

Proposal: How Well Are We Adapting?

Summary

This project will develop a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (ME&R) tool for climate change adaptation by local governments across Victoria.

It builds on the successful *How Well Are We Adapting* tool developed by and for the WAGA councils with the input of expert research and development from RMIT University (Centre for Urban Research), Federation University (Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation) and Net Balance Foundation.

This project will:

- » broaden the scope of the current tool to cover all council operations
- » expand the availability of the current tool to all Victorian councils
- » research how to embed climate adaptation indicators in local government.

Methods

The project will:

- » **Develop a conceptual framework for monitoring climate change adaptation responses by Victorian local governments**, based on the framework developed by WAGA for its own region. The framework will inform reporting to two key audiences: council staff, including executives, and local communities. Indicators will reference resilience criteria and measure service vulnerability or resilience, institutional capacity, budget and finance requirements, participation and awareness of relevant stakeholders.
- » **Develop a full set of indicators, and associated data collection and analysis processes**, to monitor across local government services and operations. These would include indicator sets in the following theme areas:
 - a. Community wellbeing and emergency management and Open space and water security** (already developed, to be extended to all Victorian councils)
 - b. Assets and infrastructure, Planning, building and regulation and Governance and council service delivery** (to be developed with participating councils)
- » **Extend and update the online ME&R tool developed for 'How Well Are We Adapting'** for all participating





Victorian councils, including the public interface, internal reporting and data collection areas

- » **Research how best to embed the framework and the indicators in local government**
- » **Research how to engage the community on climate change risks, impacts and effective responses through use of the tool**

Benefits

The tool will:

- » Help Victorian local governments track how they are managing or responding to climate change
- » Monitor and forecast the impacts of climate on council operations
- » Communicate with the community about local climate vulnerability and council action
- » Assess the effectiveness of actions and inform future actions to lead to effective climate adaptation and avoid maladaptation.

The project will build on a tool already developed and tested by and for local government, with the direct engagement and participation of officers who will benefit from ME&R on climate adaptation across council service areas.

Proposal

Victoria's greenhouse alliances and RMIT University are developing a funding proposal for the project that could seek at least \$160,000 from the Australian Research Council (ARC) as well as a funding contribution from the Victorian

Government through the Department of Environment (DELWP).

Partners must contribute cash or in-kind or both as follows:

- » Cash contributions: projects with 30% cash contribution have a higher than average rate of success.
- » In-kind contributions: human resources; analytical or other services; access to facilities, equipment, database or software; equipment, materials, consumables; patents and licenses; travel expenses.

This will require a total cash contribution from all partners of \$40,000 plus an additional \$120,000 in in-kind contribution. The project will provide one EFT Project Officer (which could be two part-time Project Officers) plus two PhD students embedded in local government to develop the framework, the indicators and assist in implementing the ME&R process itself, over three years.

We are seeking small annual cash contributions from participating councils of minimum \$1,500 per council per year for 3 years plus in-kind support.

Timing

A funding application will be submitted to the ARC in 2017, so councils are requested to confirm their participation and in principle contributions by Friday 1 September.