

Leading the way in climate change adaptation planning

1. Climate change and Hobsons Bay

The most significant and immediate risks from climate change are:

- flooding from sea level rise, storm surges and the increased intensity of storm events
- increasing demand on Council's maintenance and emergency management services

The biggest **challenges** in the future will be:

- **decision making in regards to investing in more vulnerable areas**
- **infrastructure requirements**
- **discussions with the community regarding the impacts**

3. How Hobsons Bay initiated adaptation planning?

Council conducted a risk assessment and developed a Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013–18.

The plan identifies actions to assist Council in preparing for climate change and assessed the resources required to prepare for the challenges.

Challenges and opportunities

- inability to implement actions
- focus on monitoring, evaluation and reporting to enhance implementation
- enhance the level of understanding within Council
- climate change becoming business as usual

Lessons to share

- **strong suite of strategies** to support innovation and integration
- **engagement and ownership** across Council
- **dedicated resources**
- **need for coordination across the region** to enhance strategic thinking and long term planning

4. Where next for Hobsons Bay?

We are developing a new climate change adaptation plan. The most important features of this plan **to be effective** are:

- **strong governance and a clear strategic direction** that allows for flexibility to respond as risks or issues arise
- **collaborative processes**
- raising community awareness
- **strong monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework** – building an evidence base
- working in a more integrated manner that recognises the links between, and impacts of, everything that we do
- going beyond internal operations and risks – working regionally
- **long term actions** that are focussed on key risks

2. Why is climate change adaptation planning important?

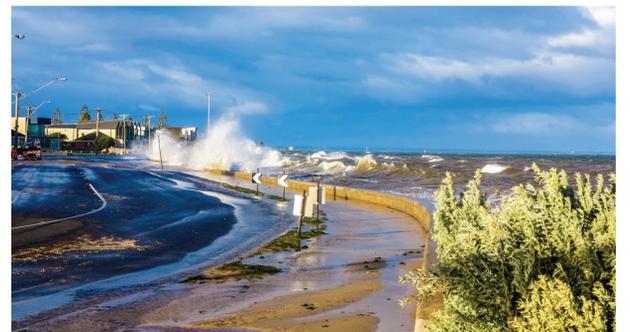
In developing the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision the community told us they want us to prioritise visionary and accountable urban planning, enhance community wellbeing, expand and conserve the natural environment, and activate sustainable practices.

In this context, adaptation planning is important due to the following potential impacts:

- health and livability impacts on the community
- financial impacts, including increasing costs from demand on maintenance services or loss of revenue
- increased legal liability to Council if Council were to approve development in areas with a future risk of flooding
- disruption to Council service delivery, including an increase in demand on emergency services, open space maintenance and health care services



Impact



Adaptation



Adaptation Planning (#9) evaluation

Council's climate change adaptation strategy and/or action plan was reviewed for words associated with managing climate change (e.g. 'climate change', 'sea level rise', 'adaptation' and 'resilience'). If any of these words were identified a closer analysis of the context was undertaken to assess the extent of how they were considered in the document(s).

None	No climate change adaptation strategy and/or action plan found or publicly available.
Basic	Focussed on one specific climate change issue AND/OR one council function with only summary statements for adaptation provided (not whole of Council).
Intermediate	Summary statements for more than one climate change issue AND/OR council function provided but only for Council activities (not community). Time frames for adaptation actions also allocated.
High	Detailed responses for adaptation actions for both the Council and community. Does not have all the attributes listed in the "Advanced" score level.
Advanced	A comprehensive adaptation strategy and/or action plan exists. It must include ALL of the following: key performance indicators, identified roles and responsibilities, timing for delivery, linked to governance (mainstreaming), includes information from the community, and other key stakeholders.