

# Victorian Climate Resilient Councils

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# Project background & introductions

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## **Project Lead**

Fran MacDonald – WAGA / Brimbank

Daniel Mack – Wyndham

## **Project Officers**

Heather McListon – Wyndham

Andrea Fernandez – Wyndham

# Purpose of today's session

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Provide you with the program overview



Present the proposed program structure and examples of models



Receive your feedback and input

# Victorian Climate Resilient Councils Program

## What is it?

The Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) will be a climate change adaptation program for Victorian local governments. It will guide councils through a clear step-by-step process to manage climate risks and embed climate change adaptation. The program will provide:



Clear structured process to accelerate responses



Coordinate existing tools, expertise, and resources



Leadership engagement



Build capacity across the sector to implement sustained adaptation responses



Flexibility to meet the needs and local contexts of individual councils

## Why is it needed?

Multiple reviews and inquiries have found that the LG sector needs more support so we are prepared to adapt to climate change (E.g., Local Government Climate Review, 2021)

Our preliminary discussions with local government officers confirmed these findings and highlighted:



Lack of support and funding for more sustained, strategic climate change adaptation



Inequity in resourcing and capacities between councils and communities



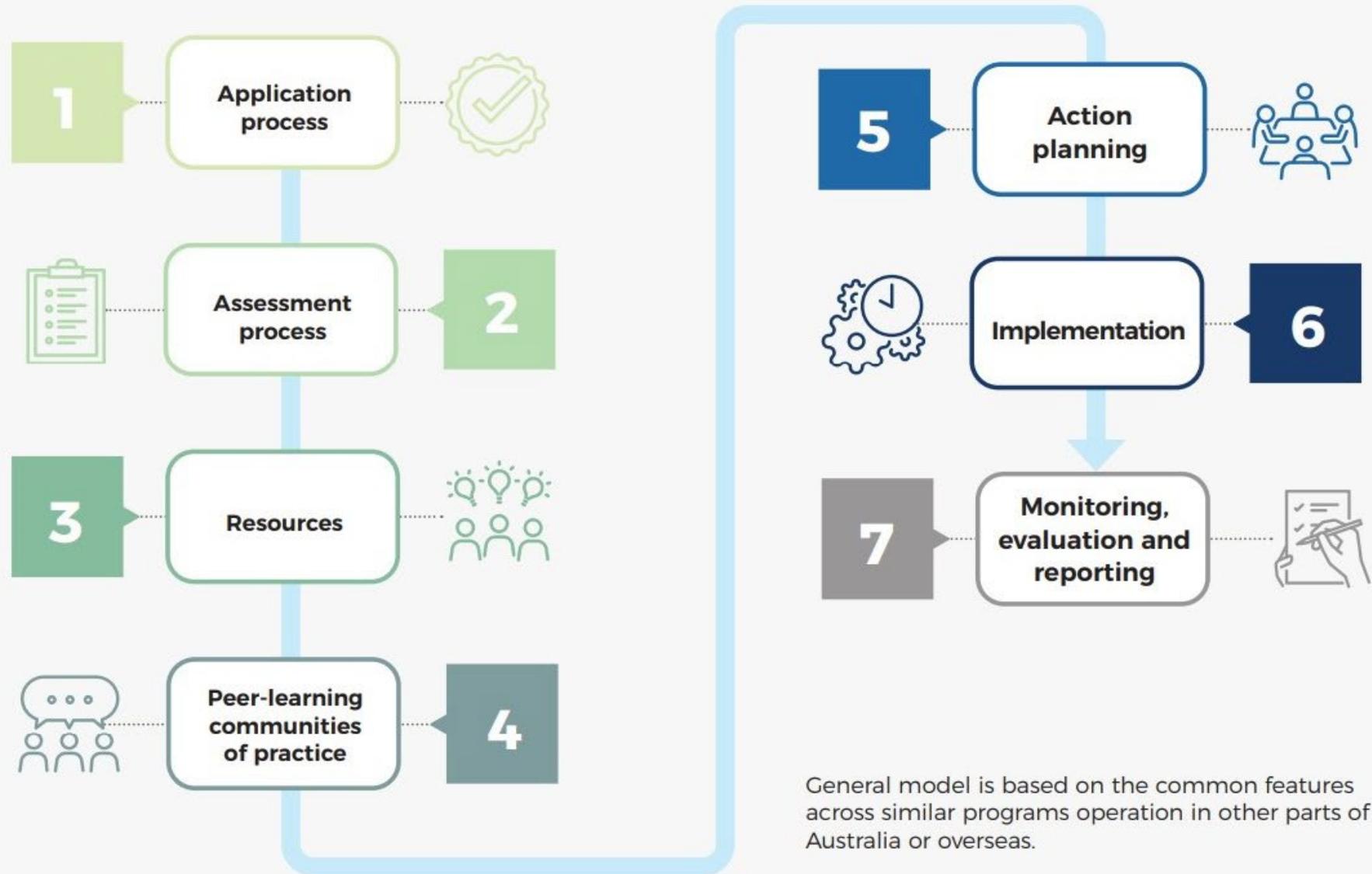
Climate risk management is not being prioritised or embedded across councils



A lack of clear guidance to help manage complexity

For full details about the program, visit the [Victorian Climate Resilient Councils Program website](#)

# Proposed program structure



General model is based on the common features across similar programs operation in other parts of Australia or overseas.

# Results and discussion

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## Survey results: Rural and regional

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Strong support for a program from rural and regional councils: 90%

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Support for general model proposed: 100%

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Current work: Adaptation plans or strategy and Heat wave plans (60%). Only 30% had done a cc risk assessment. 40% on all other actions

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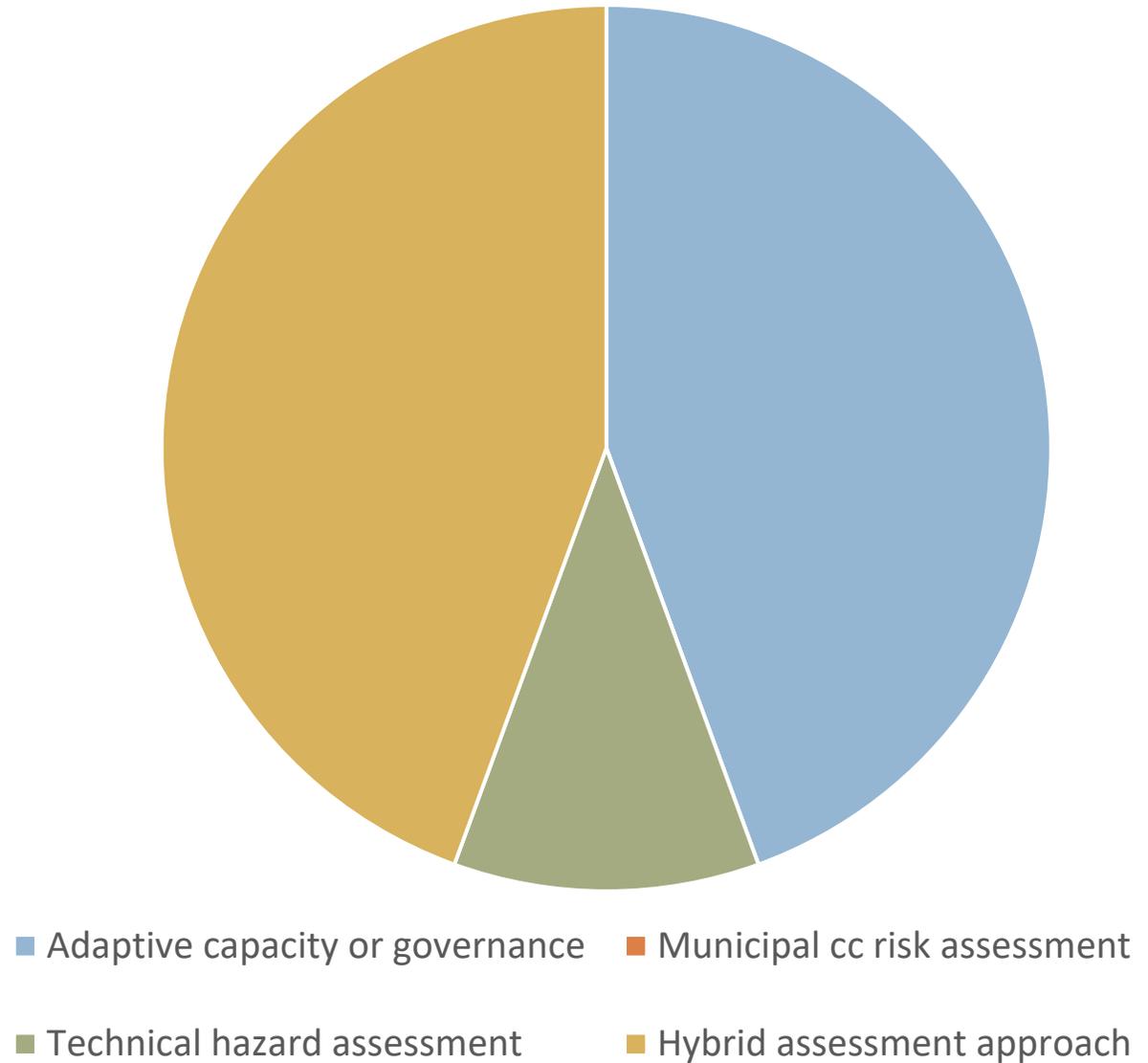
Biggest barrier: Limited resourcing  
Other barriers were lack of support and funding for more sustained response; limited capacities (skills, knowledge); lack of prioritisation.

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Key preferred audience: 30% Sust; 30% senior leadership; 20% Risk and governance; 20% all the above

Survey results:  
Rural and  
regional

Preferred assessment type



# Further feedback from GMCA

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How might this program best help you overcome adaptation 'sticking points' within your council organisation?

How could the program best support rural and regional councils given resourcing is the biggest barrier? E.g. what existing processes can we link with or enhance to reduce duplication and provide access and support?

What's most important for you regarding the VCRC?

# What's next?

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Complete this stage of consultation



Funding the next stage of work (application outcome in July?)



Report on consultation findings: May / June

# What's next?

## 2-year development project

**Purpose:** To establish VCRC and support councils to prepare for, manage and reduce increased disaster risk of heatwaves/extreme heat, storms and other climate change hazards. focusing

**Lead:** WAGA

**Partners:** Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, 'How Well Are We Adapting' subscriber councils

**Work plan:**

1. Develop program model – including governance structure, partners, participants
2. Seek and confirm support, partnerships and funding commitments
3. Key projects – guide to undertaking adaptive capacity assessment; trial climate vulnerability assessments with MEMPCs, community of practice for MEMPCs, HWAWA incorporated into VCRC
4. Evaluation and set-up for future

**Dates:** August 2022 – July 2024 (depending on funding agreement)

**Funding:**

\$235,000 committed in-kind and cash by VGAs and HWAWA councils

\$235,000 requested from EMV ('State Priorities' grant). Other grant opportunity: EMV 'Risk and Resilience' grant.

# Thanks

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**For more info, contact:**

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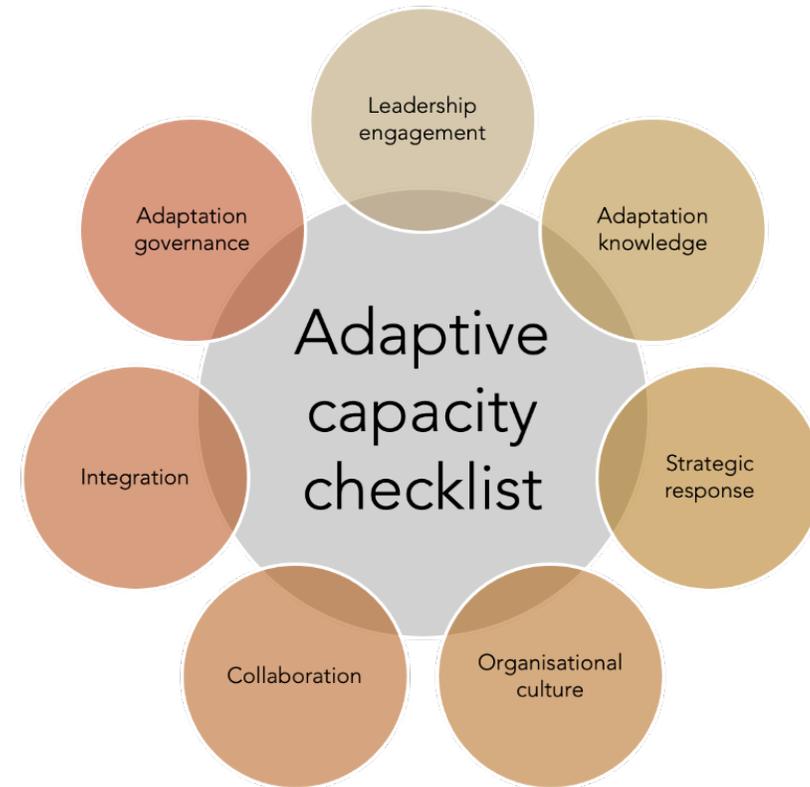
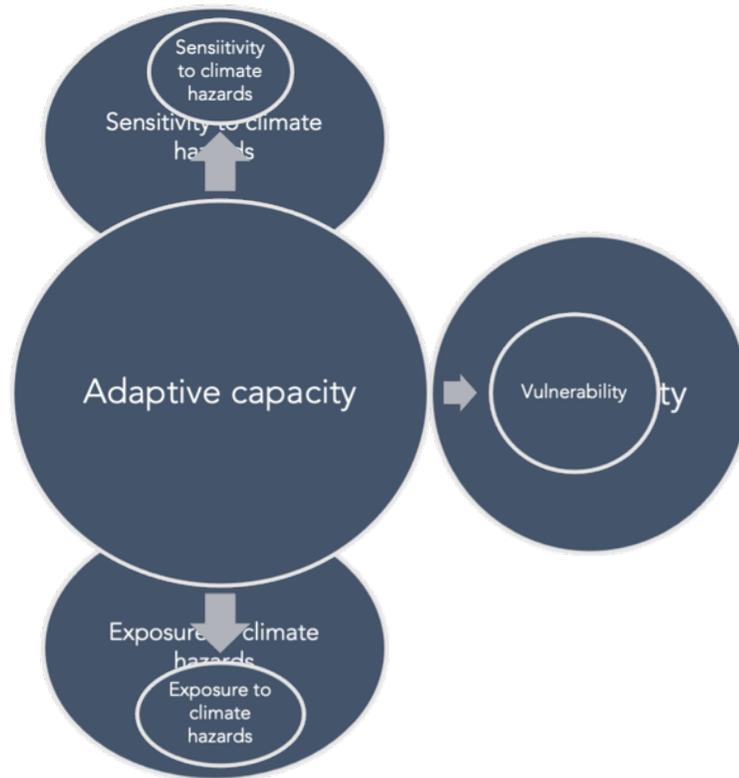
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# Program component: Assessment type

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1. What type of assessment process would be most valuable to your council?
  - I. Adaptive capacity / governance assessment
  - II. Municipal climate risk assessment
  - III. Climate hazard assessment
  - IV. Other?

# Adaptive capacity and governance



# Municipal climate risk assessments

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A first-pass risk screening provides a straightforward low-cost screening of exposure to climate change risk based on readily-available data, or expert opinion.

Used to:

- Determine whether more detailed assessment required
- Seek a social and organisation licence to act
- Frame your adaptation approach

A second-pass risk assessment takes a standard risk-based approach, using national data and locally available information and expert knowledge.

Used to:

- Identify how climate change may increase existing risks or create new ones.
- Prioritise areas where action may be required.
- Generates a risk register that can be used to identify adaptation options and opportunities.

# Technical hazard / vulnerability assessment

For a particular prioritised sector, service, or infrastructure.

Used to:

- Develop a detailed estimation of the rate of change (when the risk will cross a tolerable threshold and require action)
- Determine extent and timing of impact
- Implement a particular adaptation response where more detailed data is required to inform decision making. E.g., Sea level rise impact on coastal assets.



# Assessment trade-offs

Trade-offs	Capacity / Governance	Municipal risk	Climate hazard
<b>Data-richness</b>	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Resource requirement</b>	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Accessibility</b>	Wide	Moderate	Limited
<b>Technical support</b>	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Applicability</b>	High	High	Discrete