

Adaptation Action Plans will build the state's resilience and help Victorians plan for the inevitable impacts of climate change.

**On 23 February 2017, the Climate Change Bill 2016 was passed by the Victorian Parliament to create a new Climate Change Act.**

### Overview of Adaptation Action Plans

The *Climate Change Act 2017* introduces system-based planning for adaptation, focusing on key systems that are either vulnerable to the inevitable impacts of climate change, or are essential to ensure Victoria is prepared.

Systems-based planning is already used in a number of jurisdictions, including California, Scotland, Wales and New York State. It enables a targeted response to climate change, focused on the unique characteristics and needs of a given system.

Under the Act, Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs) will be required to be developed every five years covering the following systems:

- built environment;
- education and training;
- health and human services;
- natural environment;
- primary production;
- transport; and
- the water cycle.

### Who is responsible for preparing AAPs?

The Act devolves responsibility for preparing AAPs to relevant portfolio Ministers.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Premier, will nominate the most appropriate Ministers to prepare AAPs.

The nomination process will be flexible to allow the Minister to nominate Ministers to prepare AAPs for a whole system, part of a system or a combination of systems.

For example, a specific 'Energy Adaptation Action Plan' could also be created by extracting energy infrastructure from the built environment system.

### Timing

All AAPs will be developed in the year following the release of the five-yearly Climate Change Strategy. This will allow AAPs to respond to the Statement of Priorities of the most recent Strategy, and help them focus on effective action.

AAPs will be tabled in Parliament and published on the relevant Department's website.

### Process for developing AAPs

AAPs will build on, and not duplicate existing work. Each will begin with a 'gap analysis' to determine how current policy for that system addresses the priorities contained in the most recent Climate Change Strategy. The results of this analysis will need to be published in the AAP and inform what actions are required to help prepare that system for climate change impacts.

AAPs can also address additional risks, vulnerabilities, opportunities or system-specific priorities.

### Content of AAPs

At a minimum, AAPs will be required to contain:

- a statement of the roles and responsibilities across the system;
- the outcome of the 'gap analysis' described above; and
- a list of actions (if any are required) to address any shortcomings identified in the gap analysis.

### More information

The *Climate Change Act 2017* is available on the Victorian Legislation website:

<http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>