



## THE NEED FOR THE NETWORK

Climate scientists have predicted that gradual sea level rise, increasing warming and decreasing rainfall patterns are likely to impact Melbourne over coming years and decades. More frequent and intense events including flooding, heat waves and severe thunderstorms present significant challenges given the projected rise of 2°C already built into the climate system, and possibly higher levels of warming depending on the success of global mitigation efforts.

The City of Melbourne is launching the Inner Melbourne Climate Adaptation Network. This Network will connect and facilitate communication between organisations involved in actively managing the risks associated with climate change impacts facing inner Melbourne. The Network will consist of 20-30 active members, including state government, water authorities, industry and scientific organisations and emergency services organisations. Given the nature of risks involved the implications of the Network's conversations will link into broader Victorian adaptation efforts.

This need for this Network was identified through the intersection of three related policy and practice areas that tend to involve different people within different organisations, generally remain disconnected. These areas are:

- **Natural disaster resilience**, framed around preparedness and emergency response and involves multiple stakeholders
- **Climate change adaptation** includes local government and planning, sustainable development, community engagement and built and natural infrastructure stakeholders
- **Climate science** informs both disaster resilience and adaptation agendas, framing the changing risk management parameters which guide our responses.

The key objectives of the Network are to:

- ✓ Join up stakeholder adaptation conversations around preparing for the impact of the risks
- ✓ Encourage network members to align activities related to these risks as overlaps and gaps become apparent
- ✓ Encourage network members to align external stakeholder communications to inner Melbourne residents, businesses and visitors.

It is also important to clarify what is not within the scope of the Adaptation Network. The Network:

- ✗ Is not a group that produces joint research or adaptation activities
- ✗ Does not develop group communications programs
- ✗ Does not replicate the extensive work already done by existing stakeholders to prepare for responding to extreme events
- ✗ Has no plans to involve stakeholders or scenarios that directly address adaptation issues outside inner Melbourne
- ✗ Has no intention to involve individual business stakeholders beyond selected business associations (given the largely residential, small business and visitor audience involved with inner Melbourne issues).

## CITY OF MELBOURNE'S ROLE

In June 2009, the City of Melbourne developed a [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#), which identified the City's four key climate change risks. The document categorised these risks into four potential extreme event scenarios. These are:

- Drought and reduced rainfall
- Intense rainfall and wind events
- Extreme heatwave and bushfire
- Sea level rise.



While the City of Melbourne is actively working to reduce the risk of a number of the key impacts identified, it recognises that it has limited direct control over many of the municipality's climate change risks. A range of government, business and community stakeholders together play vital and sometimes interlinking roles, in addressing climate change risks in Melbourne. Through hosting Melbourne's Adaptation Network the City of Melbourne aims to enhance the level to which climate change risks facing Melbourne are being addressed.

## NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

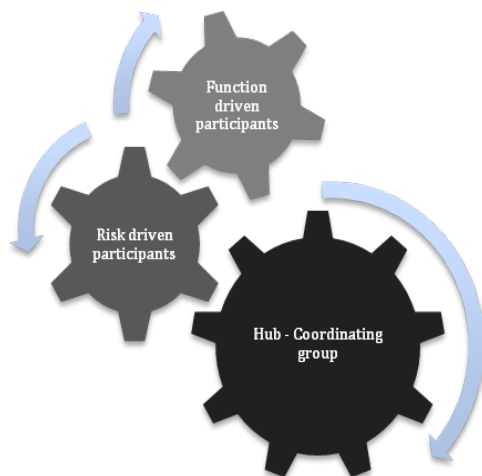
The City of Melbourne has identified key government, community, research and business organisations who will provide valuable contributions to the Adaptation Network, as well as benefit from participation. In order to establish a valuable resource and to maximise participation, the City of Melbourne recognises the need to deeply involve Network participants in meetings. Communication approaches outlined below hope to facilitate this outcome.

To maximise engagement, a schedule of the quarterly meetings rotating focus on the four key risk areas is provided.

### 'HUB AND SPOKE' MODEL

One important barrier to effective participation is ensuring the relevant individuals from each organisation attends the meetings, depending on the topics covered.

Each participating organisation will be required to nominate a lead representative to the Network. They will be the main point of contact, and will be responsible for inviting colleagues to participate in Network activities when appropriate. These participants would be invited based on specific risk area (e.g. urban heat island, flooding) or functional area (e.g. communications, planning).



### CONTACT DETAILS

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## NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Melbourne will develop a simple, password protected web platform for participants to interact. This platform will only be accessed by members and will include:

- **Resource pages**, providing information about the Network and the four key risk areas.
- **Knowledge sharing**, providing the opportunity to share participants' projects, articles, research etc, as well as meeting documentation.
- **Blog**, giving Network participants the ability to provide comment on meetings and activities. May also include interviews and input from participants and experts.
- **Calendar**, including Network meetings, as well as upcoming events organised by participants' organisations and other external bodies.
- **Directory of participants**, listing the Network's participants. Participants will have the ability to self-select the areas they wish to be involved in. These areas will be based on the risks and function areas (e.g. infrastructure, community engagement).

### NETWORK CALENDAR FOR 2012-13

<b>AUG 2012</b>	Launch website Network launch and first Network meeting Topic: Heatwaves and bushfire
<b>DEC 2012</b>	Network meeting 2 Topic: Extreme weather events
<b>MAR 2013</b>	Network meeting 3 Topic: Drought and water scarcity
<b>JUN 2013</b>	Network meeting 4 Topic: Sea level rise and inundation