

A city that is adapting and resilient to climate change

We will work with our community and partners to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Why it matters

Port Phillip is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including higher temperatures and sea levels, less annual rainfall, and more severe flooding.

Victoria's average annual temperatures have increased by 1.2 degrees since 1910. Under a high emissions scenario, they could increase by 2.4 degrees by the 2050s, with double the number of very hot days, higher sea levels and more intense downpours.

Rising seas, increased severity and frequency of storms, and more extreme rainfall are projected to increase the likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses, Council buildings, roads and public spaces. We're also likely to see increased storm damage to private land and Council assets and increased inundation of beaches, parks, and buildings along the foreshore. Increased flooding and storms could result in safety risks, disruption to transport and services, reduced property values, increased insurance costs for Council and our community, and loss of revenue for Council.

Lower rainfall and population growth will put significant pressure on water supply security for our community and make it more difficult and expensive to maintain our green spaces. As a result, we can expect heat-related health issues, hotter urban areas, power outages, and increased power bills.

Guided by the latest science, we're working to understand the risks we face from climate change, support our most vulnerable people and assets, and prioritise solutions that will help protect the essential systems and services we rely on daily. Action is crucial because climate change impacts everyone in our community, with vulnerable members most affected.

Responding requires investment in our assets, changing how we deliver our services and working with our community and partners to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We encourage residents and businesses to take meaningful action to reduce their emissions and prepare for a changing climate.

How we're going

- We made 389 assessments of planning applications against sustainable design standards in 2020/21.
- We reviewed 5,991 road segments, 224 buildings, 27,458 drainage pits and pipes, and 494 open spaces as part of our 2020/21 Asset Vulnerability Assessment
- We partnered with Melbourne Water and the Cities of Kingston, Bayside and Glen Eira to deliver actions in the Elster Creek Flood Management Plan, such as a community campaign with letters sent to households, schools, and sporting clubs, with a map showing areas at risk of flood.
- We helped support 18 schools in the municipality to learn more about the environment and sustainability by participating in programs delivered by the Port Phillip EcoCentre in 2020/21.
- Ensure our pipes and pits function at 95 per cent capacity to minimise flooding and install pits to clean pipe infrastructure effectively.
- We have installed more than 1.6 km of dune fencing which has allowed dune grasses to grow and stabilise more than 1000m² of sand along the foreshore.

Key partners

- The Community
- Victorian Government
- South East Councils Climate Change Alliance
- Emergency management organisations
- Association of Bayside Municipalities.

Targets

		Council indicators	
Indicator	Baseline 2021/22	Target 2028	Contributing Projects (see initiatives table below)
% of asset management plans that include details of identified climate risks and measurable actions to increase climate resilience of the asset class.	35%	100% of Asset Management Plans	36- Fishermans Bend as an innovation precinct 37- Climate change risks to Council 38- Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Adaptation Plan 39- Drainage infrastructure

			40- Flooding and sea level rise
By 2028, Council has a fit for purpose risk management, reporting and decision-making framework in place to manage climate-related risk to service delivery, assets, and finances.	No framework	100% complete	37- Climate change risks to Council 38- Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Adaptation Plan
Community indicators			
Indicator	Baseline 2021/22	2028 Aspiration	Contributing Projects (see initiatives table below)
Percentage of community members who have sufficient information to make informed decisions about how to protect themselves and respond in the event of extreme weather (heatwaves, storms, flooding)	To be established in late 2023	No advocacy position to be set as this is a lag indicator which will be measured to inform community support and programs.	32- Community climate resilience 33- Cool spaces strategy 34- Community flood awareness campaign 35- Community Resilience Plans 41- Emergency Management Planning

Initiatives

Initiative		What's involved
32	Community climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess opportunities to support community resilience to climate change impacts. Establish partnerships to improve opportunities for community resilience and adaptation. Community resilience plans
33	Cool spaces strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a cool spaces strategy with community health and emergency services providers that will identify and create safe locations for the community to access during times of extreme heat.

Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy- 2023-28

34	Community flood awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a targeted campaign based on up-to-date flood modelling to ensure residents know of existing and future flood risks and understand the implications for insurance and measures to reduce impacts.
35	Community Resilience Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on current work to develop and collate data to understand climate impacts on the community. Support the community to build and implement community led plans which include actions to respond to flooding, heatwaves and other climate impacts.
36	Fishermans Bend as an innovation precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage investment and designate Fishermans Bend as an innovation precinct for Council to design, deliver, monitor, and scale-up successful localised adaptation measures.
37	Climate change risks to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess climate change risks to Council operations, assets, finances and services.
38	Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Coastal Adaptation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess recommendations from the Victorian Government's Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. Develop a Coastal Adaptation Plan to build the municipality's resilience against sea level rise and inundation.
39	Drainage infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue maintenance of drainage assets to ensure they operate effectively.
40	Flooding and sea level rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore partnerships to deliver infrastructure and design approaches to protect against flooding and sea level rise.
41	Emergency Management Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update our Flood Preparedness Emergency Management Plan to improve our emergency response.

[Breakout box] Climate change adaptation scenarios for Council assets

In 2019 Port Phillip kicked off a regional climate vulnerability analysis project with the South East Council's Climate Change Alliance. The project looked at how Council's buildings, roads, drains and open spaces may be impacted by climate change, particularly flooding, sea level rise, storm surges, heat and drought.

The project modelled different climate scenarios and their impact on assets at different times in the future. Data is now being used to make informed decisions about strategic asset management, investment and service delivery. Case studies were used to understand how various climate change adaptations impacted the financials.

Since early 2022, we have been working to integrate this data and make informed decisions when planning for projects and services being delivered to the community.

More information can be found at [Current projects — SECCCA](#) – Asset Vulnerability Assessment