES AND ACTIVITIES

We have 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

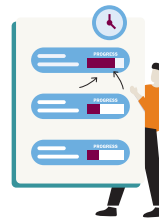


We will work with Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and supporting councils to develop the program and pilot key program components.

Key program components will include:



Trialling Adaptive Capacity Assessments and training with Councillor and Executive Leadership teams



Engaging with emergency management staff to support the development of guidance on including climate change scenarios in their assessments



Collating and curating existing resources as part of a set of program resources



Establishing a community of practice

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.

CONNECT



If you would like further information about the VCRC you can find more information on our website or contact:
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