

Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West

FACT SHEET 1 – Introduction



About the project

The Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West project is a joint collaboration between 10 local governments, the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries and a range of statutory agency partners. The project aims to help communities throughout the Barwon South West region understand what risks or opportunities might be presented by future extreme weather events.

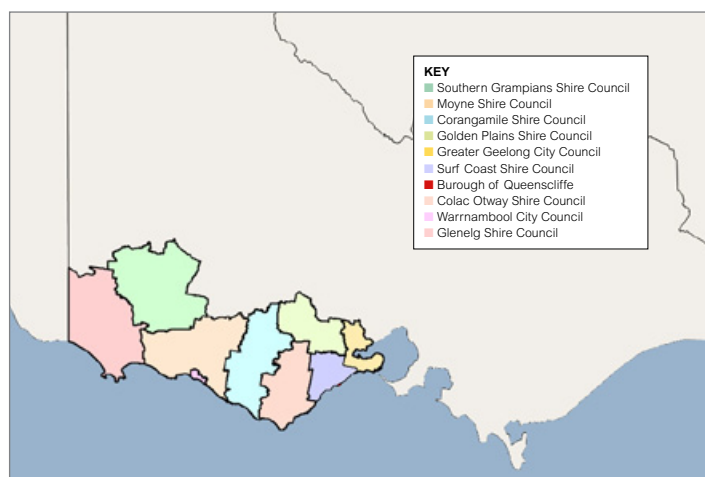
The Climate Resilient Communities project will give us the information we need to get on the front foot and be better equipped to prepare for or respond to these events into the future.

About the Barwon South West

The Barwon South West region is a diverse and vibrant part of our state, stretching from Queenscliff to the border of South Australia. It encompasses the local government areas of Greater Geelong, Queenscliff, Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Surf Coast, Warrnambool City, Moyne, Corangamite, Glenelg and the Southern Grampians.

Celebrated for its stunning natural environment, thriving tourism industry and lifestyle, the region also hosts a strong manufacturing sector and a significant agricultural industry, including the largest dairy production region in the country.

However, the region is no stranger to extreme weather events. Fire, flood and drought have all had significant impacts on



Councils that make up the Barwon South West.

local communities, industries and economies in the past and these kinds of events are expected to become more frequent and more severe under future climatic changes.

Preparing for the future

The Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West project is designed to help local governments throughout the region understand the risks, to take advantage of opportunities and to prepare for the future.

The project will draw on existing data from organisations including the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and will generate new models for the Barwon South West region.

A range of region and municipality specific data will be produced to equip project partners with an accurate and up to date snapshot of climate risks and opportunities, preparedness and adaptation. This will include dashboard snapshots of the climate variability and extreme climate events for individual local government areas, as well as tailored reports for each local government area throughout the region.

Who is involved?

Each of the 10 councils in the Barwon South West have committed resources or support for the project along with regional partners including Barwon Water, Corangamite CMA, G21 Geelong Regional Alliance, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Great South Coast Group, Wannon Water and the Western Coastal Board.

The project has engaged the services of international consultancies KPMG and Manidis Roberts/RPS to assist in the delivery of this first phase of the project.

How can I get involved?

The project will draw on the skills, experience and knowledge of various stakeholders throughout the planning and delivery phases. This will include strategic discussions, open forums and surveys designed to assess what measures are already being taken by councils and partners to understand or adapt to future extreme weather events.

Further updates on opportunities to get involved will follow over the months ahead.

THE OVERARCHING ELEMENT:

Greenhouse gases



THE PRIMARY EFFECTS ARE CHANGES IN:

Temperature



Precipitation



Sea-level rise



THE SECONDARY EFFECTS:

Relative humidity



Drought/flood



Wind



Storm surges



Bushfires



Why have I been nominated?

It is important that you contribute to help us understand and assess the impacts of extreme weather events on all aspects of the community, through the triple bottom line approach. This will help us to prepare for and capitalise on the new opportunities that are identified.

Left: The effect of increases in greenhouse gases.

This figure shows how increases in greenhouse gases effect temperature, precipitation and sea-level rise and how they contribute to more intense and more frequent weather events.

Below: Climate change vulnerability

The figure below shows how vulnerability to changes in the climate is assessed by looking in an holistic way at the sensitivity of the social, built and natural environment and their capacity to adapt.

