

Regional Climate Change Adaptation 2021-22 projects

Projects selected by Regional Adaptation Stakeholder Working Groups in 2021-22

Funded by the Sustainability Fund through the *Supporting Our Regions to Adapt* Program

BARWON SOUTH WEST

Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Establishing a long-term citizen science biodiversity monitoring program to inform adaptative management	A citizen science project to establish landscape scale long term monitoring plots for biodiversity within the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment area. The project will enable volunteer community members to undertake surveys and collect data within a scientifically valid monitoring program. The project will collect baseline data to monitor how biodiversity is changing due to climate change. Over time, the data collected will inform targeted climate adapted management responses for declining biodiversity.	\$50 000	Nature Glenelg Trust, and partners
Adapting coastal floodplain management as sea level rises	This project is developing a guideline to ensure consistent delivery of Victorian coastal flood investigations to a standard high enough to support the adoption of flood risk management controls into coastal planning schemes. It is also developing a clear adaptation pathway logic for translating Victoria's sea level rise planning policy (Clause 13.01-S) into local outcomes that will increase resilience of coastal communities to worsening coastal flood risk.	\$45 000	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, and partners
Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program	A project to design a Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program. This project is a joint initiative between the Catchment Management Authorities and Local Government within the Barwon South West region. This project will support the region's Councils to offset their carbon emissions locally.	\$45 000	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Warrnambool heat vulnerability analysis	This project will identify high-risk areas across Warrnambool which are vulnerable to extreme heat and heatwaves. This project will inform the management of extreme heat on vulnerable communities and the impacts on critical interconnected urban and rural services which support vulnerable people.	\$56 000	Warrnambool City Council, and partners
Establishing a Barwon South West Climate Alliance	A project to establish a Barwon South West Climate Change Alliance. The Alliance is a collaboration between Local Government, Catchment Management Authorities, Water Authorities and Deakin University. This will build on over \$100K of funding provided to the Alliance through the regional climate change adaptation program.	\$54 000	Warrnambool City Council and partners

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GIPPSLAND

Project	Description	Funding ¹	Lead Organisation
Sealing the Gap - a “Cosy Homes” initiative	This project will help low-income households in Bass Coast and South Gippsland make their homes more comfortable, save money on energy costs, take advantage of government rebates and, using a volunteer peer to peer learning model, spread the word so others can do the same. A series of “Energy workshops” will provide information and skills to at least 100 participants and direct assistance will be provided to at least 30 households to implement simple changes to make their homes more comfortable and resilient during extreme weather events.	\$25 850	Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd
Building the adaptive capacity of vulnerable ecosystems and increasing Gippsland’s blue carbon stock	Protect, enhance, and manage the values of multiple prioritised areas of coastal saltmarsh and fringing wetlands within the West Gippsland CMA region. Temperate coastal saltmarsh communities are <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999</i> listed and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change with limited ‘room to move’; and are considered valuable ‘blue carbon’ sinks. This work will trial species mixes to help build ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change; and provide best-practice management templates to other landholders and managers about this type of work and the associated environmental and agricultural benefits.	\$100 000	West Gippsland CMA
Here comes the future: Engaging and showcasing Gippsland’s Young Climate Leaders	The aim of this project will be achieved by two key opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people present action-based climate adaptation knowledge and solutions in a 3-minute video. Focus on nature-based land/ocean solutions, energy transition, cultural heritage and values or food and waste solutions. • Young people participate in a forward-looking ‘Here comes the future regional Youth Summit’ that explores climate adaptation and future strategies drawing on the above videos and associated categories. 	\$25 129	Federation University
Managing Soil Carbon for Climate Adaptation Outcomes	Implement a soil amelioration pilot in the Gippsland Research Farm (Bairnsdale) and extend it to 10 sites across the Central and East Gippsland region through a regional extension and communications program. The project will gauge current farmer knowledge about soil carbon management, demonstrate four methods of increasing organic matter and measure water-holding capacity. Data gathered will shape the design of a five-year landscape scale soil adaptation program for the Gippsland region. This project provides a clear and tested adaptation pathway for Gippsland Farmers to consider the strength and weakness of various soil amelioration methods that will be applicable depending on the rate and scale of climate change.	\$71 000	Gippsland Agricultural Group
Solar greenhouses – growing sustainably	Deliver a greenhouse test site that provides controlled growing conditions through automated adjustments to light, temperature, and water. The greenhouse design will incorporate both active and passive methods for temperature control and are designed to be carbon neutral. Technology and innovation such as solar power, biogas, rainwater as thermal mass and colour changing LED lights will be utilised during the project (and evaluated) to increase plant growth and monitor optimal growing conditions. Through monitoring and adjusting variables such as air and ground temperature, humidity and soil moisture levels, air particle composition this project aims to assess the opportunities for actively increasing crop outputs.	\$67 000	Trentleck Pty Ltd

¹ DELWP Gippsland Region will be contributing \$38,979 of additional funding from other sources to support these projects

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GRAMPIANS

Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Grampians Regional Adaptation Forums	Deliver a series of climate adaptation forums across the Grampians region to promote existing projects and community understanding of, and engagement with, the Grampians Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy (GRCAS). The forums will involve youth participation in their delivery. Funding will also facilitate participation of project leads in relevant regional industry events.	\$34 200	Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Group
Expanding the Hepburn Z-NET Model into Climate Change Adaptation	Leverage and expand on the Hepburn Z-NET mitigation model (the first zero-net emission shire in Australia) to develop an approach to climate change adaptation that is place-based and locally appropriate. It will provide a replicable process for other regional local government areas (LGAs).	\$22 500	Hepburn Shire Council
Community Conversations on Climate Change	Engage communities in the St. Arnaud region to normalise the conversation about climate change, inspire/empower local leadership, and encourage ideas and action around the themes of climate adaptation, resilience, and community led solutions. At least four casual educational conversation sessions will be held centred on the climate resilience themes of biodiversity, agriculture, economy (resource utilisation) and health and wellbeing.	\$27 000	Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network
Urban trees - making choices for a changing climate	Develop communication material and engage the Ararat community on how street trees and private spaces can be used to modify the local microclimate. Informed decision-making about tree varieties and placement are essential for targeted, long-term impacts in our local towns and cities. This project will guide planning for urban trees in our towns and villages for the next 5-10 years.	\$55 000	Ararat Landcare Group
Landscape Genomic analyses of Grampians Region biodiversity – a management framework	Funding will support the existing Deakin University project “Landscape genomic analyses of Grampians Region biodiversity - a management framework” which will build an understanding of endemism, patterns of movement of wildlife and connectivity patterns of wildlife communities in the Grampians Region.	\$10 000	Deakin University
Trentham Food Hub Feasibility Study	Undertake a feasibility study for operating a local food hub in Trentham. The project will develop a business case for a centrally located facility which aggregates, stores, processes, distributes, and/or markets locally/regionally produced food products. As well as contributing to the region’s Z-Net transition by actively supporting climate adaptive agriculture, the Trentham Food Hub will encourage Grampians’ artisanal food sector and regional food processors to operate their businesses in a climate-adaptive way, by promoting and selling their products specifically due to their climate responsive practices.	\$8 400	Trentham Sustainability group
Risk, Profitability and Resilience in a changing climate	Expand an existing capability project to a wider audience to build business and enterprise resilience in response to climate change and associated variable seasons. Training will focus on mixed farming enterprises in the 300-400mm rainfall regions	\$20 000	Stipa Native Grass Association Inc
Integrated Water Management Planning for small towns across the Central Highlands region	Install water tanks and rain harvesting in rain gardens attached to community facilities and use the installations to demonstrate water saving opportunities to the local community.	\$20 900	Golden Plains Shire in partnership with Central Highlands Water



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Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Groups (RCAG) operation	Operating costs for the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Group (RCAG). Provides for sitting fees as a measure to reduce disincentives for community member involvement.	\$12 000	(N/A – operating costs)
Communications and Engagement Strategy for the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy (GRCAS)	Development of a strategy to guide GRCAS implementation. The strategy will identify key stakeholders, specify how the RCAG will work with sectors such as schools, Landcare and Z-NET and ensure consistent messaging around implementation. It will identify the important groups to work with for the range of themes. It will also guide community feedback in reshaping the strategy when next reviewed.	\$40 000	RCAG

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HUME

Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Youth Climate Programs	Train Facilitators to build the capacity of the Southern Hume Region youth community, with educational workshops for sustainability and adaptation, and a Youth climate adaptation micro-grant program and mentorship support for youth taking a supporting role in the World Climate Summit.	\$50 000	Greater Shepparton City Council
'4C Series' (Community Climate Change Conversations):	Deliver a series of seminars that discuss some of the barriers to climate change adaptation in Hume and how to navigate conflicting priorities or interests in adaptation action, for example conflict of land management, agricultural viability, biodiversity, and built infrastructure. The sessions will be free for the public and include panels of guest speakers from academic climate-science backgrounds, local and state government, and local climate change adaptation organisations.	\$20,000	Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance and Partners
Empower Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owner Groups to identify climate adaptation actions relevant to them	Provide self-run opportunities for Aboriginal communities (both registered and non-registered groups) in the Hume Region to engage with adaptation actions of their choosing. Dalka Warra Mittung Aboriginal Corporation, Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation, Dhuduroa Waywurru Nations Aboriginal Corporation, DNindi-Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Waywurru (Pallanganmiddang), Jaithmathang Traditional Ancestral Bloodline Original Owners Frist Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land and Waters Council will be invited to participate	\$38 000	DELWP Hume Region and self-selecting Aboriginal communities
Business and Insurance Risk Workshops	A targeted regional grant program to establish business networks across the region to understand climate-related risks for small to medium enterprises across the region and identify solutions.	\$45 000	DELWP Hume Region and successful grant applicants
Mini-community grants to build adaptive capacity	Deliver mini-grants to community and youth groups that are community-led, place-based skill development projects that prepare the Hume region for climate change impacts.	\$70 000	Hume Adaptation Stakeholder Working Group and successful grant applicants.
Film screening series	Deliver 20 online film screenings of the next instalment of 2040 film to encourage Hume communities to recognise their role in climate change adaptation and foster knowledge sharing on climate change and adaptation.	\$6 000	DELWP Hume Region and partners
Local festivals, conferences, and events	Contribute funding to festivals, conferences, and niche community events that have a unique connection to climate change adaptation including climate science focused, climate science and art overlaps, or raising awareness for community adaptation themes relating to climate science, climate science and art	\$11 000	DELWP Hume Region and festival organisers
Communicating climate science and adaptation action within Hume	Produce and share communication collateral about climate science and four case studies of adaptation action in Hume.	\$10 000	DELWP Hume Region and Flying Pig Designs

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LODDON MALLEE

Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Climate Youth project	This project will deliver on-Country trips with our youth to learn from our Elders about our connection with the land and the benefits of respecting and working with the land. This will identify how respecting what we have and how we benefit from the land supporting us. The issue of climate change will be discussed as the result of the land being neglected and abused. Practical skills can be taught with the youth learning weaving and making clap sticks for the plants that are grown in our Native Plant Nursery. This nursery will show how we can heal our land and restore the damage that it has suffered.	\$20 000	First People of the Millewa-Mallee
Climate Ready Radio broadcasting	Promote the Climate Ready Plan to the maximum number of people in the Loddon Mallee region and to include the Loddon Mallee people in the production of the program content. The project will produce a weekly one-hour program for radio about climate change in the Loddon Mallee to be broadcast over Central Victorian Community Radio and made available to all 460 community radio stations in Australia via the community radio network.	\$10 000	Central Vic Community Radio
Regional migrant women climate conversations	Create and share community-based resources that will link community members who are disproportionately impacted by climate change. The project will collaborate with regional migrant women to share climate ready stories and place-based adaptation conversations to build confidence and connection around climate change.	\$12 000	Women's Health Loddon Mallee
SURGE	A community project that unpacks what it means to engage in climate action as a young person of colour. Through digital storytelling and dialogue, the project will engage young artists to produce works that focus on the imminent future – one that depends on the choices we make today. By using a peer-to-peer approach, the project aligns with the objectives of the Loddon Mallee RAS's People goal – knowledge, connection, and wellbeing – in addressing the barriers of accessibility and ownership of climate adaptation knowledge, as well as the representation of new and emerging communities within mainstream climate action in Central Victoria.	\$16 000	MAV - Multicultural Arts Victoria
The Old Church Climate Resilience Engagement	Engage the community and promote neighbourhood food production, neighbourhood green space, and local water catchment work being undertaken at the Old Church on the Hill in Bendigo, as a model to be replicated across the community.	\$20 000	The Old Church on the Hill
Sunraysia Local Food Alliance	Deliver monthly workshops on topics related to food and climate, inviting participation from anyone in the community who has an interest in building a resilient local food system in Sunraysia. Individuals, organisations, business, and government included. Culturally diversity will be strongly encouraged and input from First Peoples and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities sought out.	\$25 000	Food Next Door
Off-grid relief and recovery centres feasibility study and business case	Assess the feasibility of the Macedon Community Centre, Riddell's Creek Leisure Centre, and Romsey Recreation Centre to be off-grid and there by establishing self-sufficient community facilities that can be utilised as relief, recovery and "hot day out" centres in the event essential services such as electricity and water are cut off as a result of a natural disaster, heat wave or emergency.	\$20 000	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Greenhill to Black Hill Biolink	Restore habitat and connections for threatened species across private land to enable them to adapt to climate change.	\$25 000	Bio Link Alliance

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Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Wilderhoods	Create networks of urban habitat and connect people with nature and neighbours, cultivating resilient urban landscapes and communities to thrive in a changing climate. Neighbourhood communities will be supported to co-design, grow and nurture local environments, improving health and wellbeing of the community and improving the ecological function of the urban landscape. Networks will be established to share knowledge.	\$22,000	Castlemaine Institute
Climate Ready Homes	The Bendigo Community Health Services will conduct a pilot of Energy Assessments and Upgrades for 15 low-income households. Works will include an accredited Residential Efficiency Scorecard Assessment and minor upgrades.	\$17,000	Bendigo Sustainability Group
Elphinstone Resilient Landscape	Bring a community care approach to Elphinstone's local creek aiming to test strategies to manage weeds at creek edge, reconnect community to the local creek and gather data on vegetation changes and biodiversity using a citizen science approach. Consultation with an ecologist will guide what data will be collected, and guidance will be sought from local Dja Dja Wurrung Elders on priorities and approaches in management and planting. Ongoing community care of the site will facilitate reduction of bushfire risk and increase riparian habitat.	\$10 000	Elphinstone Community
Youth Climate Network	Support regional youth to build connections and leadership skills, share climate local and information, co-design climate adaptation and communication projects and empower young people to contribute to local decision making. Members develop the skills and confidence to communicate and facilitate change in their communities while contributing to adaptation	\$33 000	The Youth Climate Network
Caring for Country in a Changing Climate	Provide funding to Aboriginal communities and groups in the region to undertake activities that involve planning or acting on climate change impacts on natural resource management, cultural sites and practices, physical and mental health and wellbeing, vulnerability to extreme weather events such as bushfire, heatwaves, and floods; gathering or applying traditional knowledge and ways of working on country to collectively address climate change impacts on people and Country	\$20 000	Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal Groups

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GREATER MELBOURNE

Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Business sector climate risk assessment support	Deliver grants and develop resources for the business sector that help businesses conduct climate risk assessment, adaptation, and planning.	\$40 000	Coordinated by the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)
Local government: identify, understand, and address climate change risks.	Scope a Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program to support local governments manage climate change risks and embed climate change adaptation across their services and operations. The project responds to councils reporting challenges embedding adaptation into organisation practice. The project will consult stakeholders to determine needs and preferences of councils and produce recommendations for design, governance, and core components of VCRC.	\$25 000	Coordinated by the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Local government: Active transport plans	Design a project to support and encourage every local government area in the region to develop or enhance their regional active transport plans considering climate change adaptation as a focus, including mapping specific infrastructure requirements, with communications of health and climate benefits.	\$0 (in-kind support from DELWP Port Phillip Region)	DELWP Port Phillip Region
Community Service Organisation resilience	Develop a project to support community service organisations to build their resilience and business continuity to minimise disruptions to service delivery caused by climate change.	\$20 000	Coordinated by Jesuit Social Services
Communities of practice: forums and training sessions	Establish and support at least two climate adaptation "Communities of Practice" to operate, meet and share lessons learnt: 1) in the community service sector, and 2) for coastal communities and LGAs.	\$15 000	DELWP Port Phillip Region and partners
'Network of safe places' Community infrastructure resilience project	Investigate opportunities and build the investment case for new buildings or upgrading existing community buildings (such as Community and Neighbourhood Houses) to create a network of safe resilient places to be accessed by vulnerable people during extreme weather events. The project will involve a desktop review of all potential refuges in Melbourne, what facilities they have to provide safety and thermal comfort to local vulnerable people, and what is needed to improve them.	\$65 000	To be confirmed by the Regional Adaptation Working Group
Collaborative regional reserve management for resilience	Develop a more connected, regional approach to managing and restoring native vegetation and other natural assets such as wetlands, rivers, and parks. Partners will include Trust for Nature, Greening Australia, and others.	\$10 000	DELWP Port Phillip Region and partners
Bio-rich verges	Develop a cooling and greening vegetation project that improves biodiversity. The project will involve considering site and species selection for resilience under the changing climate and seek to reduce maintenance requirements.	\$0 (in-kind support from DELWP Port Phillip Region)	DELWP Port Phillip Region

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Project	Description	Funding	Lead Organisation
Design your own engagement materials	Develop a project to support groups working with at-risk people across Greater Melbourne to develop their own engagement materials about climate extremes. The project will engage a range of groups, potentially including Aboriginal Health co-operatives, multicultural group representatives, Women with Disabilities Victoria, and other community organisations that support vulnerable communities.	\$25 000	To be confirmed by the Regional Adaptation Working Group
Aboriginal Victorians and climate resilience	Develop a project to provide support for Aboriginal communities to design their own communications about heat and health.	\$0 (in-kind support from DELWP Port Phillip Region)	DELWP Port Phillip Region
Monitor and evaluation the implementation of the Regional Adaptation Strategy	Apply the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting framework to undertake a Review of the Greater Melbourne RAS every two years to assess progress and adjust as needed.	\$0 (in-kind support from DELWP Port Phillip Region)	DELWP Port Phillip Region
Economic modelling to build the evidence base for adaptation	Build the evidence base to ensure that the costs and benefits of adaptation options can be appropriately monetised and incorporated into standard decision-making frameworks.	\$50 000	Coordinated by Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Preliminary engagement re Adaptation Investment Prospectus	Promote the application of new cost benefit frameworks as part of a regional investment prospectus to support private and public investment in adaptation measures in Greater Melbourne.	\$0 (in-kind support from DELWP Port Phillip Region)	DELWP Port Phillip Region