

Grampians Region

Adaptation Strategy Feedback Report
August 2021

Strategy Feedback Report

The *Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy* is focused on community led ideas and action. The strategy was developed in consultation with the community. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) facilitated its development and worked closely with community representatives through the specially formed Regional Climate Adaptation Group (RCAG). The RCAG also sought input on a consultation draft version of the Strategy before finalising the published document.

A consultation draft version of the Strategy was released on 7 April 2021 via the Engage Victoria portal to consult broadly with the community. Feedback was open until 23 May 2021 and was specifically invited in two forms:

1. Open submissions in response to the consultation draft version – a consultation draft version of the Strategy was released and invited submissions on any matters in response. Three submissions were received, all engaging in detail with the Strategy.
2. Responses to community survey about the consultation draft version – In addition to the open submissions, responding to the consultation draft of the report, community feedback was sought through an online questionnaire. Responses were anonymous.

Where the submissions and survey responses proposed improvements to the consultation draft version, or where they rebutted specific points, a direct response was provided to all submissions in finalising the Strategy as published.

There were pointed commendations for the Strategy, which speaks to its importance for the Region, as well as for the Region's capacity to lead in important aspects of the Victorian, Australian, and international responses to climate change. A successful fulfilment of this Strategy over the coming years will give communities in the Grampians Region much to be proud of.

Many of the suggestions for improvement and criticisms of detail revealed aspects of the consultation draft version that were not clear.

This input was gratefully received, and the published final version is clearly stronger for it. Especially strengthened by this process is:

- The structure of the Strategy document, including the way its sections join up for a coherent picture overall.
- The relationship between the Strategy document and the expert *Situation Analysis* that informs it.
- The eight adaptation themes addressed in the Strategy, including the need to distinguish explicitly between hazard responses and adaptive inputs.
- The credit for adaptation work that is already happening in the Grampians Region.

Specific responses to the feedback are set out in the tables below.

1. OPEN SUBMISSIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION DRAFT VERSION*

WHICH SUBMISSION?	RELEVANT SECTION OF REPORT	CHANGES SUGGESTED	CHANGES MADE TO REPORT	ANY OTHER NOTES
Submission #1	Overall	We would like to express our strong support for the development of Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and have outlined the benefits it provides to the environmental security and resilience with opportunities for further development.	Note the commendation!	Submission from Planners Declare.
	Overall	<p>Opportunities for further guidance</p> <p>The existing strength of this climate adaptation strategy can further benefit from the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation must work with mitigation techniques. It is not enough for planners to bolster the resilience of regional areas. Doing so fails to attend for communities that are already too vulnerable economically, ecologically, and socially recover from experiencing disruption from climatic impacts. Mitigation works to avoid the continued degradation of the environment and must be similarly be treated with urgency. • An over reliance on social capital networks to facilitate resilience should be avoided. Social and physical resilience in the form of community strength and infrastructural integrity should work together. An overreliance on communities to recover from biodiversity loss or disruption to ways of life can advance vulnerability when forced to continuously recover. For instance, the duration and quantity of flooding can impact the resilience of local economies. There is only so much damage and interruption that can be tolerated by local business owners before they may need to look for alternative work or close their shop. • Land use zoning and change that values the protection of biodiversity, prevention of urban sprawl, protection from wildfire and flooding must be given appropriate integrity and local councils must be supported in decisions to prevent developers from selling land in environmentally precarious and protected areas. 	No changes proposed to the Strategy document at this stage.	These recommendations are sympathetic to intent of the Strategy, rather than seeking changes to its current form. It will be valuable to retain these views for longer-term consideration, and to acknowledge their constructiveness in the appropriate ways.

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Submission #1	Overall	<p>Opportunities for further guidance (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness of the temporality of recovery projects and political nature of policy cycles. Australia's four-year policy cycle between a predominantly bi-partisan government with vastly different developmental desires can shift the focus of funding. This adaptation strategy itself is designed under a four-year project brief, a time in which the intersecting threats of climate change cannot be solved. Rather, longer term developments need to become the focus in order to effectively attend to the temporality of climate change and review initiatives that have been developed in order to confirm their efficiency. Planners and built environment professionals are capable of taking on this role to review adaptation strategies in both the short- and long-term project timelines, ensuring active collaboration with community members and Indigenous custodians to situate the effectiveness and reception of adaptation strategies. Climate Adaptation Strategies can coincide with the regional development of a circular economy. Planning plays a key role in the flow of resources and use of resources. The active effort and accountability to minimise waste attends to social and ecological thresholds while also working to achieve economic development. Such circular practice includes the retrofit of existing buildings; water sensitive urban design to facilitate better water retention while also being used as flood water abatement; wildfire overlays in land use planning to prevent continued urbanisation in environmentally precarious areas and instead promoting higher density development in already urbanised areas. 	No changes proposed to the Strategy document at this stage.	These recommendations are sympathetic to intent of the Strategy, rather than seeking changes to its current form. It will be valuable to retain these views for longer-term consideration, and to acknowledge their constructiveness in the appropriate ways.

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Submission #2	Agriculture Page 13	Regarding opportunities/barriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What about the human element of farmer health and wellbeing? The mental state of farmers is as much an influence on the agricultural sector's ability to adapt, as a farmer's knowledge and capacity (e.g. skills, resources, motivation). 	New opportunity listed: Greater knowledge/ understanding of rural wellbeing can support more sustainable farms, farm workers, and farm families.	Unnamed submission
	Biodiversity	Regarding opportunities and barriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are a crucial resource in the biodiversity space. Nurturing a strong volunteer base that is well-informed, well-resourced, and well-supported is a leading opportunity. Lack of the above is a main barrier. Knowledge sharing. Opportunities for young people – we want to encourage adaptation action to benefit biodiversity at all levels. The next 10–15 years provides a lot of opportunity to encourage younger people to understand and care for biodiversity, regardless of where their career and life choices take them. Resources and capacity – we need to create secure sources of funding that are independent (could collaborate with regional businesses and community to achieve this). We need to ensure our land managers and biodiversity managers have good knowledge and skills. 	<p>These suggestions are relevant and on-point for this climate adaptation Strategy. Although they are mentioned elsewhere in the Strategy, Appendix 2 shows their relevance to this theme is recognised.</p> <p>One important exception is that the Strategy's focus on young people wants further development (see submission #3, below).</p>	

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Submission #2	Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is worth stating that adaptation is also early investment. Strong investment now will help to minimise economic impacts and hardship in the future. e.g. Infrastructure that doesn't burn, or get washed away or blown away during storms, floods and high winds has a number of economic benefits, as well as positive health and wellbeing implications. Many people know the stress of living with the threat of bushfire every summer. That stress could be reduced if our homes and other buildings were better suited to future conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No need to rebuild if homes, roads, fences and other infrastructure are able to withstand fires and other events. • Imagine the mental health costs associated with negative climate change impacts in the future would be huge. Judging from current and forecast costs associated with mental health, the return on money invested in regional adaptation actions would be significant. Plus all the other benefits, such as minimal impacts to worker productivity, the ability for people to continue running businesses, etc., because they aren't left homeless or having to spend their time organising tradespeople, dealing with insurance agencies, or having to replace equipment or stock. • Investing in resilient infrastructure, and any associated enablers, would be a leading opportunity. • It would also be great to see the region intentionally focusing funds towards climate adaptation actions. Collaborating to ensure the resources are available to achieve timely adaptation outcomes. 	These suggestions are relevant and on-point for this climate adaptation Strategy. Although they are mentioned elsewhere in the Strategy, Appendix 2 shows their relevance to this theme is recognised.	

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Submission #2	Fire Page 23	Phoenix RapidFire simulator could be listed as an action already underway (as an education tool to assist understanding appropriate adaptation action). It could be argued that it does not directly achieve 'on ground' adaptation outcomes but the same could be said for Community Fireguard. Main barriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing population and more buildings in fire prone areas. Some land management practices increase vulnerability to fire. 	Page 19: Phoenix RapidFire simulator is now listed as work under way. Both barriers now listed, as suggested.	
	Health and wellbeing Page 25	Actions already underway could include the Vulnerable Persons Register? Could some of the resources that are available be shared via Adapt Grampians? (e.g. community education programs run by Neighbourhood Houses.) Leading opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a kit or resources available for community groups? Information in health promotion spaces (e.g. GP and other clinic or hospital waiting rooms). Work with CAHA and Doctors for the Environment, etc, to ensure GPs and other health carers are knowledgeable and confident to discuss climate related health information. 	Vulnerable Persons Register now listed as work under way. These are projects that could be supported in the implementation.	
	Heat	Why is the adaptation statement limited to the built environment and heat impacts to people? What about landscapes and wildlife? This might be picked up within the listed Leading Opportunities to make water available throughout the community (e.g. drink fountains along walking trails and within public places such as libraries).	The focus on how heat affects people in this section is intentional. Note that the effects of drought and the combustibility of landscape are also addressed under other themes.	

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Submission #2	Storms and flooding	<p>Leading opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-green infrastructure and augmenting urban environments to decrease the effects of hard surfaces. <p>Main barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicts in land use (e.g. draining/cropping wetlands for agriculture or housing development). • Historic land management attitudes and practices have a negative legacy impact. 	All three suggestions now incorporated into opportunities and barriers for this theme.	
	Water Page 30	<p>The statement about mineral springs doesn't make much sense? How much percent of the Grampians population is dependent on Hepburn and Macedon ranges mineral springs for essential water supply? (i.e. for basic needs, not tourism or other economic needs).</p> <p>Actions already underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture sector securing their own reliable water supplies. <p>Leading opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage rural drainage to increase agricultural production, protect built infrastructure and minimise negative environmental impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Could also improve biodiversity outcomes. 		

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Submission #3	Overall	<p>We found <i>The Climate Adaptation Strategy</i> document to be particularly wordy, convoluted and too complex to analyse easily. As the strategy is open to public members, we believe that it is not easily interpreted and therefore, not fully comprehended.</p> <p>The paper emphasises the main barriers and opportunities which is where we chose to direct our response, we consider it misrepresents a huge demographic (youth) in its audience target. The strategy is not youth supported except when youth have been asked to provide feedback, this seems rather counterintuitive to have youth comment after the fact, which invalidates the experiences that youth have with climate change. Youth are needed to provide feedback from the beginning of the strategy and therefore can have our views embedded throughout the document.</p>	Every effort is being made to keep this strategy document as clear and accurate as possible. This submission does not offer evidence that the Strategy 'misrepresents a huge demographic (youth)', but it is not the only feedback to request a stronger focus on youth in the Strategy. Also see recommendation 8, below.	Submission from Youth Advisory Board
YAB recommendations				
Submission #3	Pages 14-31	Implementing an additional theme titled (Public) Education.	Submission offers no rationale. Education and research inform many of the projects and opportunities listed in this Strategy, running across all themes.	
	Health and wellbeing	Upgrades of accessible Rubbish Bins around public spaces throughout the Western Region (Health and wellbeing).	This suggestion may be promising, but is not yet specific enough to incorporate into the Strategy.	

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YAB recommendations				
Submission #3	Health and wellbeing	Additional barriers (Health and wellbeing) thunderstorm asthma will get worse with climate change – there will also be an increase in allergic reactions (Hay fever).	New barrier now listed: Some weather-related conditions are growing in frequency and severity (e.g. epidemic thunderstorm asthma).	
	Agriculture	Additional barriers (Agricultural) Mono-crops.	This suggestion may be promising, but is not yet specific enough to incorporate into the Strategy.	
	Pages 14–31	Some of the themes need revising as barriers listed are sitting in the wrong themes.	‘Wrong themes’ claims want rationale. Appendix 2 shows the integrated design of this Strategy.	
	Overall	More focus on Traditional Owners of the land and connection (evidence to prove this is happening).	This suggestion may be promising, but is not yet specific enough to incorporate into the Strategy.	
	Health and wellbeing	Additional focus on youth mental health (as we wear the brunt of climate change and an uncertain future).	New barrier now listed: Consciousness about climate change is increasingly a cause of mental ill-health, especially among young people.	

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YAB recommendations				
Submission #3	Who is this document for?	The strategy is not youth supported throughout the duration of the process (youth have only been invited to provide a response after the strategy has been completed; this is counterintuitive to overall inclusivity).	<p>Inserted new paragraph: This Strategy is for people across the Grampians Region – individuals, groups, and agencies that have a stake in the life of the Region, extending well into the future.</p> <p>It is not aimed at particular segments of the population; instead it speaks to all people who are interested in how this Region can best come to grips with changing climate.</p>	<p>Youth representatives were actively consulted during development of the Strategy, including a dedicated community consultation meeting in Ballarat. The YAB engaged with the Strategy at the stage of community consultation, which was welcome.</p> <p>Process aside, this is the second detailed response that asks how well the Strategy speaks to needs and aspirations of the Region's young people. The new paragraph is an acknowledgment that this question matters.</p>

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2. RESPONSES TO COMMUNITY SURVEY ABOUT THE CONSULTATION DRAFT VERSION*

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Response A	Who is this document for?	It doesn't really speak to particular demographics – there is no gender lens, and no generational lens; it speaks a bit to farmers, health sector, to businesses and to particular types of government/authorities.	New second paragraph: This Strategy is for people across the Grampians Region – individuals, groups, and agencies...	
	Health and wellbeing	There is no real domestic/household related information – presumably aspects of this will be addressed via health and wellbeing sector and emergency management; there is not a lot that provides guidance for individuals to take ownership/action or even to be specifically aware of risks and opportunities that are applicable to them. It's a bit dis-empowering in this respect – agriculture will take care of food security, water authorities in association with other land managers will take care of water security, emergency services is also largely removed from day-to-day household life and the everyday individual. There is some emphasis on community leadership but little direction on how the regional 'actors' in the Grampians region will ensure everyone understands their climate risks and adaptation opportunities.	Now includes an explicit reference to section 7 of the <i>Situation Analysis</i> (which tackles these issues in significant depth).	
	Implementation	There is also no 'go to' information point emphasised. One tiny sentence at the end of the strategy tells people they can register for updates via Adapt Grampians. It doesn't inform people of the purpose of the Adapt Grampians website and any future information that may be available through that channel.	New sentence added to third paragraph, so the outreach intentions are more explicit: For people who want to know more...	

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Response A	Overall	Here are some initial comments. I will comment further in my submission which should also include some comment regarding the <i>Situation Analysis</i> . (I haven't read the SA yet.)		It is worth noting that the <i>Situation Analysis</i> does indeed address many of the concerns raised in Response A.
		Leadership is an important factor – it is touched on in a couple of themes but not highlighted as a necessary ingredient for successful adaptation.	Page 11: New sentence in second paragraph: This organic and dispersed understanding of leadership...	
		Transformative action is required – again, this is touched on in a couple of themes and is also outlined in the <i>Situation Analysis</i> but is not highlighted in the strategy.	Unclear what 'transformative action' means (or does not mean) in this context. The Strategy means change.	
		Urgency and the incredibly short timeframes for action – the strategy alludes to this and recognises failure to adapt as being detrimental, but the strategy does not give prominence to the rapid action that is essential for best outcomes; there is no sense of urgency.	This appears to be an argument for mitigation, more than adaptation. The Strategy and the <i>Situation Analysis</i> call for major and rapid change, with effort starting immediately.	
		Cooperation and a coordinated approach is highlighted. (e.g. included in the strategy goals) but it's not clear from the strategy how coordination or collaborative action will occur. (As it is another essential ingredient for successful adaptation outcomes to occur, how will greater cooperation be ensured?)	Page 29 New lead paragraph: The Victorian Government is committed to the climate adaptation challenge...	

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Response A	Overall	Accessible information and knowledge sharing – there is little about how people should remain informed about relevant climate adaptation information. Who is producing the information and how will the Grampians region ensure that people are able to access appropriate information?	Page 29 addresses these concerns directly.	
		The strategy is not particularly strategic. It is not a powerful strategy that has clear direction for strategic adaptation outcomes. This is largely because there is little specific information; many statements are general in nature, leaving it up to individuals and organisations to determine an appropriate strategic action without explicit guidance.	Here, Response A notes that it is a community-led Strategy (see especially page 11), but prefers that it be otherwise.	
		The need for Community cohesion, capacity building and wide-scale adoption of pro-future behaviours has been virtually ignored. It is mentioned only briefly and the strategy provides no direction or guidance around the Grampians context, leading opportunities or barriers to this.	See especially page 11, as revised.	
		Opportunities that are largely absent from the strategy (e.g. Infrastructure, education, transport). For example, new development and 'building back better' provide opportunities to improve outcomes through infrastructure design, rather than retro-fitting and trying to 'fix' or 'improve' what already exists. Transport systems in the region need to adapt in order to minimise disruptions such as damage to road infrastructure due to flood, fire, heat and dry conditions; with associated economic and social impacts (including detrimental health and wellbeing outcomes).	Fire and Flood themes now explicitly support the 'build back better' concept.	

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Response A	Overall	<p>Recommendations for what will follow the strategy (the next iteration):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be founded on current action and opportunities – look for linkages, opportunities and gaps. • Needs to be a co-owned strategic plan (co-owned and co-developed between government and non-government) that interlinks climate adaptation and mitigation. • Needs to fully integrate sectors and themes – the strategy does make some effort to acknowledge that there are connections between intended outcomes but generally, each theme and associated opportunities and barriers have been developed in isolation which diminishes the effectiveness of the strategy. 	<p>The Strategy and the <i>Situation Analysis</i> both now do these things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme sections are focused on current action and opportunities. • Introduction spells out the relationship between adaptation and mitigation in this Strategy. • Appendix 2 (Adaptation theme opportunities) shows that integrated systems thinking underpins this Strategy thoroughly. 	
Response B	Various locations	Youth perspective.	Numerous points addressed in response to submission 3, above.	See Submission 3, above.

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Response C	Water and Biodiversity	Continued introduction of trout into the higher stream to eradicate all of the native fish.	This comment is not explained in greater detail, so it is tricky to work out how the respondent intended to frame it as a problem specifically for climate adaptation.	
	Not specified	Parks still drives around in carbon generating vehicles. hypocrisy!!!	This comment is not explained in greater detail, so it is tricky to work out how the respondent intended to frame it as a problem specifically for climate adaptation.	
Response D	Grampians Region profile Page 11	The region profile could include demographic data about community members such as poverty, cultural and linguistic background, etc. The <i>Situation Analysis</i> includes information about median household incomes.	New sentence to cross-reference the Situation Analysis: <i>The Situation Analysis</i> sets out key demographic and economic features...	
	Goals, outcomes and indicators	Potential indicators to add include: average energy efficiency of housing stock in the region; tree canopy coverage; morbidity and mortality due to extreme heat; unmet demand for social services; rates of non- and under-insurance in disaster-prone areas.	Each of these suggested indicators has been incorporated, under outcomes 7, 13, 14, and 15.	

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Response D	Health and wellbeing Page 46	Leading opportunities could include empowering communities to grow local produce and improve their access to fresh and nutritious food. The <i>Situation Analysis</i> flags the 'generally higher rates of obesity and other chronic diseases, and lower life expectancy in parts of the Grampians region, in part due to limited access to healthy food in some places'.	This opportunity has been incorporated: Empower communities to grow local produce...	
	Implement- ation Page 49	Community service organisations could also be engaged to co-design communication about climate change with community members with low English language proficiency and low digital literacy. The <i>Situation Analysis</i> recommends 'community education about how to manage climatic extremes, general resilience programs, increasing access to and uptake of insurance, and building social capital and bolstering community organisations to enable cooperation and support.'	New sentence to spell this out: Also encouraged are community organisations who can help in the co-design...	
	Health and wellbeing Page 49	In terms of main barriers, a lack of funding for the community sector could be added because climate change will increase demand on their services. The <i>Situation Analysis</i> notes that 'the effect of climate change on the social determinants of health... will stretch the ability of community service organisations to meet these community needs.' (page 48). It also explains that 'many of these [community service organisations] will struggle to meet either the sharp demand caused by emergencies, or a steady increase in demand caused by slower-acting effects of climate change.'	New barrier listed: Resources available for the community sector...	
Response E	Page 6	Traditional Owner groups is Gunditj Mirring not Gunditj Mara.	Changed as suggested.	
	Page 19	In the connected habitats leading opportunity, suggest including biolinks.	Biolinks already listed as under way.	
	Page 19	Land use change could be more specific about impacts on biodiversity including wetland and grassland loss.	This is rightly a matter for the <i>Situation Analysis</i> .	

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Response E	Page 23	Sharing of cultural burning - should be 'cultural burning practice is led by Traditional Owners'. Actions already underway could include the VVP Aboriginal burning project with Wadawurrung.	Both changes made, as suggested.	
	Page 31	Could also include barriers around water diversion from river systems.	Incorporated new barrier: Practices of water diversion from river systems...	
	Page 2	The section 'who this document is for' helps to clarify the purpose of the document, which is good.	[Noted!]	
	Page 34	Outcome 5 is: Environmental watering objectives are met using alternate supplies, water conservation, efficiency measures, sharing frameworks and supply infrastructure. It is unclear how this is different from the status quo. Possible Reword - Environmental watering objectives are met using alternate supplies consumptive water en route, water conservation, efficiency measures, sharing frameworks, supply infrastructure and alternative supplies where safe to do so.	The observation is sharp, but the substantive changes around this outcome will come from achieving it more fully in the future – hence the two indicators listed for it.	
	Page 45	In scenario D: high emissions, not adapted, it says that displaced people and animals will need relocating. Relocation/translocation of species is an adaptation measure, and therefore belongs in scenarios a and b as a sign of best practice, not in D. And we are already doing it with plants, by using climate analogue provinces to source seed for use in our plantings. It is something we have in our draft RCS as a priority management direction right now.	Bullet point rephrased to clarify a distinction between strategically proactive relocations and remedially driven relocations: Displaced people and animals will need remedial (not strategically proactive) relocating.	
Response F	Not specified	Considering the strategy is already written, nothing the public writes will be considered.	No change proposed.	

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Response F	Not specified	As Climate change is a religion, Nobody is allowed to argue any points as all government representatives scream denier. Climate change is not science as you are allowed to put opposing points of view in science.	No change proposed.	
	Not specified	There is no point. The Grampians have been turned into a scrubland for the sole purpose of having large fires, as proven by past records since it was taken over by Park Vic. Also the management caused the massive amount of landslides in 2011. As a University lecturer in landscape evolution (9 years) my opinions are not wanted. The Book 'the Largest Estate' points out the problems. Considering the Grampians were six large grazing properties when first settled, the current management only want big fire as this is where they get their big budgets.	No change proposed.	
	Overall	A generally alarming an annoying promotion from a government that continues to log old growth forests despite the ecological sense of immediately ceasing such idiocy; the same government that conducted the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial and allows the annual barbaric duck shooting season.	No change proposed.	
	Grampians Region profile	I am astounded that the Southern Grampians Shire is omitted, entirely. I live ~25 km from the Gariwerd on the Wannon River which has it's headwaters in the Grampians and I'm not in 'the region' yet 130 kms away in the Wimmera is? Incidentally, I believe some of the Wannon River's flow is diverted to the Wimmera River; this fact may become critical to future species biodiversity here.	No change proposed.	

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Response F	Pages 19 and 45	<p>The contemporary and future health of this planet is at issue here so surely the ideal is to strive to preserve the remaining unique irreplaceable precious and pristine remnants from that beautiful world before this man-made mess? Change means nurturing nature's wonder, perpetually pillaging and plundering for money will make a hell we cannot survive.</p> <p>For an illustration of misdirection just read the two references to Eucalyptus (pages 19 and 45), our distinguished Australian native tree phrased in such negative tones of denigration.</p>	No change propose.	
	Biodiversity	I keep planting hundreds of threatened native Australian trees every year and I'm singularly unimpressed by the biodiversity aspect of your strategy.	No change proposed.	
Response G	Introduction	<p>It would be useful to highlight either in the introduction as part of the discussion around the delivery plan that engagement with local stakeholder will be vital to ensure that actions are creating multiple benefits, are managing potential perverse outcomes and have a social licence to operate.</p> <p>Wimmera CMA looks forward to working with the relevant stakeholder on delivering the plan.</p>	<p>New sentence added, incorporating most of the suggested language: A rich engagement with local stakeholders is vital...</p>	
Response H	Page 37	How it might be delivered in a timely fashion. Hepburn shire had a trail project funded 1500 days ago and have not commenced! I cannot see they can respond to climate change.	Without an explanation, it is hard to see how this response pertains directly to climate adaptation.	
	Not specified	Pursue the Creswick trails project.	Without an explanation, it is hard to see how this response pertains directly to climate adaptation.	

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2. RESPONSES TO COMMUNITY SURVEY ABOUT THE CONSULTATION DRAFT VERSION*

WHICH RESPONSE?	RELEVANT SECTION OF REPORT	CHANGES SUGGESTED	CHANGES MADE TO REPORT	ANY OTHER NOTES
Response H	Not specified	When will Creswick trails commence?	Without an explanation, it is hard to see how this response pertains directly to climate adaptation.	
Response I	Overall, and specifically page 11	<p>While I commend the ambition, aspects of the document are flawed and give an overly optimistic view of our capacity to deal with the impending climate variability. In one troubling example, the authors point to the idea derived from a CSIRO study that Ballarat's climate 'could be more like the current climate of Hamilton' by the 2050s. This way of looking at climate variability implies a linear shift, where temperatures slowly increase, and rainfall gently declines. It in no way accounts for the wild extremes that this may entail, including unprecedented droughts and devastating floods. One of the goals of the draft is described as prompting conversations to reduce the risks that will arise. A primary risk is underestimating the true potential for harm by erring on the side of optimism and doing far too little to arrest the cause.</p> <p>The two instances where it is stated without explanation that the weather will change in the manner referred to in my earlier comments (Horsham = Deniliquin and Hamilton = Ballarat) require more qualification and explanation. While the averages may reflect such a claim that may indicate (for example) a doubling followed by a halving of rainfall totals in any ten year period.</p>	<p>The comment drawing criticism here is a figurative statement, not literal. (The word 'like' makes this clear.)</p> <p>The Strategy document does not claim or imply a 'linear shift'.</p>	
Response J	Pages 14–31	The themes mix up the hazards and the impacts. Be good to show the risks by location, so high fire areas in the region, or how flooding is varied by different scenarios.	The themes are now clearly divided marked, either as 'hazards' or as 'adaptation focuses'. The <i>Situation Analysis</i> offers some of the further analysis this response has suggested.	

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