

Climate change and municipal public health and wellbeing planning

Grace Reilly – Project Officer, Climate and Health Team, DH

Vanora Mulvenna – Manager, Climate and Health Team, DH

Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance meeting

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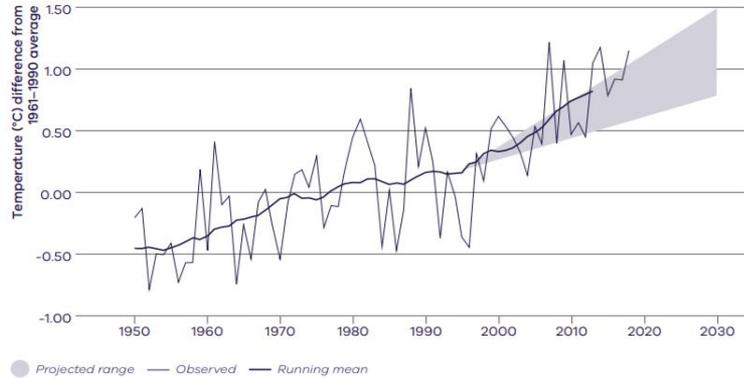
A threat and an opportunity

Climate change has been described as the greatest threat to public health in the 21st century. WHO 2015, Climate change and human health

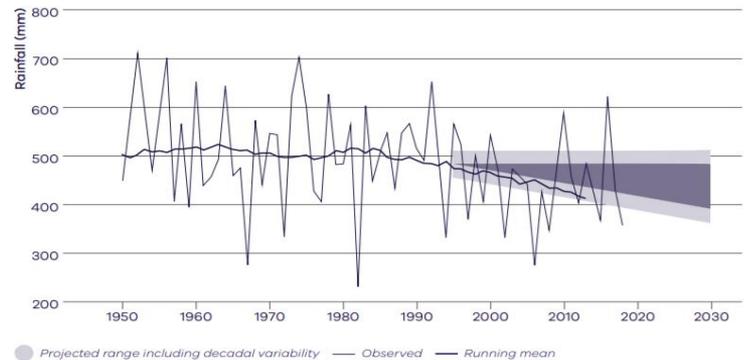
At the same time, tackling climate change has been described as the greatest global health opportunity. Watts et al. 2015, The Lancet, Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health

Climate change projections in Victoria

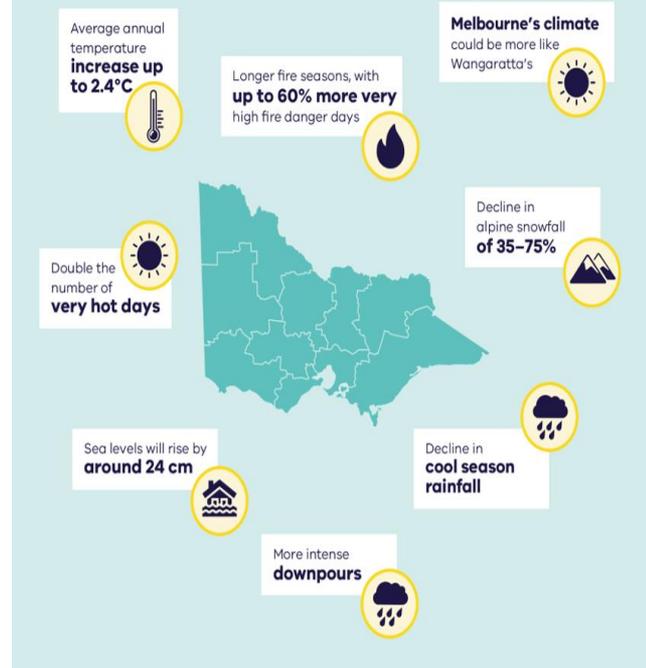
Observed temperature in Victoria is tracking towards the upper limit of projections



Observed winter rainfall in Victoria is tracking towards the drier end of projections



In the future Victoria can expect:

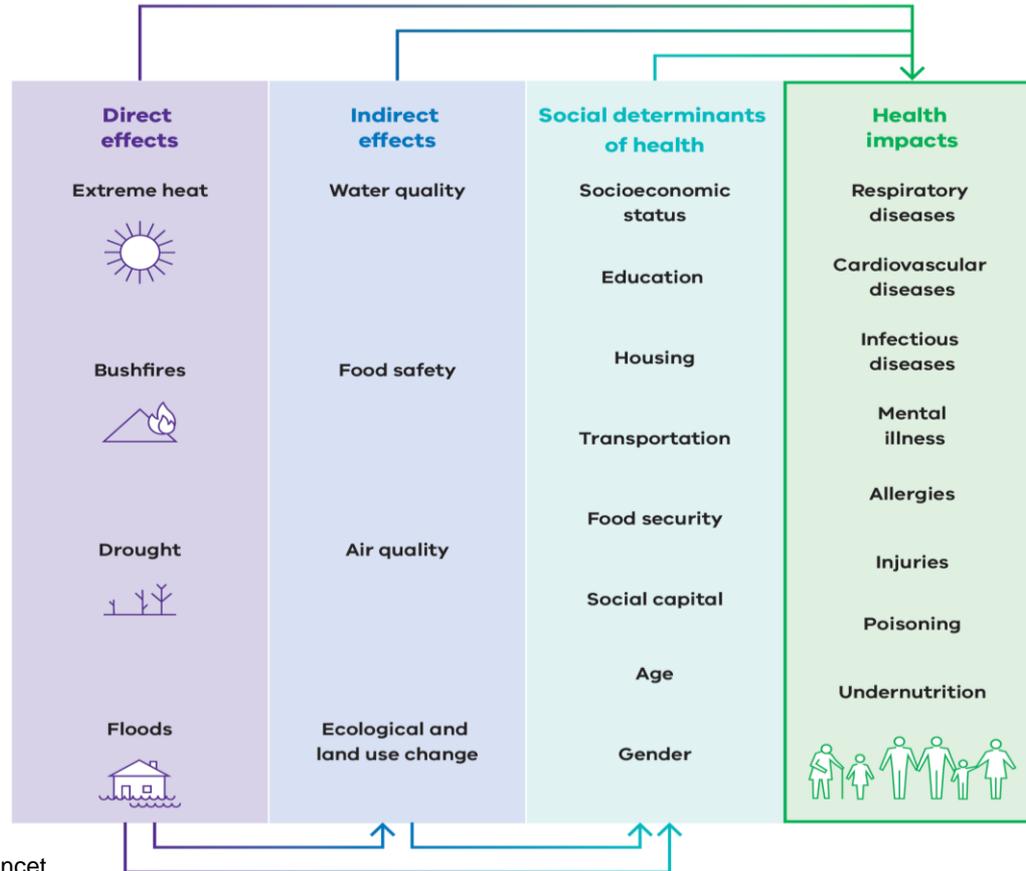


By 2050s under high emissions, compared to 1986-2005

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Source: DELWP 2019. *Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019*

Climate change impacts on health and wellbeing



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Adapted from Watts et al. 2015, *The Lancet*,
*Health and climate change: policy responses
to protect public health.*

Environmental determinants of health and SDGs

- Environmental determinants of health include physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all related behaviours that influence human health.
- Five key sustainable development goals address the environmental determinants of health and contribute directly and indirectly to health and wellbeing.



Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Roles and Responsibilities under Victorian legislation

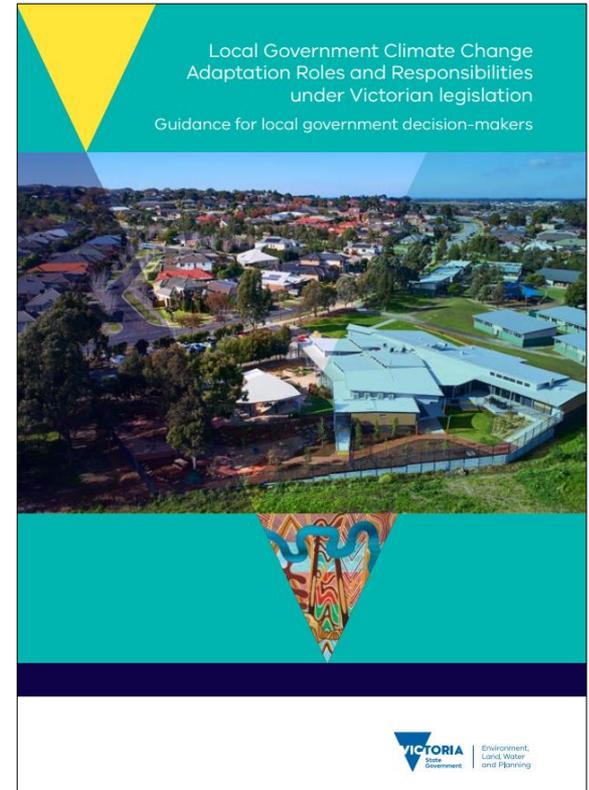
Guidance for local government decision-makers (DELWP 2020)

- Points to the key legislation supporting climate change adaptation decision making by local government in Victoria
- Provides practical advice to help meet the on-the-ground needs of Council staff.

Outlines responsibilities under the:

- *Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic)*
- *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*

Includes a checklist for decision makers, case studies and reference materials



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https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0/029/442964/Victorias-Climate-Science-Report-2019.pdf

Victorian legislation and policy

Local government is identified in the ***Climate Change Act 2017*** as a decision-maker that must consider climate change when preparing a municipal public health and wellbeing plan.

- Does your MPHWP or integrated Council Plan include goals and strategies concerning climate change mitigation or adaptation in relation to public health and wellbeing matters?

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 s26(3): In preparing a municipal public health and wellbeing plan a council must have regard to the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

- Councils are encouraged to concentrate their next municipal public health and wellbeing plans on the four focus areas of the ***Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019–2023***

Prioritising actions to tackle climate change and its impacts on health

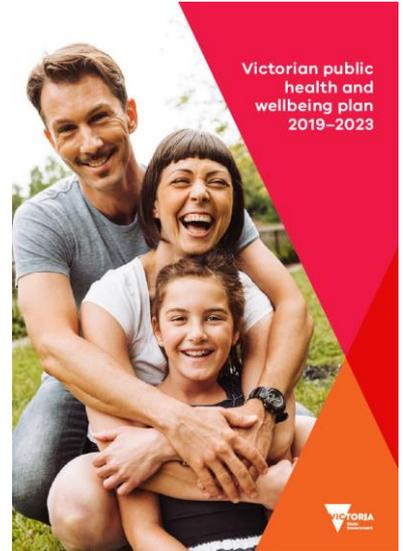
Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019-2023

Focus areas:

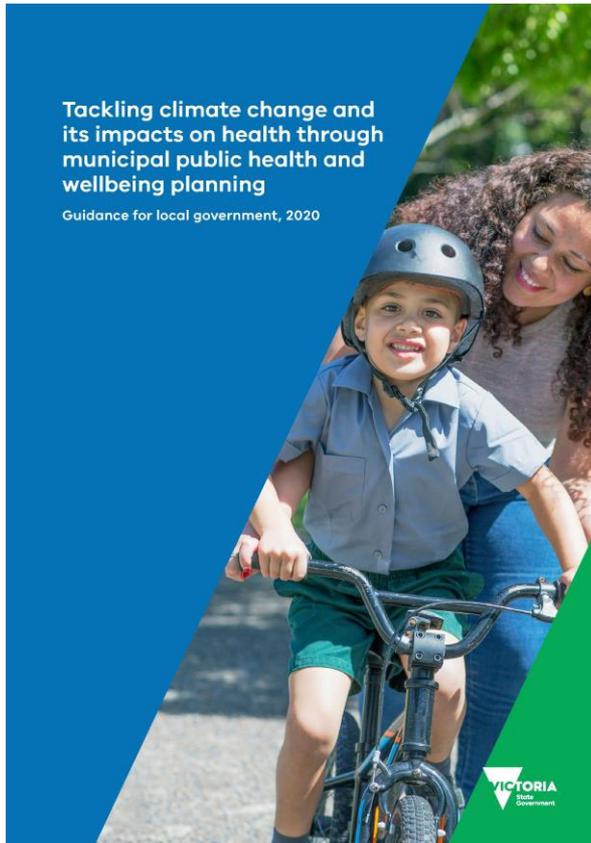
- ❖ Increasing healthy eating
- ❖ Increasing active living
- ❖ Reducing tobacco-related harm
- ❖ **Tackling climate change and its impact on health**

What we want to achieve

- ✓ Resilient and safe communities that are adapting to the public health impacts of climate change
- ✓ Decreased health impacts associated with climate change
- ✓ Increased action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and realise associated health co-benefits



Supporting resource – Guidance for local government



Example strategy theme areas

- Leadership, governance and council assets
- Communication, engagement and capacity building
- Emergency management
- Environmental health services, surveillance and monitoring
- Built and natural environments
- Healthy and sustainable food systems
- Improving mental health and wellbeing and preventing family violence

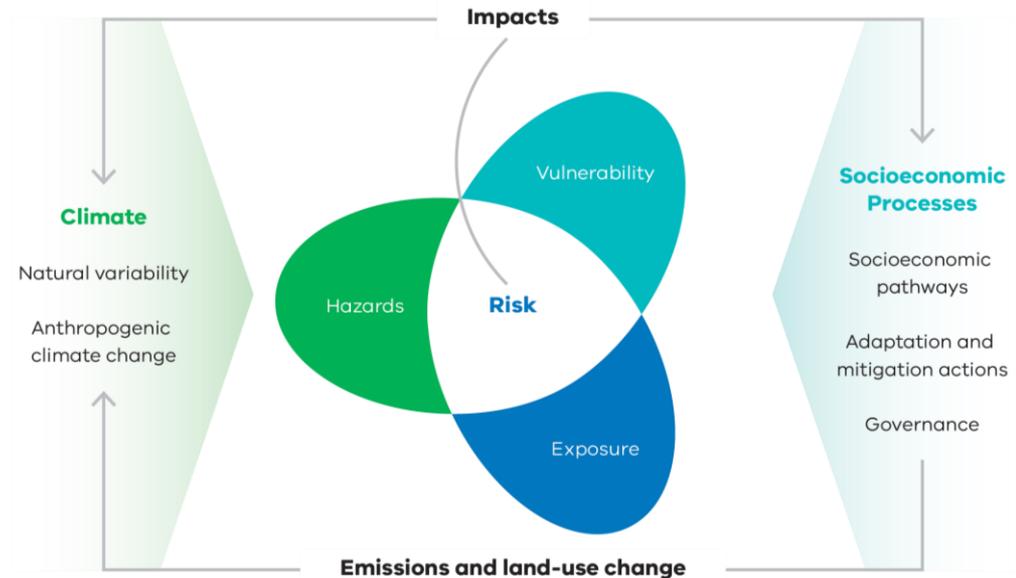
A **three page summary document** also available for download from the Municipal public health and wellbeing planning and climate change page via www.health.vic.gov.au

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Guidance and MPHWP process

- Pre-planning
- Municipal scanning
 - Example exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity indicators
- Engagement
- Planning decisions and implementation
 - Example strategies
- Evaluation
 - Example indicators, targets and measures

Framework of the risks of climate variability



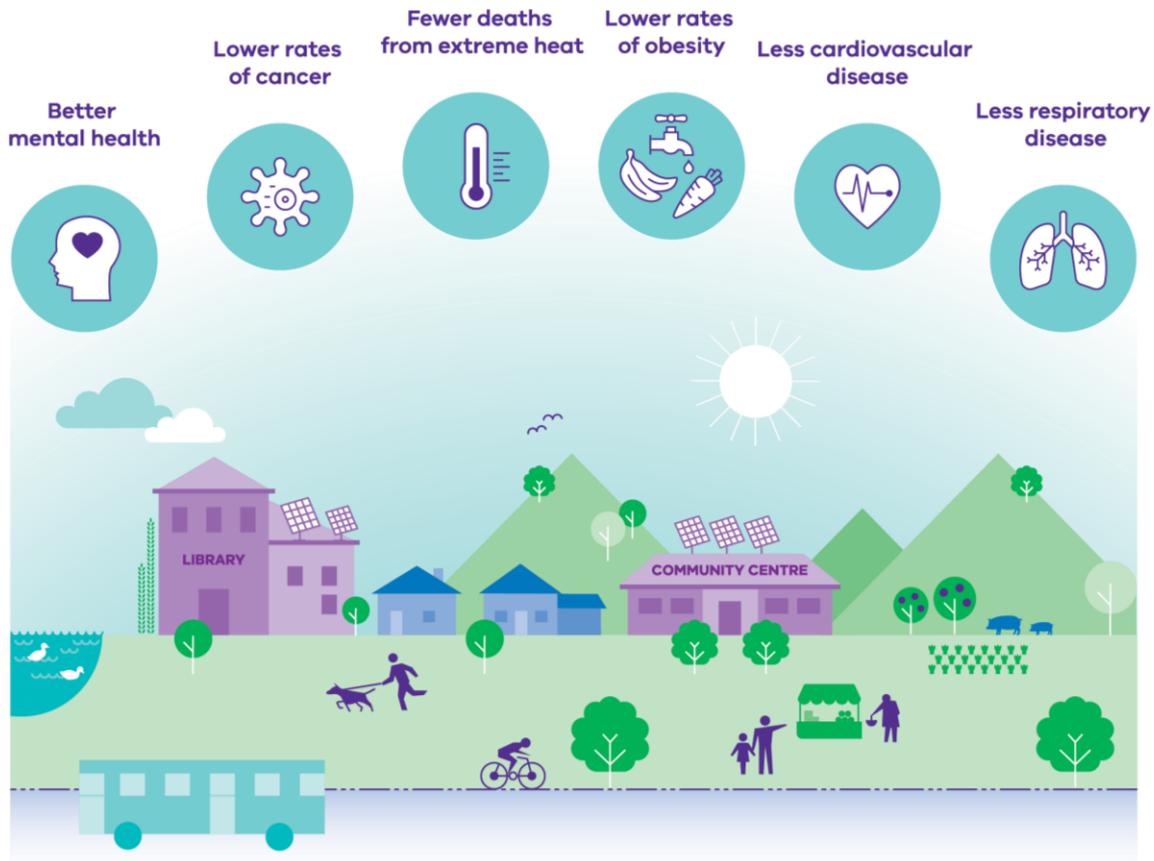
Example strategy table

Table 9: Examples of healthy and sustainable food system strategies

Example roles and business areas	Example strategies
<p><i>Councils, as providers of services, programs and facilities, can promote health and wellbeing to the community in a variety of areas including healthy and sustainable food systems.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and wellbeing, health promotion• Early years, youth, aged and social planning• Urban agriculture• Open space planning and design• Community services• Community facilities• Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with the community to raise awareness about the benefits of healthy and sustainable food choices and practices on mitigating climate change and staying healthy at the same time• Promote and support participation in home gardening activities and community gardens, which help people to stay healthy and active and increase community connection• Expand spaces to grow food locally, including new community gardens, to foster more resilient food systems and reduce the emissions associated with food transport• Develop programs and partnerships with local food providers to encourage environmentally sustainable business practices and to improve community access to healthy and sustainable food choices• Consider the impacts of climate change and sustainability in food waste management – for example, through education programs and diversion of food waste away from landfill

Climate change and health co-benefits

Health benefits



Interventions

Use renewable energy and increase energy efficiency

Promote active and public transport

Increase blue-green infrastructure

Eat locally produced fruit and vegetables

Less food from animal sources

Co-benefits

Fewer fossil fuels

Reduced damp and humidity

Thermal comfort

Less noise

Improved air quality

Reduced heat in urban areas

Lower CO₂ emissions

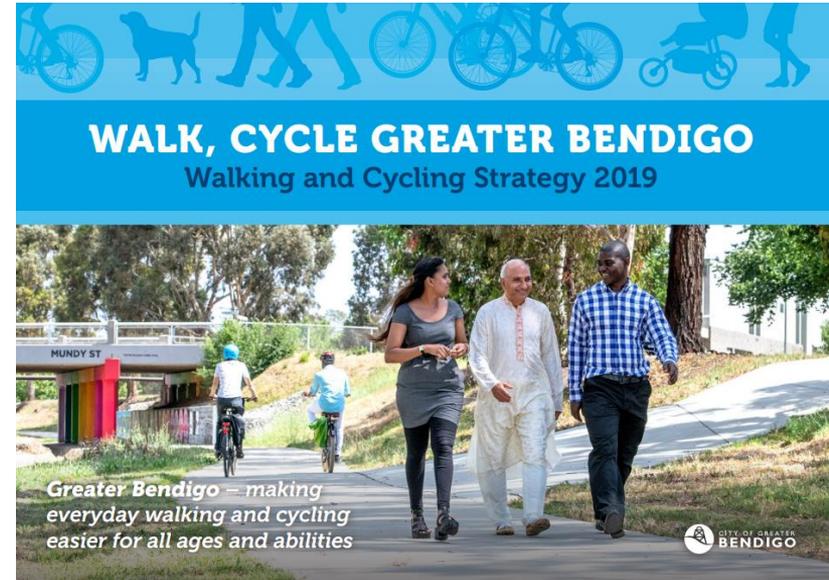
Less deforestation

Reduced livestock production

Fewer methane emissions

Case study: Walk, cycle Greater Bendigo strategy

- Walking and cycling are the community's most simple forms of independent transport and popular recreation.
- These are accessible activities with significant physical and mental health as well as environmental benefits.
- Infrastructure projects:
 - University to City Centre walking and cycling route
 - linking towns to Bendigo
 - developing a 25-kilometre Regional City Trail
- Connected strategies:
 - *Greening Greater Bendigo strategy 2020–2070*
 - *Greater Bendigo public space plan*
 - *Bendigo city centre plan*



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Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

- Regional adaptation strategies are being developed across Victoria, coordinated and funded by DELWP
- Climate Ready Hume is a three-year program developing a Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, whilst supporting local projects, education and awareness on climate change adaptation.
- The draft Hume Strategy is currently open for feedback on the Engage Vic website, closes Tuesday 25 May



THEME 1: PREPARING FOR AND RECOVERING FROM EMERGENCIES



THEME 2: CARING FOR OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



THEME 3: EMBRACING RENEWABLE ENERGY



THEME 4: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING



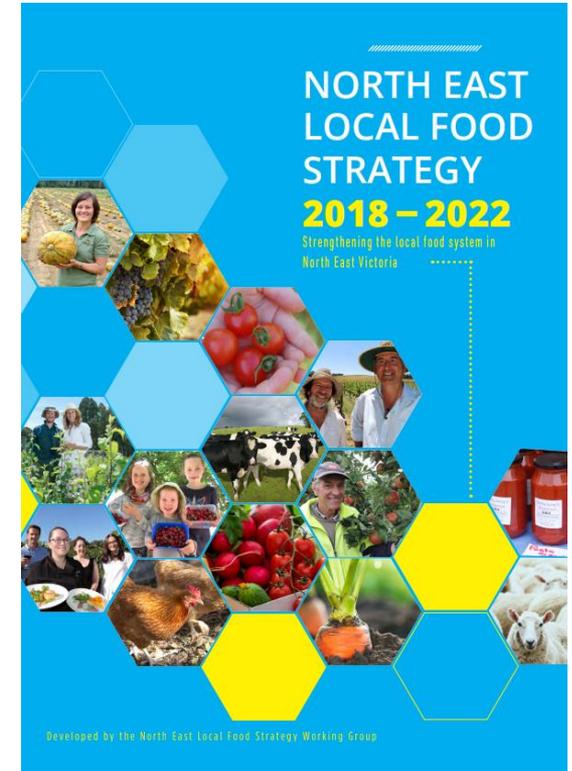
THEME 5: ENHANCING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



THEME 6: STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

Case study: North East Local Food Strategy

- Developed in response to an identified need for a collaborative, cross-sector approach to ensure a sustainable, resilient and equitable food system
- Geographic scope: Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga
- Five Aspirational Goals, including:
 - #4 - “All community members have access to fresh local produce, understand the benefits of a strong local food system and make informed and healthy food choices.”



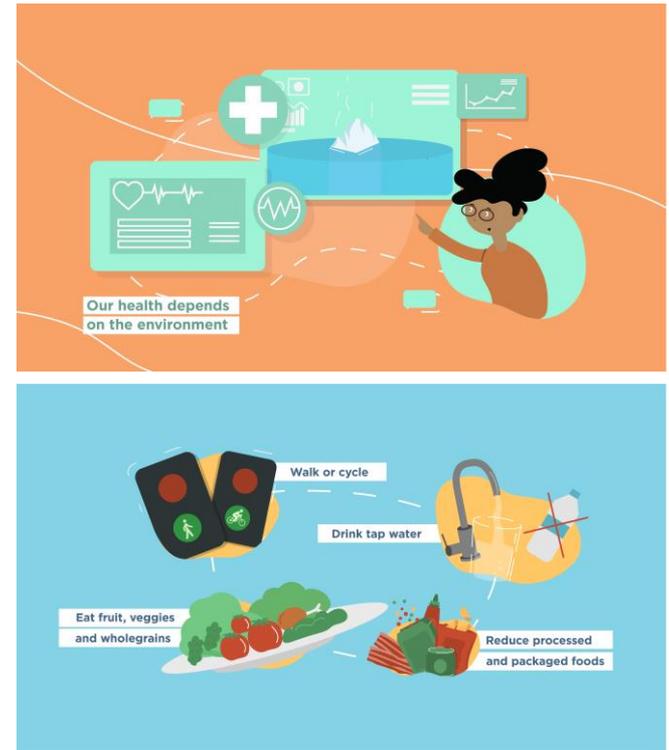
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https://gatewayhealth.org.au/images/brochures/NE_Local_Food_Strategy_2018_2022.pdf

So how can we support the community to stay healthy in a changing climate and reduce their impact?

Better Health Channel climate change and health resources

- Encourage actions for community members to stay healthy in a changing climate
- Encourage actions community members can take to reduce their impact and improve their health at the same time



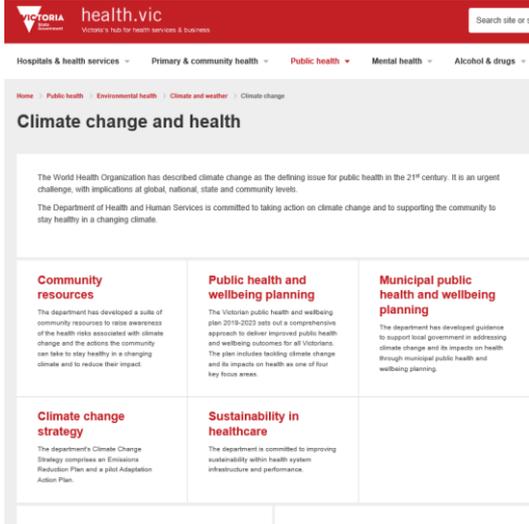
Conclusion

- Climate change is the defining health issue of the 21st century
- Health effects are being felt today
- There are opportunities as well as risks
- While significant inroads have been made, much more work is needed
- Councils have a critical role to play in reducing climate change and supporting community adaptation to the impacts of climate change

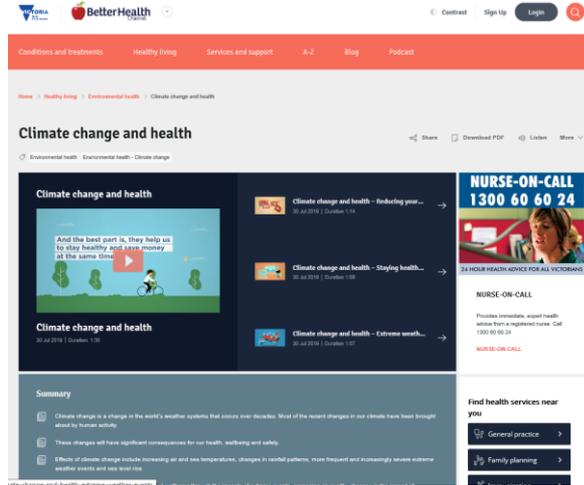


Source: www.medium.com

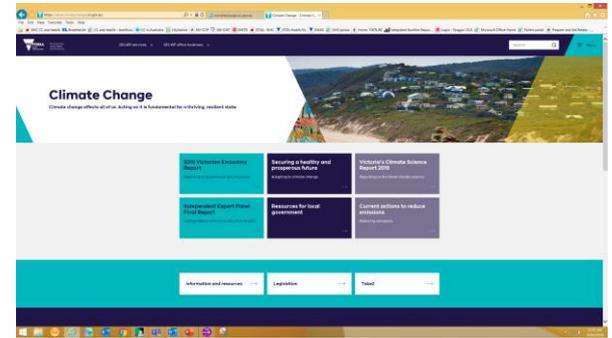
Further information



www.health.vic.gov.au



www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au



www.climatechange.vic.gov.au

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