

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Southern Grampians Glenelg PCP (SGGPCP) developed the *Policy Signpost #3. Climate Change Adaptation: A Framework for local action*¹ in response to agencies requesting support to guide local action that addresses the health and social impacts of climate change and rural adjustment.

The goal of this framework was to create communities that are resilient to the social, environmental and economic changes by:

- Identifying local priority issues of climate change and rural adjustment
- Guide local planning and action by agencies and by the PCP as a collective
- Encourage the development inter-sectoral partnerships and integrated planning

This was the beginning of a journey for SGG PCP, which raised awareness and developed the capacity of partners to respond to climate change and facilitated relationships with government departments, policy makers and researchers.

PARTNERS

- Sustainability Victoria
- The Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
- Federation University
- Deakin University
- Victorian Department of Health
- Victorian Commissioner for Sustainability
- Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Research
- Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- RMIT University
- VCOSS
- Monash University
- National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
- Emergency Management Victoria
- Swinburne University
- Country Fire Authority
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

METHOD

SGG PCP's early work in this area focussed on the indirect effects of climate change, recognising the health implications of rising household energy efficiency, food security, water access, transport and social connection, particularly for those already experiencing disadvantage. A number of projects were implemented to raise awareness of and build capacity to respond to climate change, and to reduce vulnerability. This included developing a Heatwave toolkit for local government, which led to a partnership research project to understand tools for climate change adaptation.

Following this, SGG PCP established the Rural People; Resilient Future (RP;RF) Project, which supported SGG PCP partner agencies to understand their community's vulnerability to climate change. A systems-thinking approach was used to help partner agencies identify actions that they could embed within their systems to reduce vulnerability. This was a highly successful project, which

¹ Rowe, R. and Thomas, A. (2018) Policy Signpost #3. Climate Change Adaptation: A framework for local action. The MCCAughy Centre. The University of Melbourne

was showcased at a number of state, national and international conferences giving wide exposure to PCPs approach and potential resulting in extended partnerships

Through this work, SGG PCP developed an appreciation for the importance of networks and partnerships for climate change resilience. This subsequently became a key focus area and the SGG PCP worked in partnership on the Enhancing Networks for Resilience Projects (Phase 1 and 2). This work examined the network ties within the SGG PCP, while the Balmoral Fire Connect Project investigated networks at a community setting.

Having gained extensive knowledge and skills in climate change and community resilience over the last 10 years, SGG PCP has now partnered with the Lord Mayors Charitable Fund for the PCPs for Community Resilience Project. This project aims to expand the learnings from the SGG PCP by using a systems thinking approach to identify areas for action for each PCP to enhance community resilience to climate change.

OUTCOMES

SGGPCP has developed strong partnerships with a diverse range of organisations, including community organisations, government departments, policy makers and researchers. SGG PCP has been recognised as a key player in the climate change resilience and adaptation space, and its work has been referenced in state-wide reports, documented in research and requested at forums and conferences. This reflects the valuable role that PCPs have as a leadership platform and an effective conduit for facilitating cross-sector partnerships.