

November 2011  
No. 5

### INSIDE THIS UPDATE

- 1 Adaptation Navigator application
- 2 New partner: Geelong
- 3 Case study profile: Bendigo

## 1 Adaptation Navigator application

*The Framing Adaptation project team is currently designing one of the project's major research outputs: a navigational web-based tool to guide climate change adaptation planning at the local and regional scale.*

One of the main research outputs of the VCCCAR Framing Adaptation project is to develop an 'operational framework' for climate change adaptation planning at the local and regional scale. The framework is intended to provide broad guidance to local and regional policy and decision-makers involved in climate change adaptation planning, by incorporating research results from the Framing Adaptation project, other VCCCAR projects, as well as external sources.



Source: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Environment/WhatCouncilsDoing/Pages/AdaptingClimateChange.aspx>

Over the past months, stakeholder consultations have shown that, due to the highly context-specific nature of climate change adaptation planning, step-by-step guides and toolkits are not always applicable in a given local context. What is most needed are frameworks that provide generic guidance, which

can easily be modified and tailored for local adaptation planning.

In collaboration with its case study partners, a graphic designer and a web developer, the project team is currently developing a concept draft for a web-based Adaptation Navigator application. The Adaptation Navigator takes on the notion of a generic climate change adaptation planning and decision-support tool by translating the idea of a road atlas into a conceptual map of adaptation planning.

Embedded in the Adaptation Navigator's design is the idea that different individuals or organisations may come to adaptation from rather different vantage points, depending on factors such as their personal background, job descriptions, prior knowledge, and organisational needs. The Adaptation Navigator web interface can therefore be accessed through different entry points. It will consist of a multi-layered conceptual map of climate change adaptation planning, which can be explored intuitively, by 'zooming in' on adaptation planning issues that appear particularly relevant in a given local context.

A draft version of the Adaptation Navigator will be available in January 2012, at which point the project team will collect feedback from project stakeholders via email and focus group discussions. If you are interested in being involved in commenting on the draft tool, please contact Hartmut Fuenfgeld ([hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au](mailto:hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au)).

Climate Change Adaptation Program  
Global Cities Research Institute  
RMIT University

In collaboration with:  
Monash Sustainability Institute  
The University of Melbourne

## 2

### New partner: Geelong

*The City of Greater Geelong has joined the project as a case study partner.*

Work packages 3 and 4 of the Framing Adaptation project draws heavily on qualitative research conducted in case study locations. From the beginning of the project the City of Melbourne, the City of Greater Bendigo, and the Port Fairy Working Group have been involved as case study partner organisations.

In September 2011, the City of Greater Geelong has joined this group as an additional partner, and qualitative research will be carried out during the final stages of the project to help validate some of the findings drawn from the other case studies in a different organisational context. The project will tap into the experi-

ences gained by City of Greater Geelong staff throughout the process of developing their Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and during the initial stages of its implementation. Welcome to the City of Greater Geelong!

## 3

### Case study profile: Bendigo

*What have our case study partners been up to? Read on to find out how the City of Greater Bendigo has approached climate change adaptation.*

#### Adapting local government service

For the City of Greater Bendigo, adaptation is about reducing climate-related risks and vulnerabilities and increasing resilience across local government services to the community, economy and environment.

We've recognised that adapting to changing circumstances is not new – whether this is responding to changes in demographics, technology, climate or other influences. In this spirit, a scan of the organisation's activities revealed a variety of existing efforts that increase our organisation's adaptation to climate change. Examples included:

- Establishing drought tolerant grasses and efficient irrigation for open spaces
- Working with business community on energy security issues
- Developing policy to support

biolinks across the landscape

- Reviewing infrastructure design
- Identifying community members most vulnerable to extreme events.

These actions may have been driven by responding to extreme weather events, business development, natural resource management, emergency management and community development – not necessarily framed as 'climate change adaptation' – yet contribute to our services being better adapted to different conditions into the future.

As we work on defining the most appropriate approach to formalised adaptation planning, this year's participation in the VCCCAR-funded Framing Adaptation project has involved a supportive two-way exchange of information and learning between research and local government. Participation has involved cross-organisation engagement to better understand the motivations and barriers for adaptation planning across our organisation.

Primed with the VCCCAR-led focus group discussions and interviews of the past few months, combined with coordinating capacity building sessions for local government councillors and staff of the Loddon Mallee region, the City of Greater Bendigo is now much better positioned to progress our adaptation pathway in the first half of 2012.

*By Prue Day, Sustainability Officer,  
City of Greater Bendigo*

## Upcoming Events

**29 November - 2 December 2011,  
Melbourne**

### State of Australian Cities Conference

The State of Australian Cities is a national forum, held biennially, to share scholarship directed at the complex and multidimensional issues facing us as an urban nation. This conference will seek ways of bridging the divides created by a focus on disciplinary based approaches to research, towards better cities in a better country. Several program streams focus on climate change and cities.

<http://soac2011.com.au/>

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