

## *VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation Project*

# Climate change adaptation priorities for the community and natural resource management sectors

## Stakeholder Workshop

13 September 2012

## Summary Report

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## Take-Home Messages

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### *...for Catchment Management Authorities and other NRM agencies:*

- Managing river catchments in the face of a changing climate requires a deeper level of climate literacy among Natural Resource Management (NRM) networks so that climate can become a strategic part of all activities;
- The sector ought to be served by governance arrangements that are flexible and take into account multiple arenas of policy, such as carbon, water and fire management;
- The vision for the sector articulated in the workshop repositions CMAs and the NRM sector in Victoria on a trajectory that would enable them to better support community capacity.

### *...for Primary Care Partnerships and their partner agencies:*

- Investments in bridging social capital and translation of climate change issues are required, to enhance awareness of climate change impacts and support adaptation in vulnerable communities;
- Adaptation actions need to be embedded within existing priorities of partner agencies, through demonstrating linkages of climate change issues with other aspects of the sector's work;
- A climate change adaptation priority is to facilitate practical preparatory action at the community level, which addresses multiple climate change impacts.

### *...for Community Service Organisations and their clients:*

- Climate change impacts can directly affect CSOs (their staff, services and operations) as well as their clients. Clients may receive less support during times when they need it most, for example during extreme weather events;
- CSOs rely heavily on transport, communication and electricity for delivering their services. For many CSOs, if any of these becomes unavailable, service delivery will suffer almost immediately;
- Climate change requires investment into building community resilience, in addition to individual client based funding. CSOs are well equipped to play a major role in community resilience building.



## Introduction

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This report summarises key aspects of discussions held during a half-day stakeholder workshop on climate change adaptation capacities and needs in the community and natural resource management sectors. The workshop was held in Melbourne on 13 September 2012 as part of the research project 'Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resource management sectors' (Implementing Adaptation in the following). The project is funded by the State Government of Victoria through the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR)<sup>1</sup>.

The invitation-only workshop brought together over 40 representatives from government service providers and funded agencies, state and local government, peak bodies, and academia. Three types of government service providers and funded agencies were represented: Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Community Service Organisations (CSOs), and Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs)<sup>2</sup>. The invitation to the workshop was met with a resounding positive response.

## Workshop Objectives

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The goals of the workshop were stated threefold:

1. To discuss and develop sector-specific priorities for adapting to climate change impacts for government service providers and funded agencies;
2. To provide an overview on the VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project; and
3. To ensure that the project's outputs are fully aligned with the needs of key decision-makers and change agents in both sectors.

A discussion paper entitled: 'Climate change adaptation capacities and needs in the community and natural resource management sectors' was circulated to participants prior to the workshop. It will be available for download from the VCCCAR website<sup>3</sup> or can be requested from [hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au](mailto:hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au).

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the project is included in Appendix 4.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 3 for a full list of participants.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/implementing-tools-increase-adaptive-capacity-community-and-natural-resource>

## Workshop Methodology

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The workshop was designed to facilitate conversations between participants. At the beginning of the workshop, Dr Hartmut Fünfgeld and Dr Philip Wallis gave an introduction to the project's aims and purposes, introduced the project team, and provided an overview of the objectives for the workshop.

Participants were asked to form three groups, representing the three types of government service providers and funded agencies that the project is involved with: Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Community Service Organisations (CSOs), and Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs). A state government representative joined each of the sectoral groups and gave a short presentation on climate change impacts relevant to each sector, in order to stimulate discussion.

The workshop focused on two activities, which were conducted as facilitated group work by each sector group:

- 1) **Sectoral climate change impacts mapping:** Publicly available statements about primary climate change impacts for Victoria were read out in each group and discussed in terms of the effects (negative and positive) each of these impacts may have on the organisation and various levels of the organisational environment. See Appendix 1 for further details on the method used for this activity.
- 2) **Visioning a better adapted future:** In each group, participants were asked to develop a mock press statement for a press conference to be held in 2017, which celebrates progress made with climate change adaptation in the sector over the past five years (i.e. since 2012). A mock press conference was held at the end of the workshop, including an open-floor discussion. See Appendix 2 for further details on this activity.

Both group activities were developed specifically for the purposes of the workshop, to elicit dialogue and reflection on current and future climate change issues and adaptation priorities for each sector.

As an input to the second activity, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and Climate Risk Pty Ltd presented preliminary findings of a recent national survey on climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation in the community welfare sector. The survey was conducted as part of a research project funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) entitled: 'Climate Change and the Community Welfare Sector – Risks and

Adaptations'. A copy of the presentation is available for download on the VCCCAR website<sup>4</sup> or can be requested from [hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au](mailto:hartmut.fuenfgeld@rmit.edu.au).

## Workshop Findings

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The following summarises key discussion points that emerged during the workshop. These points are presented here along three main perspectives:

- 1) Which climate change impacts are considered to be most relevant to the sector?
- 2) What other factors are deemed to influence the organisations' capabilities to respond to climate change impacts and adapt?
- 3) What could be a vision for the future of the sector, where organisations are better adapted to climate change?

The following presents answers to these questions sector by sector, however a summary of common themes *across* all three sectors is also provided. It should be noted that discussion points are expressed here as stories that emerged during the workshop, which have not been validated against existing research. The points made only represent the perceptions of the workshop participants and the interpretations of the researchers writing this report. They do not represent the views of other members of the sectors or the government.

### Common Themes across Sectors

Despite participants offering vastly differing climate change adaptation perspectives, contexts and needs for each sector, some common themes and discussion points became apparent during the workshop *across* the three government service provider groups.

A strong commonality between the three sectors was the requirement for increased preparation versus reactive response to extreme events and 'pulse' disturbances such as floods and bushfires. These impacts were considered to be the most relevant to the three groups, across all operational levels (see Appendix 1, Diagram 1a). All agencies commented that during such events, operational capacity is hindered, and that organisational capacity is constrained due to reliance on volunteers and/or staff members, who are themselves directly affected by the event. These disturbances at the level of organisational capacity occur at a time when service delivery is required the most. Direct and indirect post-impact consequences at the community level can be amplified when the primary focus is on recovery at the already

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/implementing-tools-increase-adaptive-capacity-community-and-natural-resource>

constrained agency level. Much of the workshop dialogue surrounded increasing resilience and building social capital at the service recipient level or at the local community level, to reduce strain at the organisational level during such events.

Although discussed at differing levels, financial resourcing was another common theme. It emerged that within community sector, both CMOs and PCPs experience difficulties in juggling climate change adaptation priorities among an already full agenda due to funding constraints, and foresee this as an intensifying issue. Conversely, but commonly themed, the NRM sector is currently in a situation of significant funding being available for adaptation, and hence is focusing on making the 'right' decisions now through research-practitioner integration, to achieve effective and long-lasting adaptation outcomes. Dialogue surrounded building collaborative alliances between sectors to enable joint learning, and to ensure that researchers and community groups make best use of existing resources and facilitate informed engagement to develop adaptation priorities.

## Catchment Management Authorities

*The Natural Resource Management (NRM) sector in Victoria includes statutory and private land managers and government representatives. There are ten Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) in Victoria, which are the major instrument for the state government to manage natural resources and work with the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC). CMAs have responsibility for the co-ordination and management of floodplains; rural drainage (including regional drainage schemes); water quality and nutrient management; water supply catchment protection; wetlands; restoration of degraded waterways. CMAs are also the caretakers of river health<sup>5</sup>.*

### **Key climate change impacts and drivers for the sector**

Extreme events, such as flooding and bushfire, are 'pulse' disturbances that can threaten the operational capacity of CMAs and the NRM sector in Victoria generally. At an **organisational level**, during such events CMA staff may be occupied in protecting their own properties, volunteering with emergency services (such as the Country Fire Authority), or they may be isolated by floodwaters or road closures, preventing them from performing their normal duties.

In providing **services**, CMAs are placed under additional pressure during floods and fires. They are responsible for flood planning, including floodplain mapping and providing information to

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<sup>5</sup> Further information on the role of CMAs and other NRM management bodies are available on the Department of Primary Industries' website: [http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/catchment\\_roles](http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/catchment_roles) (accessed 25/09/2012).

emergency services and the community during floods. CMAs play an indirect role in bushfire management, including planning prescribed burning and assisting in post-fire recovery. However, CMAs often deal with communities and individuals in post trauma situations, with direct and indirect on-flow consequences (e.g. 2009 bushfires).

At a **policy level**, floods have an impact on planning for environmental flows. While causing damage to property and infrastructure, floods are often beneficial for the ecological condition of receiving waters. An increased risk of fire intersects with policies designed to increase the amount of carbon stored in the landscape, such as the Federal Government's *Carbon Farming Initiative*.

At the broadest **sectoral level**, both fire and floods cause habitat change (both beneficial and detrimental) in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and negative impacts on water quality and water infrastructure, land degradation and erosion. The short-term effects of fire and floods create long-term strategic issues for the NRM sector, which has a responsibility to manage the quality and quantity of water in waterways through maintaining or improving catchment condition. Drought is a medium-term 'press' disturbance that becomes a long-term impact when rainfall deficits accumulate. Victoria is still suffering from a rainfall deficit resulting from the 1997-2010 drought, despite two years of record high rainfall and large areas being affected by flooding. Sea level rise is a 'ramp' disturbance that increases in magnitude over time, punctuated by storm surges that can inundate coastal infrastructure. However, sea-level rise only affects agencies along the coast. Droughts and sea-level rise thus have a slower impact on the NRM sector, with consequences for policy development in areas of infrastructure planning and patterns of settlement and agriculture.

### ***Other sectoral issues and opportunities***

The Victorian NRM sector faces new challenges and opportunities in light of a changing climate. The land sector measures under the Federal Government's *Clean Energy Future* plan amount to a total investment Australia-wide of \$1.7 billion over six years. Under this scheme, there are significant sources of funding available to NRM agencies, including *Carbon Farming Futures*, the *Biodiversity Fund*, and the *Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund*. These and other programs will drive investment in re-carbonising the landscape, building capacity for NRM planning under climate change, and for research into mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts.

Institutional arrangements across landscapes for NRM in Victoria are complex and spread horizontally across agencies with different responsibilities and vertically across federal, state, regional and local levels. Currently, coastal management is the responsibility of Coastal Boards under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and the Victorian Coastal Strategy. Moves in 2009 to

merge Victoria's three Coastal Boards with ten CMAs to form five Natural Resource and Catchment Authorities were abandoned in 2010. Those CMAs that form the Victorian part of the Murray-Darling Basin will also be influenced by the Basin Plan prepared by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, particularly in the area of salinity management.

### *Vision for the future*

The vision for the Victorian NRM sector for 2017 (discerned through the mock press release activity), articulated by those attending the workshop, was defined by increased climate literacy for a better-informed community of interest, access to meaningful and locally-relevant climate information across CMAs, NRM agencies and local councils, and served by dynamic and flexible governance arrangements with a focus on local solutions.

This would be achieved through the development of an *integrated state-wide catchment management plan*, involving:

- (1) the integration of current and future climate risks and opportunities into all strategic activities of CMAs;
- (2) building collaborative alliances between NRM organisations, research institutions, government and community groups; and
- (3) a world-leading approach to professional development, accompanied by a cutting-edge program of research.

This vision would reposition CMAs and the Victorian NRM sector on a trajectory that would ensure a more systemic appreciation of climate risks, better preparedness to reduce the impacts and take advantage of the opportunities in a changing climate. This would place CMAs in a better position to support community capacity and better manage the state's natural assets.

The full mock press release developed by the CMA group is included in Appendix 2.

## Community Service Organisations

*Community Service Organisations (CSOs) are groups that provide a service established to meet the needs of community members requiring care, support, protection or accommodation. This includes out-of-home care services, disability services, community-based child and family services, housing and other types of support for disadvantaged people. In Victoria, CSOs can register with the Department of Human Services (DHS) if they meet the Department's service standards. DHS funds over 600 CSOs<sup>6</sup>.*

### **Key climate change impacts and drivers for the sector**

At an **organisational level**, extreme weather events and flooding may make it difficult for staff to go to work. This is particularly a problem when different climatic events coincide (e.g. fire weather combined with a heatwave). Some organisations rely to a significant degree on elderly volunteers, which may be unable to work during heatwaves due to heat stress. Damage to public infrastructure can result in higher costs for utilities and the use of infrastructure, which negatively impact on the funding base of an organisation. Climate change impacts, however, were also seen as an opportunity for organisations to engage more broadly and better with the community.

At the **level of service delivery**, sudden and relatively short-lived events, such as flooding, bushfires and heatwaves, have the potential to lead to significant post-impact consequences for organisations and their clients, from minor operational changes to service delivery times, to being unable to deliver services altogether. Organisations may experience periods of extreme demand of their services following a disaster, or they may need to relocate some or all of their services due to access problems, power outages and other breakdowns in vital infrastructure. Extreme heat and other climatic extremes may pose an occupational health and safety issue for staff working outside or in non-cooled environments, which can mean that services can't be delivered in the usual way. A less direct, yet significant impact on service provision is that funds normally used and reserved for service delivery are required for recovery efforts following an extreme weather event.

Climate change impacts can also affect **service recipients** directly. Most service recipients are disadvantaged in one way or another, e.g. due to a physical and/or mental disability, chronic illness, homelessness and other types of socio-economic stress, or old age. Clients from lower socio-economic groups, for example, often live in high risk areas prone to flooding, or in old housing stock, which may experience structural cracking during periods of drought, rendering

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<sup>6</sup> Further information on CSOs is available on the DHS website: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-service-providers/children,-youth-and-families/Community-service-organisations> (accessed 25/09/2012).

houses less safe. Flooding, bushfires and sea level rise may lead to dislocation and permanent displacement, which can be associated with negative effects on physical and mental health. Heatwaves in particular were found to lead to increased stress on vulnerable people, and to severe consequences such as increased ill health, hospital admissions and fatalities. Temporary or permanently increased food insecurity is another issue that was seen to be linked to climate change impacts. A short term effect on food security, for example, can be seen during heatwaves, when clients may be unable to go out to buy food due to heat stress. A long term effect of climate change on food security may be increased food prices due to droughts, flooding in agricultural areas and increased production costs associated with environmental change.

The effects of climate change impacts on the **policy environment** were noted as relating to land use planning and urban design, the exacerbation or disadvantage, and the emergence of new forms of poverty. There is a perceived need to revise the planning scheme in light of climate change, in particular in coastal areas where policy guidance on how to respond to sea-level rise keeps changing. New forms of poverty, including climate refugees from Australia and from overseas, as well as retirees suffering financial loss from changes in the global financial system, will require new and better policy responses. In responding to climate change issues, differences between urban, regional and rural areas need to be acknowledged, to avoid urban-focused policies being applied inappropriately to regional and rural areas.

Among the large number of **system-wide effects** of climate change identified for the community services sector were the breakdowns of transport and communication systems, water and electricity services during floods, heatwaves and bushfires. Infrastructure failure was considered a serious risk that can affect the entire sector. The economic impacts of climate change on farmers and small rural communities were also identified as being of system-wide concern, with wide-ranging effects on social cohesion and food security. Experiencing personal and material losses due to climate change impacts may lead to social problems, such as increased incidents of crime, gambling, and substance abuse.

### ***Other sectoral issues and opportunities***

The community services sector is struggling with current funding models driven by economic rationality and their application within a service delivery environment characterised by increased complexity and demographic change. An observation made was that 'while funding seems to decrease, the clients' needs are increasing'. Funding is generally focused on individuals and their needs and ailments, whereas climate change may call for a renewed and added focus on working with existing strengths of individuals and communities, to improve community cohesion and increase local resilience.

### ***Vision for the future***

The CSO participants' vision for 2017 (discerned through the mock press release activity) articulates a future that is focused on achieving community health and well-being outcomes through resilience building. Strong partnerships exist between government, business and communities, which have enabled joint planning and implementation of climate change adaptation activities. A significant success factor of these partnerships is a steep increase in conversation and dialogue about climate change in communities. Other important features of the partnership include the development of social enterprises and community service organisations having access to improved guidance and resources for networking and organisational planning.

Under this visionary scenario for 2017, community sector organisations have become recognised as being able to foster community self-sufficiency, resilience, preparedness and adaptation. Adequate funding has been secured, and CSOs are in a position to support communities in developing local adaptation strategies. This leaves the vast majority of Victorians feeling better equipped to respond to the impacts of climate change than in 2012.

The full mock press release developed by the CSO group is included in Appendix 2.

### **Primary Care Partnerships**

*The Victorian State Government, through the Department of Health, funds 30 Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) to improve access to services and continuity of care for people through improved service coordination, as well as chronic disease prevention, integrated health promotion, and partnership development. The overall aim of a PCP is to improve the health and well-being of the population by better co-ordination of health service planning and service delivery. PCPs are made up of a diverse range of member agencies. All PCPs include hospitals, community health organisations, local government and divisions of general practice as core members of the partnerships. Other types of agencies such as area mental health, drug treatment and disability services are also members of PCPs.<sup>7</sup>*

### ***Key climate change impacts and drivers for the sector***

It emerged during the discussion that there were similarities in the direct and indirect effects of climate impacts, in particular those requiring constant management, such as prolonged droughts and less reliable rainfall. Further, engagement of the 'right people' with the partner agencies to enable decision making was considered important, as was a strong need for

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<sup>7</sup> See the Department of Health website for further information:  
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/about/index.htm> (accessed 25/09/2012).

developing ‘bridging social capital’ to help individuals, organisations and communities connect enhancing the capacity for ‘self-help’.

At an **organisational level**, the PCP participants viewed that they were well placed to work with a number of organisations to build capacity to enable more effective responses to the climate change impacts discussed. Nevertheless, climate change impacts may result in organisational constraints such as temporary staff absences and problems with staff safety, both within PCPs and among the agencies supported by PCPs.

While a PCP as an organisation may be able to cope with climate change impacts, this doesn’t necessarily transcend to the community level or to those agencies that are the immediate **service recipients** of PCPs. Many of the agencies that PCPs work with already juggle a range of priorities and issues. This overstretching of organisational resources was highlighted as an exacerbating organisational issue in the context of all climate change impacts. Significant effects of climate change impacts that will have consequences for health care agencies may be: a sudden surge in patient presentations, the need to evacuate facilities and relocate services, and the need to evacuate entire communities. Along with these effects, mental health impacts may become evident, which will put further strain on the capacity of individual and communities to be prepared and respond effectively to climate change.

At a **policy environment level**, common issues were identified regarding the management of emergencies linked to significant events such as bushfires or floods. Participants emphasised a need for proactive preparation rather than reactive recovery. It was suggested, given the commonalities across the sector and the identified similarity of issues across several climate change impacts, that a common, sector-wide response to multiple climate impacts would be a worthwhile investment from a sectoral perspective. PCPs would benefit from increased capacity to systematically learn from previous climate change events, from engaging in practical preparations (e.g. using a flood check list), and from by being supported in communicating effectively with partner agencies prior, during and after extreme events.

In response to **system-wide** effects of climate change impacts, the need for community-level engagement and preparation was identified. Such work needs to take account of structural socio-economic changes that are taking place in communities. PCPs could play a key role in preparing communities for climate change impacts and building community resilience.

### ***Other sectoral issues and opportunities***

A dominant issue that was identified is social and economic inequity that transcends all sectors and that is reflected in the diversity of partners, communities and service recipients. Existing inequity issues can be exacerbated by climate change, while inequity issues can also severely

affect the PCPs' ability - and therefore the partner agencies' abilities - to respond to the impacts of climate change and to build resilience within communities. Building good, strong partnerships and community networks was highlighted as one of the ways of responding to inequity issues. Investing in such 'bridging social capital' also requires better planning, coordination and communication between PCPs and agencies, and between agencies. In addition, there are fundamental differences between rural and urban PCPs and the agencies they support. These differences need to be acknowledged across the sector.

### *Vision for the future*

The PCP's vision for 2017 (discerned through the mock press release activity) highlights the sharing of experiences, inter-organisational learning, and increased resilience in the agencies supported by PCPs. These outcomes were made possible through improved policy and guidelines, better coordination between groups, and the ability of PCPs to communicate headline messages more clearly to agencies.

Under this scenario for 2017, a significant achievement was to formally recognise climate change adaptation as a sector-wide priority for all PCPs and their partner agencies. A united push by PCPs and agencies to acknowledge and respond to the health impacts of climate change was supported by intensive community consultation and engagement with research institutions. Innovative methods are employed in both rural and urban areas to inform planning efforts by PCPs and their partner agencies.

The full mock press release developed by the PCP group is included in Appendix 2.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1a: Activity 1 - Sectoral climate change impacts mapping

Group activity 1 entailed a conversation within each group, surrounding climate impacts and the perceived effect of these impacts on various levels of organisational context. Each group was allocated a large set of concentric circles drawn on butcher's paper, with a diagram describing each sector level: Organisational, Services, Service Recipients, Sector Policy Environment and System-Wide (see Figure 1a).

Participants were asked to consider separately five climate change impacts specific to Victoria, extracted from the Climate Commission's recent report<sup>8</sup>:

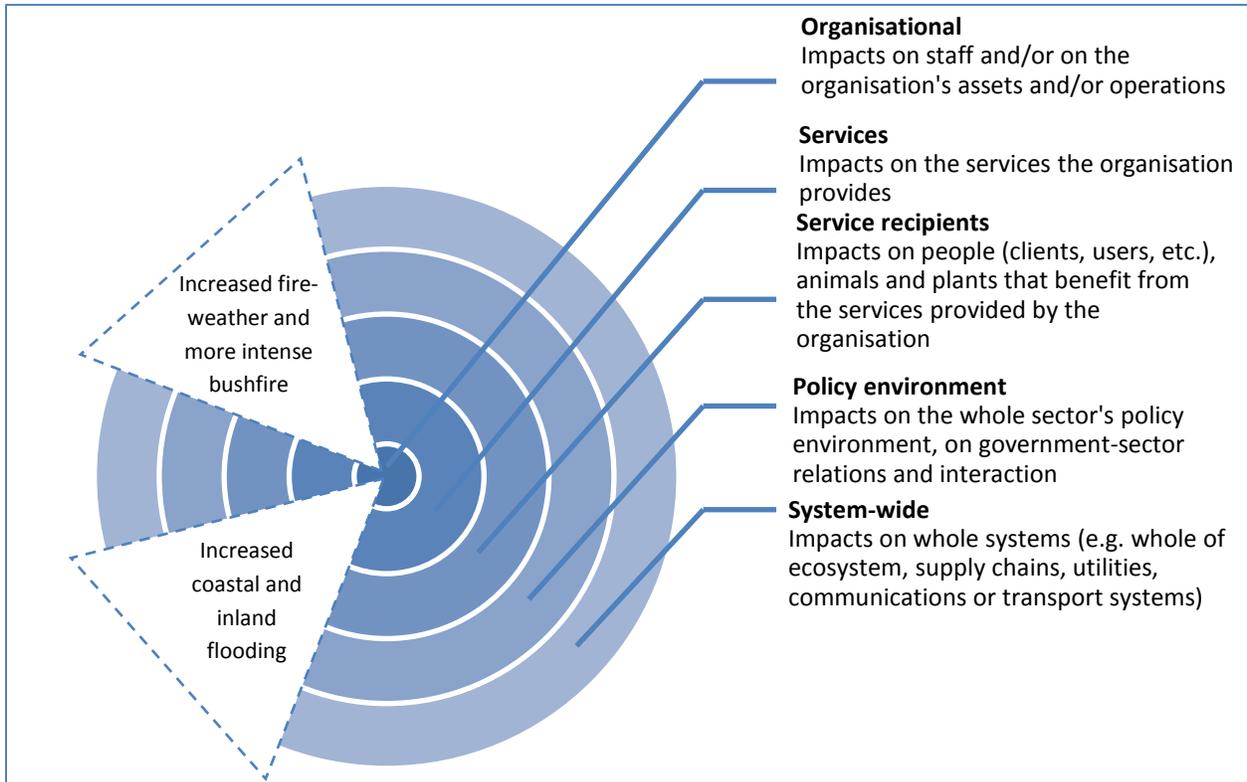
- Increased frequency and intensity of heat waves;
- Increased occurrences of fire-weather and more intense bushfires;
- Sea level-rise, coastal erosion and coastal flooding due to storm surges;
- Prolonged droughts and less reliable rainfall; and
- Inland flooding due to heavy rainfall.

Participants were asked to discuss the question of 'Where will this climate change impact affect your sector most?' They proceeded to outline direct and indirect effects on sticky notes: e.g. 'Reduction of community volunteers available due to heat exhaustion' in relation to *Increased frequency and intensity of heat waves*. Sticky notes were placed on the concentric circles. Participants then drew linkages between impacts and effects where appropriate. At the end of the activity, a representative from each stakeholder group reported the outcomes, linkages and gist of the discussion.

All three sectors considered the increase occurrence of fire-weather and more intense bushfires, as well as flooding (in general) to be the most relevant to their sector on all levels. These impacts were expressed as posing the most significant impact to service delivery at an agency operational level and to service recipients, causing system-wide implications. Cross-sectoral linkages of these impacts can be seen in Figure 1a, and through images harvested post activity completion for each stakeholder group.

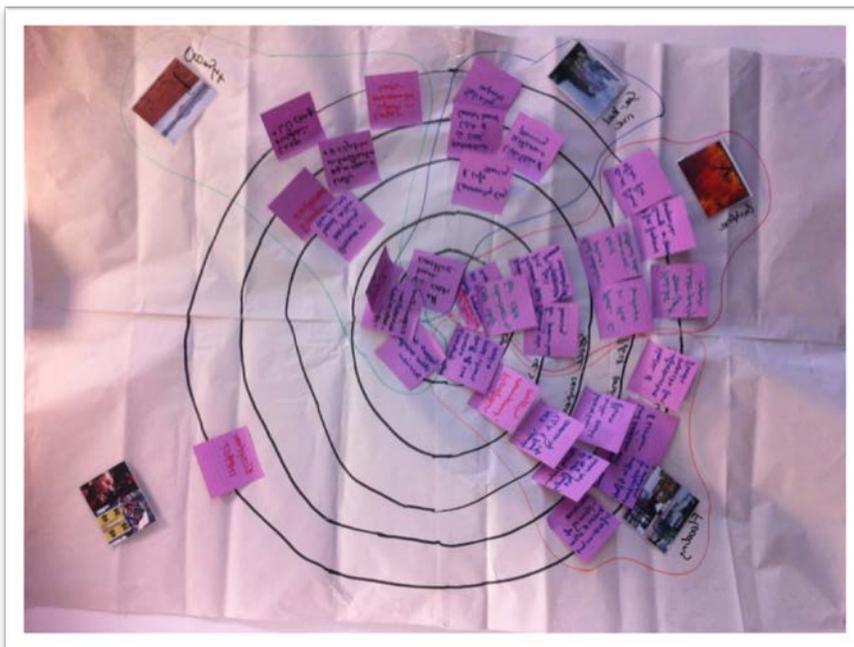
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<sup>8</sup> Climate Commission, 2012, The critical decade: Victorian climate impacts and opportunities (24p). Canberra. Retrieved from [http://climatecommission.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/120719\\_VIC-report-web-version\\_final.pdf](http://climatecommission.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/120719_VIC-report-web-version_final.pdf) (25/09/2012).



**Figure 1a: Sectoral climate change impact mapping diagram, including generalised most relevant impacts across all three agencies demonstrated.**

**Activity 1 output – CMA group**



**Activity 1 output – CSO group**



**Activity 1 output – PCP group**



## **Appendix 2: Activity 2 - Visioning a better adapted future**

Group Activity 2 entailed a visioning exercise. Participants were asked to discuss in sectoral groups where they would like their sector to be in five years' time in terms of being better adapted to climate change. Participants were asked to focus on **what** activities would need to be implemented between now and then, **how** these activities would be implemented, **who** would need to be involved, and **why** the activities are important. Each group was then asked to summarise the discussion by preparing a mock-up media release from each of the stakeholder groups, to be read out at a mock press conference set in 2017. Each group received a media release template with a title highlighting their group's readiness for climate impacts. Laptops were provided for each group and utilising the template provided, a representative populated the media release using past tense, celebrating the climate change adaptation 'achievements' in the sector.

At the end of the activity, all media releases were printed and distributed, and a mock press conference was held where a nominated representative from each group read out the media release. Government representatives as well as the nominated group members formed a panel and an open floor 'question time' was facilitated with the remaining participants.

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Ready for climate change impacts in Victoria's catchments

**Melbourne, VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017** - Today representatives from Victoria's ten Catchment Management Authorities convened in Melbourne to celebrate significant progress with getting prepared for climate change impacts. Over 50 representatives from Catchment Management Authorities and other natural resource management agencies gathered to reflect on the efforts the sector has made since recognising climate change adaptation as a sector-wide priority in 2012.

After five years, catchment management authorities and the natural resources management sector are moving towards a well-defined and shared vision for the future management of natural resources that integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation. This is defined by:

- Increased climate literacy for a better-informed community of interest.
- Meaningful and locally-relevant climate information across NRM agencies, CMAs and local councils
- Dynamic and flexible governance, local solutions

As a first step, the Victorian Natural Resources Commission is inviting submissions on the draft of the first integrated state-wide catchment management plan. This will:

- Integrate current and future climate risks and opportunities into all strategic activities of CMAs
- Build on collaborative alliances between NRM organisations, research institutions, government and community groups
- Feature a world-leading approach to professional development
- Be accompanied by a cutting-edge program of research

This repositions the CMAs and NRM sector on a trajectory that will ensure

- A more systemic appreciation of climate risks
- That they are better prepared to reduce the impacts and take advantage of the opportunities in a changing climate
- That they can better support community capacity and manage the state's natural assets

### **About:**

Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) were established in Victoria on 1 July 1997 with the aim of creating a whole of catchment approach to natural resource management in the state. The CMAs combined the roles of the former River Management Boards, Catchment and Land Protection Boards and community based advisory groups such as salinity plan implementation groups and water quality working groups.

The primary goal of the Victorian CMAs is to ensure the protection and restoration of land and water resources, the sustainable development of natural resources-based industries and the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Note: This media release is a mock-up for research purposes only

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Victorian climate change adaptation improved since 2012.**

**Melbourne, VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017** - Today Victorians convened in Melbourne to celebrate significant progress in preparation for the impacts of climate change. Over 50 people gathered to reflect on the achievements, witnessed by a further 5 million people who joined in virtual celebrations on-line. In excess of 1 million households reported hosting a climate change adaption conversation, 300 thousand streets reported hosting climate change conversations and developing a CCA strategy.

As a result, 83% of Victorians reported feeling better equipped to respond to the impacts of climate change across the indicators of access to transport, income security, food security, information access, community connectedness and public safety. We're happy to report that these resilience outcomes enhance a range of community health and wellbeing outcomes.

### **How & Who**

These outcomes are due to the strong government, business and community partnerships, planning and implementing strategies in common.

- Funding
- Developing the capacity
- Developing the learning and making the linkages
- Assuming responsibility
- Community responsibility.... Self-sufficiency

Some important features of this partnership includes development of social enterprises, know your neighbour days, guidance and resources for networking and organisational planning. A program built to develop responsibility within the community providing resources that enable local adaptation strategies. Community organisations were successful in their campaigns to have their organisations funded adequately to enable organisational preparation and community self-sufficiency.

### **Why**

Mary living on the eleventh floor of the tower block, said that "Last summer (2016) the elevator worked. Back in 2009 I was stuck up here for 12 hours. It's so much better now." This was due to DHS housing engineers listening to residents and implementing their community developed adaptation plan.

Co-benefits... community self-sufficiency...we know how to work together... know what linkages are, created linkages... we know who we are... we know we can cope amongst ourselves as a community. Investment...

### **About:**

Community Service Organisations (CSOs) offer a wide range of community support programs and services on a not-for-profit basis. CSOs connect people to one another and play a key and unique role in providing the conditions necessary to ensure that everyone has access to services and assistance.

Note: This media release is a mock-up for research purposes only

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Primary carers better equipped for dealing with climate change impacts**

**Melbourne, VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017** - Today representatives from Victorian primary health care providers convened in Melbourne to celebrate significant progress with getting the sector's service providers prepared for climate change impacts. Over 50 representatives from primary care partnerships gathered to reflect on the efforts the sector has made since recognising climate change adaptation as a sector-wide priority in 2012.

Looking at how we've progressed from dealing with an impact, say a heatwave, in 2012 to how we're dealing with it now in 2017. We can now learn from experience and success which builds resilience in the agencies. We have a series of participatory innovative programs that in both rural and metropolitan regions that have been successful and will inform future decisions. We now have improved policy and guidelines, better coordination between groups, communicating headline messages more clearly.

All PCPs and partner agencies now agree on the unavoidable health and social impacts of climate change and that they need to acknowledge and deal with the issues. Services now are incorporating new methods of dealing with climate impacts. This has been achieved through unity between all agencies that are members of primary care partnerships and has been informed by community consultation and research bodies.

### **About:**

Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) are made up of a diverse range of member agencies. All PCPs include hospitals, community health, local government and divisions of general practice as core members of the partnerships.

The state government funds 30 Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) to improve access to services and continuity of care for people through improved service coordination, as well as chronic disease prevention, integrated health promotion, and partnership development.

### **For Further Media Information Contact:**

Wendy Mason  
Aileen Thomas  
Rae Walker  
Lisa Loughnan  
Penny Fraser  
Jo Brown  
Jenny Owen

Note: This media release is a mock-up for research purposes only

### Appendix 3: List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation
Graeme	Anderson	Department of Primary Industries
Michelle	Bennett	Hume City Council
Tania	Brooker	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Jo	Brown	Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership
Kate	Brunt	Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority
Robert	Chaffe	Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc
Matt	Clear	Connections Uniting Church
Mary	Farrow	Emerald Community House
Penny	Fraser	Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership
Hartmut	Fuenfgeld	RMIT Climate Change Adaptation Program
Daniel	Garlick	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Patricia	Geragthy	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Liam	Henderson	BaptCare
John	Houlihan	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Pauline	Johnston	La Trobe Lifeskills
Michelle	Jones	City of Monash
Rod	Keenan	VCCCAR
Glenn	Lawless	annecto - the people
Ros	Leslie	La Trobe Lifeskills
Lisa	Loughnan	City of Boroondara - Ageing and Disability Services
Robyn	Major	City of Greater Bendigo
Karl	Mallon	Climate Risk
Ian	Mansergh	Department of Sustainability and Environment
Wendy	Mason	South East Healthy Communities Partnership
Damien	McCartin	Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
Sophie	Millin	RMIT Climate Change Adaptation Program
Thomas	Mitchell	Department of Health
Antoinette	Mitchell	Bass Coast Shire Council
Daniel	O'Neill	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Jenny	Owen	Southern Health
Tom	Quinn	City of Melbourne
Alianne	Rance	University of Melbourne
Max	Sargent	Jika Jika Community Centre
Aileen	Thoms	Kooweerup Regional Health Service
Patrick	Vaughan	Nillumbik Shire Council
Daniel	Voronoff	Department of Human Services
Rae	Walker	SEHCP Climate Change Strategic Alliance
Philip	Wallis	Monash Sustainability Institute

## **Appendix 4: Background on the VCCCAR project**

### ***Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resource management sectors***

*15 month project funded by the Victorian State Government through the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research*

Many tools and methods exist to support climate change adaptation processes, including tools developed by VCCCAR. However, these tools and process guides have not yet been tested and implemented with government agencies and non-governmental organisations, and little evidence exists on the adaptation capacities and needs of such organisations working at the local level of responding to climate change. The project analyses the needs of three types of government service providers and funded agencies (community service organisations, catchment management authorities and primary care partnerships). It facilitates the implementation and testing of a select number of adaptation tools to make them fit for purpose in various organisational contexts.

#### **Project Objectives**

The objectives of the project are:

1. To generate knowledge on the needs and capacities of government service providers and funded agencies in Victoria to implement adaptation methodologies and tools
2. To identify barriers, issues, solutions and opportunities within these organisations to implement adaptation methodologies and tools, and
3. To uncover the features of an engagement program that supports adaptation, based on tested adaptation tools, to inform future investment in policy and program development.

#### **Methodology**

The project will work closely with Victorian Government departments and establish direct rapport with core project stakeholders in community service organisations, catchment management authorities and primary care partnerships. A needs analysis will identify current adaptation capacities and constraints within these organisations. Up to four adaptation tools will be selected for testing with different organisations. The tools trial process will provide the basis for developing an engagement framework that can facilitate the uptake and integration of climate change adaptation among government service providers and funded agencies.

#### **Research team**

- Dr Hartmut Fünfgeld, Research Fellow, RMIT University (chief investigator)
- Dr Kate Lonsdale, VCCCAR Visiting Fellow 2012
- Professor Darryn McEvoy, Leader of the Climate Change Adaptation Program, RMIT University
- Alianne Rance, PhD student, University of Melbourne

- Dr Philip Wallis, Research Fellow, Monash University

**Project management group**

- Professor Rod Keenan, Director, VCCCAR
- Dr Ian Mansergh, Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Thomas Mitchell, Environmental Health Unit, Department of Health
- Daniel Voronoff, Senior Policy Officer Climate Change, Department of Human Services
- Professor John Wiseman, Professorial Fellow, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne

**Project website**

<http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/implementing-tools-increase-adaptive-capacity-community-and-natural-resource>