CLIMATE CHANGE AND CITY OF MELBOURNE

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2009 mapped out our adaptation approach based on an in-depth risk assessment. Since then, Melbourne’s climate context has evolved, population growth projections have increased, and global and national policy and regulations have changed.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Refresh 2017 provides an updated vision and goals, and the new actions required to deliver them. The refresh identified 26 priority risks, clustered around four themes.

WHY IS FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPORTANT?

Climate change poses physical and economic risks to our municipality and community, and increasingly, direct financial risks to our organisation and operations.

Including climate change in our financial planning allows us to consider investment priorities and consider the financial impacts that we should prepare for and manage.

HOW CITY OF MELBOURNE INTEGRATED CLIMATE CHANGE INTO FINANCIAL PLANNING?

10-Year Financial Plan
Our 10-Year Financial Plan shows how we plan to deliver the vision for the city’s growth, prosperity and liveability. It was informed by a People’s Panel of 43 representatives. The Panel identified climate change adaptation and mitigation as priorities for investment and recommended that the City be bold, creative and innovative when planning for climate change.

Challenges and opportunities
Agile decision-making, based on sound evidence, is important in a rapidly changing environment. We must find opportunities to ensure efficient, climate-adapted assets are in place to meet the city’s future service needs. The above strategies help enable this.

What have we learnt
Getting buy-in from community - The People’s Panel showed us our community want us to increase funding allocated to this work to maintain the city’s liveability. Community support provides a strong basis to justify the cost of adaptation actions.

Recognising the multiple benefits of our actions - Adaptation action can deliver multiple benefits for our community, helping to justify costs. We can now better quantify the benefits of green infrastructure and water sensitive urban design. For example, installing stormwater harvesting systems not only builds resilience to drought but helps reduce pollution going to our waterways and in some cases can reduce flooding.

WHERE NEXT FOR CITY OF MELBOURNE?

Implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is underway. The strategy will be delivered over a multi-year period. Delivery of these actions will transition the City of Melbourne to an ‘Advanced’ rating.

Finance options
We plan to partner with the insurance industry and government to explore options for finance mechanisms that help leverage funds for adaptation.

Climate risk management
We are working to further embed adaptation considerations into CoM policies, procedures and governance (including procurement).

Understanding progress
We are developing a monitoring and evaluation framework including targets to help track and report on progress and impact of the strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Indicator description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No financial management documents found or publicly available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>No consideration of climate change in financial management documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>General statements about climate change (e.g. in the introduction).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Prescribed responses/guidance for one climate change issue (e.g. sea level rise) AND/OR one council function (e.g. land use planning) only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Climate change adaptation is recognised in financial planning (more than one climate change issue AND/OR council function). But the financial management documents do not guide innovative finance or investment policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Climate change adaptation is well-budgeted for and resources allocated for mainstreaming. Consideration for climate change in investments and/or investment policies etc. is stated. Innovative finance mechanisms may also be encouraged.</td>
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