

SEGRA 2011

Beyond the politics and science: addressing the social and equity impacts of climate change through the 'Liveable & Just' Toolkit

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Victorian Local Governance
Association**



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A toolkit for local government to address the social and equity impacts of climate change



the Liveable and Just Toolkit

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Global doom and gloom

Local impacts

Who gets hit hardest?

Responses:

- mitigation vs adaptation
- global vs local



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Climate change:
a ‘wicked problem’

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‘Super wicked problems’

have additional characteristics:

- Time is running out.
- No central authority.
- Those seeking to solve the problem are also causing it.
- Hyperbolic discounting occurs

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Are you dejected yet?

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The Liveable and Just Toolkit...

a *good* response

to a *wicked* problem...



A path forward, not a solution

- A wicked problem demands a good response...
- Not 'one size fits all': responsive to local impacts
- Aimed at the most vulnerable
- Designed to address multiple needs - good value for effort

1 Addressing social and equity impacts of climate change: The case for local government action



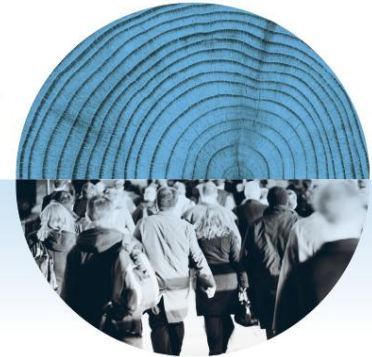
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2 Reducing vulnerability: Strategies for local government to identify and help reduce vulnerability to climate change



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3 Engaging communities: Tips for effective and inclusive climate change community engagement



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4 Building resilience: Ideas for local government to strengthen community resilience to climate change



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- Why focus on social and equity impacts?
- What are they?
- How do they affect local communities?

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“Climate change will have its greatest effect on those who have the least access to the world’s resources and those who have contributed least to its cause. Without mitigation and adaptation, it will increase health inequity especially through negative effects on the social determinants of health in the poorest communities.” Costello et al. “Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change”, *The Lancet*, Vol. 373, 2009

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Which translates as:

“The same poor buggers get shafted every time.”

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Climate change has a wide range of impacts on community wellbeing and raises a number of equity concerns.

Many, if not all, local government activities are affected.

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Many, if not all, local government activities are affected.

home and community care (HACC) programs

maternal and child health services, family and children's services, disability services, migrant and indigenous services

public health planning and services

emergency planning, fire prevention plans, floods & storms

maintenance of roads, bridges, walking and bike paths, stormwater management

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Climate change has a wide range of impacts on community wellbeing and raises a number of equity concerns.

land use management & planning schemes

support for tourism, agriculture and area vitality, local economic development

leisure and recreation services

reducing energy usage of council buildings and operations

waste management

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There is a clear case for action by local governments and local communities.

1. Core local government business
2. Doing things better, not doing more things
3. Partnerships with community
4. Seeking win-win (climate & social justice) outcomes has benefits
5. Local government not alone, but critical

1

Addressing social and equity impacts of climate change:
The case for local government action



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What about the risk of acting unnecessarily?



CLIMATE SUMMIT

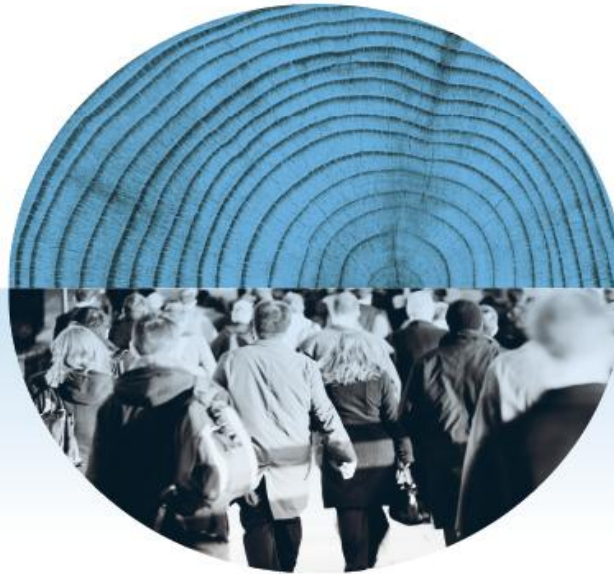
WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.



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2 Reducing vulnerability: Strategies for local government to identify and help reduce vulnerability to climate change



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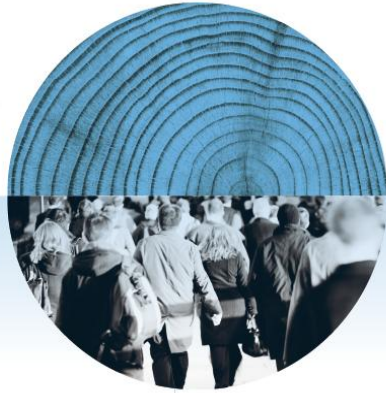
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Drilling a little deeper: understanding vulnerability

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Climate change impacts bring new vulnerabilities, but can also exacerbate existing vulnerabilities

- **Short term: specific events and emergencies**
- **Long term: economic disparities exacerbated by fuel & food price rises**

Potential impact [risk]

< Exposure >	Almost certain	Major	Huge	Horrendous
	Likely	Major	Huge	Horrendous
	50/50	Moderate	Major	Huge
	Fairly unlikely	Minor	Moderate	Major
Almost impossible				

< Sensitivity >

Low Medium High Extreme

[number affected]
[recovery period]

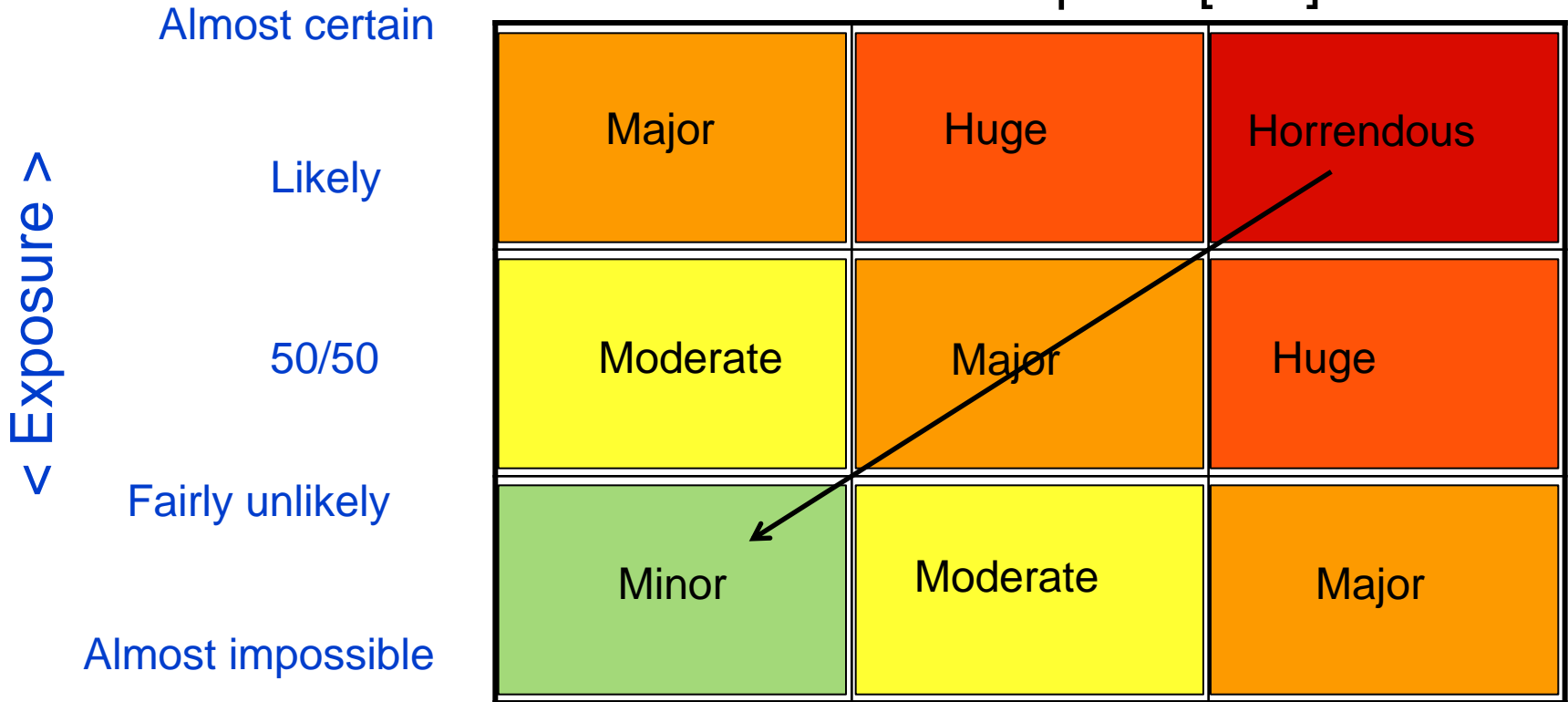
some
days

many
weeks

most
months

all
years

Potential impact [risk]



< Sensitivity >

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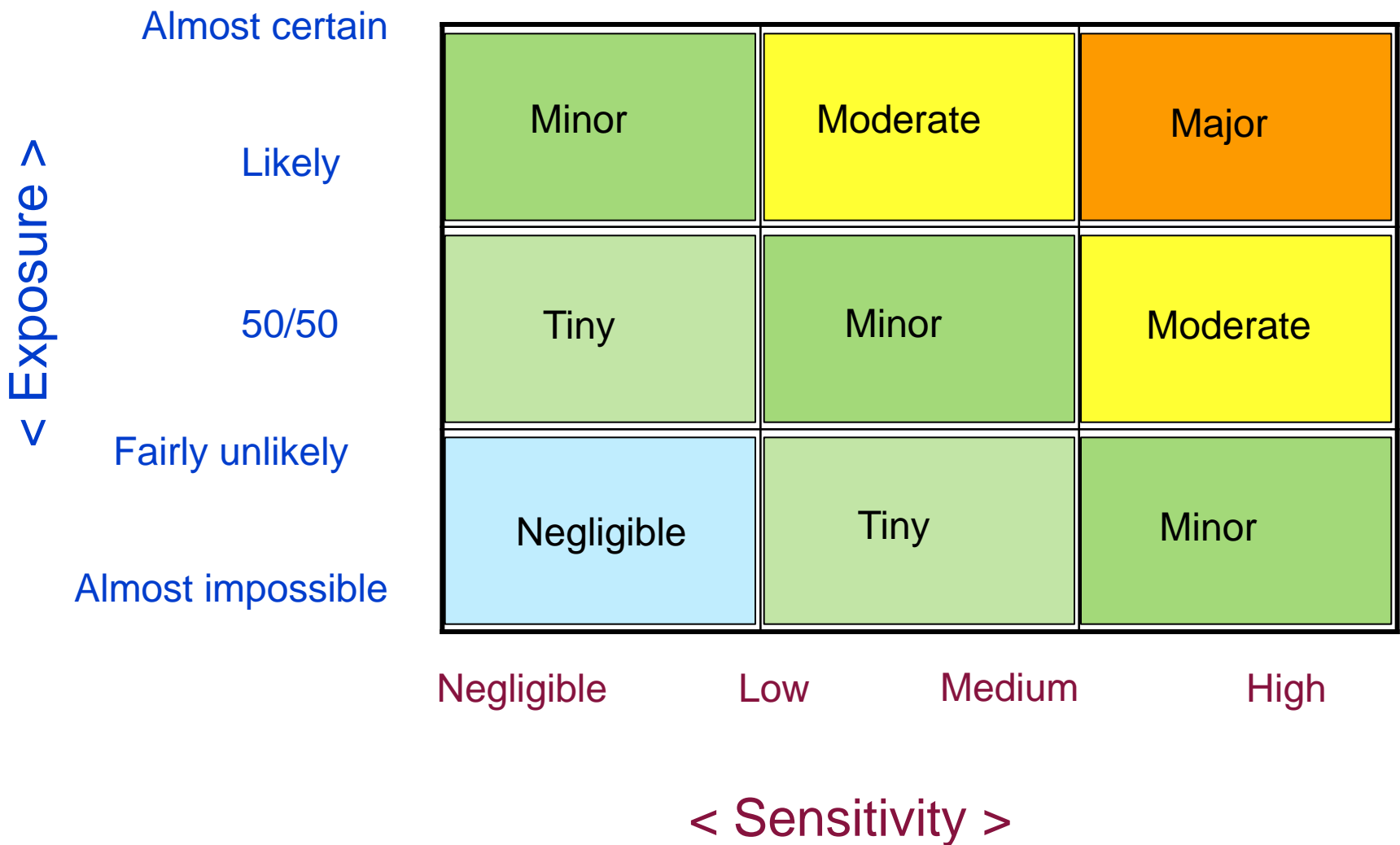
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< Exposure >	Almost certain	Moderate	Major	Huge
	Likely	Moderate	Major	Huge
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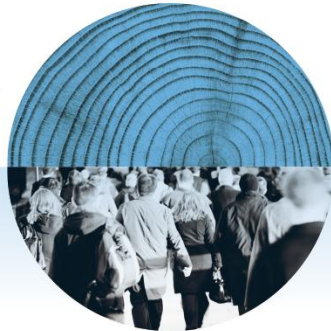
Low	Medium	High	Extreme
Negligible	Low	Medium	High
few	some	many	most
days	weeks	months	years

***[number affected]
[recovery period]

< Sensitivity >



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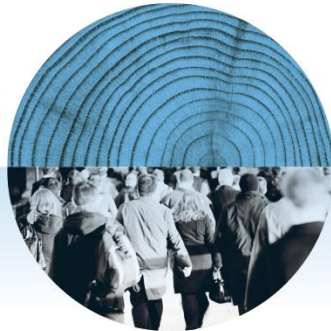


Where do we start?

Data: the who and the what

- Work with community members and other organisations to align planning and create joint vulnerability reduction strategies

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Who is most vulnerable in your area?

Vulnerable to What [climate variable]	Who [individuals, groups]	How vulnerable [give a rating]	Why [surface cause]	Why [underlying factors]

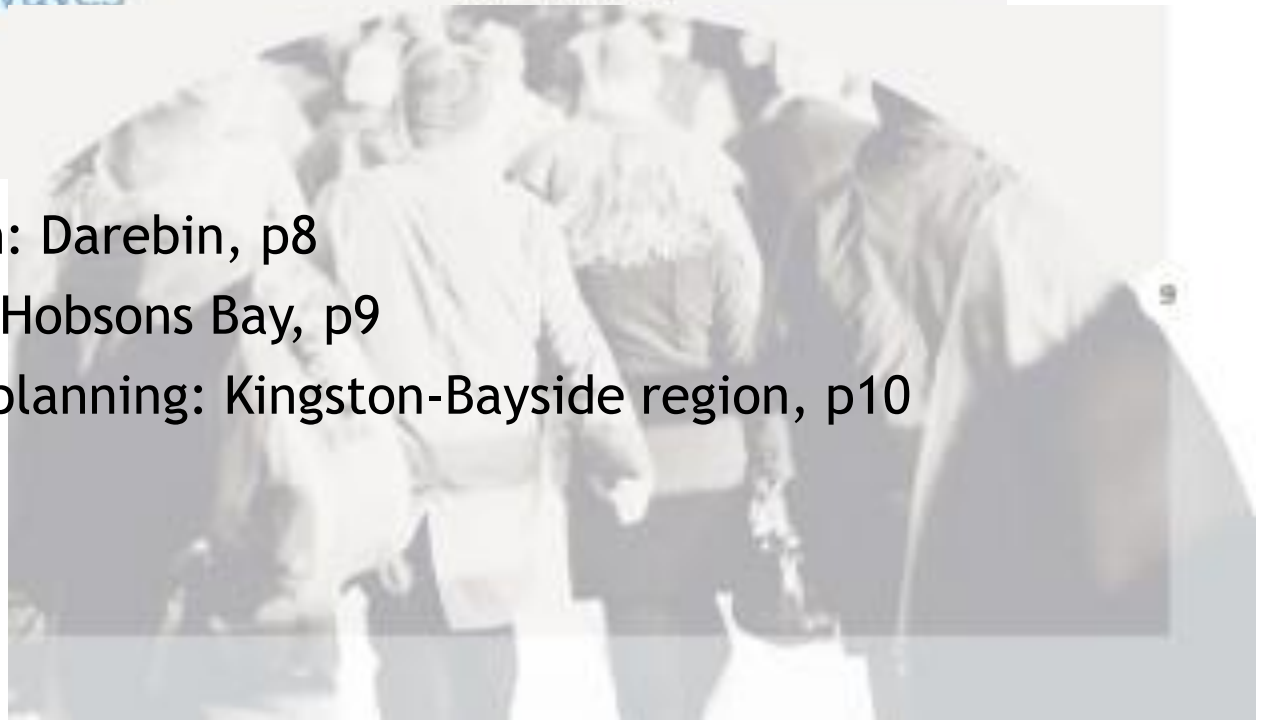
Case Study

Hobsons Bay City Council – Targeting those most vulnerable to heatwaves

As part of the Victorian Heatwave Strategy, the Department of Human Services (DHS) funded 13 pilot projects at the local government level to develop a heatwave plan targeting vulnerable groups of the community.

Case studies

- Household insulation: Darebin, p8
- Heatwave planning: Hobsons Bay, p9
- Health & Wellbeing planning: Kingston-Bayside region, p10



3 Engaging communities: Tips for effective and inclusive climate change community engagement

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- Why is community engagement in this area so important?
- How can local government do it well?

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**“The Council has passed a motion
declaring that this will be
a resilient community”**

3 Engaging communities:

Tips for effective and inclusive climate change community engagement



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being strategic

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



Increasing Level of Public Impact

**Public
participation
goal**

Inform

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Involve

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Collaborate

To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower

To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.

Promise to the public

Inform

We will keep you informed.

Consult

We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Involve

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Collaborate

We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Empower

We will implement what you decide.

Example techniques

- Fact sheets
- Web sites
- Open houses

- Public comment
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Public meetings

- Workshops
- Deliberative polling

- Citizen advisory committees
- Consensus-building
- Participatory decision-making

- Citizen juries
- Ballots
- Delegated decision

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Case studies

- Rural Women in a Changing Climate regional gatherings; engaging without talking about climate change
- Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership local adaptation framework

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Building resilience:
Ideas for local government
to strengthen community
resilience to climate change



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What does community resilience to climate change mean?

What can we do to help build local resilience?

Characteristics of a resilient community

General features of resilient communities are listed in the table below

Category	Examples
Economic development	Diverse, sustainable sources of economic prosperity; High quality economic infrastructure; Secure livelihoods and employment opportunities; Equitable distribution of income and assets.
Social capital	Broad and deep social networks within and beyond the community.

Resilience

- bouncing back - the ability to adapt to shocks
- general resilience and issue-specific resilience

Characteristics of a resilient community

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Social capital	Broad and deep social networks within and beyond the community;

Resilience

- bouncing back - the ability to adapt to shocks
- general resilience and issue-specific resilience
- higher-level resilience - being proactive:
anticipating shocks

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4. **Building resilience**

Developing resilience: Rivertown

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Developing resilience: Rivertown

1. Spontaneous community effort in flood emergency

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Developing resilience: Rivertown

1. Spontaneous community effort in flood emergency
2. Levee building for township protection

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Developing resilience: Rivertown

1. Spontaneous community effort in flood emergency
2. Levee building for township protection
3. Emergency Plan for future flood events

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Developing resilience: Rivertown

1. Spontaneous community effort in flood emergency
2. Levee building for township protection
3. Emergency Plan & Recovery Plan for the next flood
4. Early warning system, SES branch



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Developing resilience: Rivertown

5. Community network developing
 - food bank, farm box scheme,
 - city/rural partnership,
 - local wireless internet & social media network,
 - local SMS alert system,
 - community fireguard groups with phone tree



Specific Issue Plans

- Bushfire
- Coastal inundation [sea level rise, storm surges]
- Heatwave
- Agricultural productivity loss [irrigation cuts, drought]
- Fuel price tripling in 5 years [peak oil, carbon price]
- Urban water security
- Food security [price spikes, supply crisis]
- other

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Different roles for Local Government

- FUNDER e.g. tailoring grants programs
- INITIATOR e.g. developing and implementing projects
- ENABLER e.g. removing regulatory barriers
- BROKER e.g. fostering local networks
- ADVOCATE e.g. communicating local concerns
- EDUCATOR e.g. informing and empowering local citizens

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Initiatives addressing climate change and building community resilience at the same time:

- Energy efficiency home audits, retro-fits - focus on low-income households
- Community-owned renewable energy projects
- Low-emissions transport - community buses, cycling, walking etc
- Community gardens

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Backcasting

- Describe the resilient community of 2016
- Work backwards to create map of how to get there
- Identify connections with existing Council & community operations and programs

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Questions?