



REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2025 – 2030

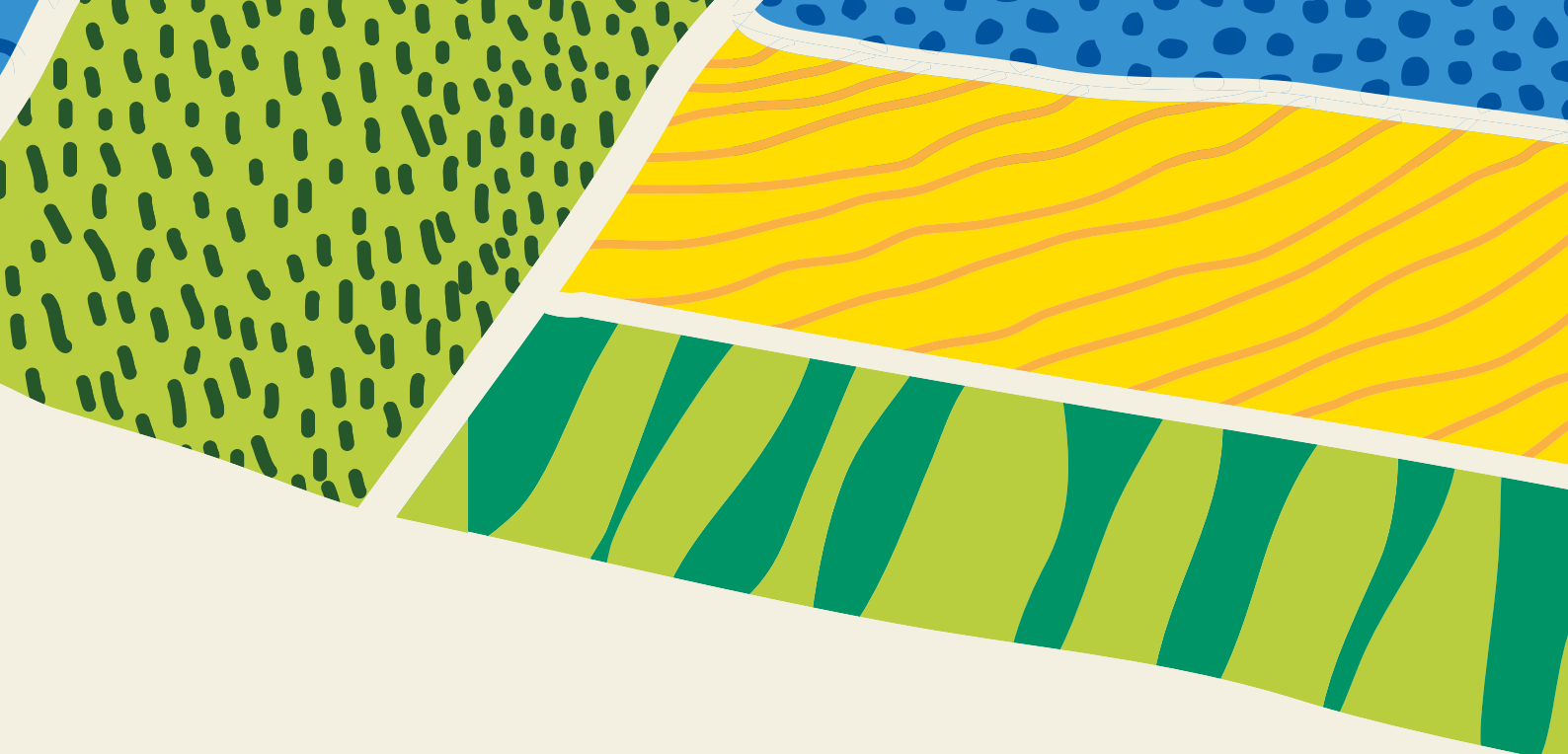




ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work—the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains. It is on their ancestral lands that the three Councils of the AdaptWest region come together.

We honour Kaurna Elders past and present, and we respect their enduring role as caretakers of Country, and their deep spiritual connection to the land. We also recognise the ongoing contributions and vital role that all First Nations peoples continue to play within our shared community.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYORS

The AdaptWest Regional Climate Partnership is a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing our resilience in western Adelaide, involving the Cities of West Torrens, Charles Sturt and Port Adelaide Enfield. As a response to the growing challenges and opportunities posed by climate change, this partnership focuses on practical actions that strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities, economies, and environments within the region.

The vision of AdaptWest is to create a region that is resilient, adaptive and mitigates the impacts of climate change. The partnership is committed to ongoing collaborative efforts that respond to emerging trends and opportunities, guided by principles of innovation, engagement, and transparency. Strategic alignment with community visions ensures that actions are relevant and impactful.

This Plan outlines specific activities to engage communities, reduce emissions, enhance local ecosystems, and build climate resilient infrastructure.

Despite its robust framework, AdaptWest faces challenges, including securing funding, engaging diverse stakeholders, navigating regulatory barriers, and managing data effectively. Addressing these challenges will require ongoing commitment, strategic planning, and active collaboration among all partners.

Through this Plan, the AdaptWest partner councils can build on the work they are undertaking individually and work together on regional issues to create a sustainable and adaptive future for western Adelaide.



Mayor Angela Evans
City of Charles Sturt



Mayor Claire Boan
City of Port Adelaide Enfield



Mayor Michael Coxon
City of West Torrens

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION	A region that is resilient, adaptive and mitigates the impacts of climate change				
APPROACH	Our Principles of Working Together		Our Delivery Approach		
	• Collaborative approach • Elevate local voices • Risk and evidence-based approach • Transparency and openness • Strong governance		• Collaborative Projects – Strategically important to the region and involving all three partner councils. • Partnership Projects – Priorities for two of the three partner councils, with broader regional value. • Council Lead Projects – Driven by one council, but with shared learning and insights made available across the partnership. • Delivery Combination Model – Combination of the above, with opportunity for different opt in / council lead options at various project stages and could become a collaborative project over time.		
FOCUS AREAS	Resilient Neighbourhoods	Low Carbon Region	Resilient Ecosystems	Climate Risk and Hazard Reduction	Collaborative and Cohesive Regional Climate Partnership (RCP)
INITIATIVES	• Community Capacity Building • Western Adelaide Cool Refuge Project • Youth Climate Action • Climate Ready Development • Cooling Western Adelaide	• Low Carbon Councils • Electrify Western Adelaide • Resilient Businesses	• Species Selection in a Changing Climate • Ecological Corridors • Water Sensitive Western Adelaide	• Corporate Climate Risk Management • Disaster Resilience • Resilient Assets and Infrastructure • Climate Ready Coasts	• Secure Funding • Strong Relationships • Regional Advocacy • Monitoring and Evaluation • Telling Our Story
OUTCOMES / MEASURES	Communities in western Adelaide are engaged in climate response initiatives that will build resilience at the household, business and neighbourhood scale.	Western Adelaide is transitioning to a low carbon region that is mitigating the impacts of climate change.	Ecosystems across western Adelaide are resilient to climate change impacts.	Climate risks and hazards across western Adelaide are identified, understood and being addressed.	AdaptWest RCP is a high-performing and well-resourced partnership that is widely recognised as leading climate response action in western Adelaide.

INTRODUCING ADAPTWEST

The Regional Climate Partnerships in South Australia are a network of regional, cross-sectoral groups delivering practical action to strengthen the climate resilience of their communities, economies and natural and built environments.

AdaptWest is a Regional Climate Partnership (RCP) between the Cities of West Torrens, Charles Sturt, and Port Adelaide Enfield, and other stakeholders and partners, who are working together to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change to build a climate resilient western Adelaide.

Our vision

A region that is resilient, adaptive and mitigates the impacts of climate change.

Our purpose

The AdaptWest partnership is a commitment to ongoing collaborative climate action to enhance western Adelaide's resilience to climate change.

We will identify and respond to emerging trends and opportunities in a structured and meaningful manner that aligns with our purpose.

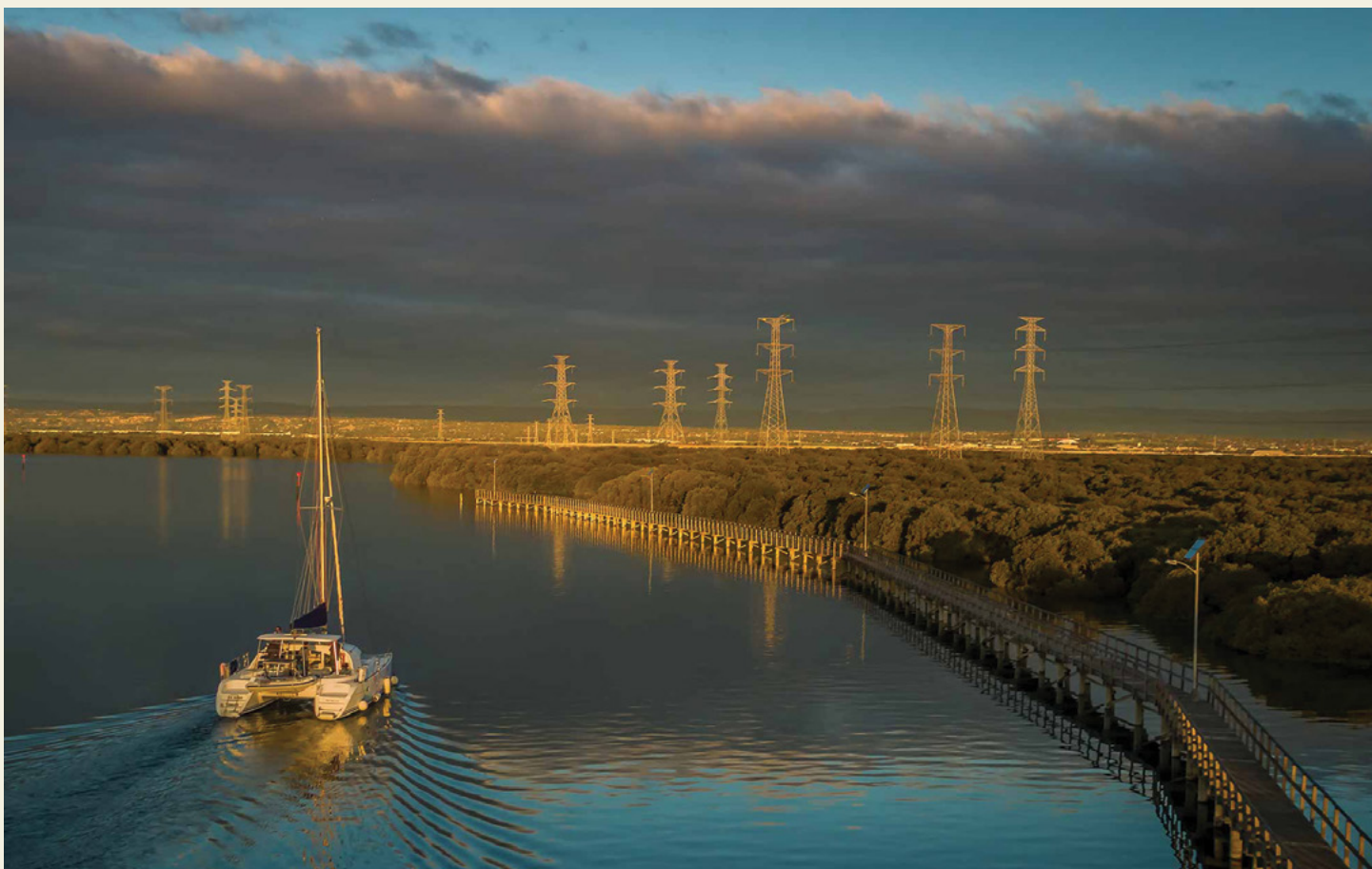
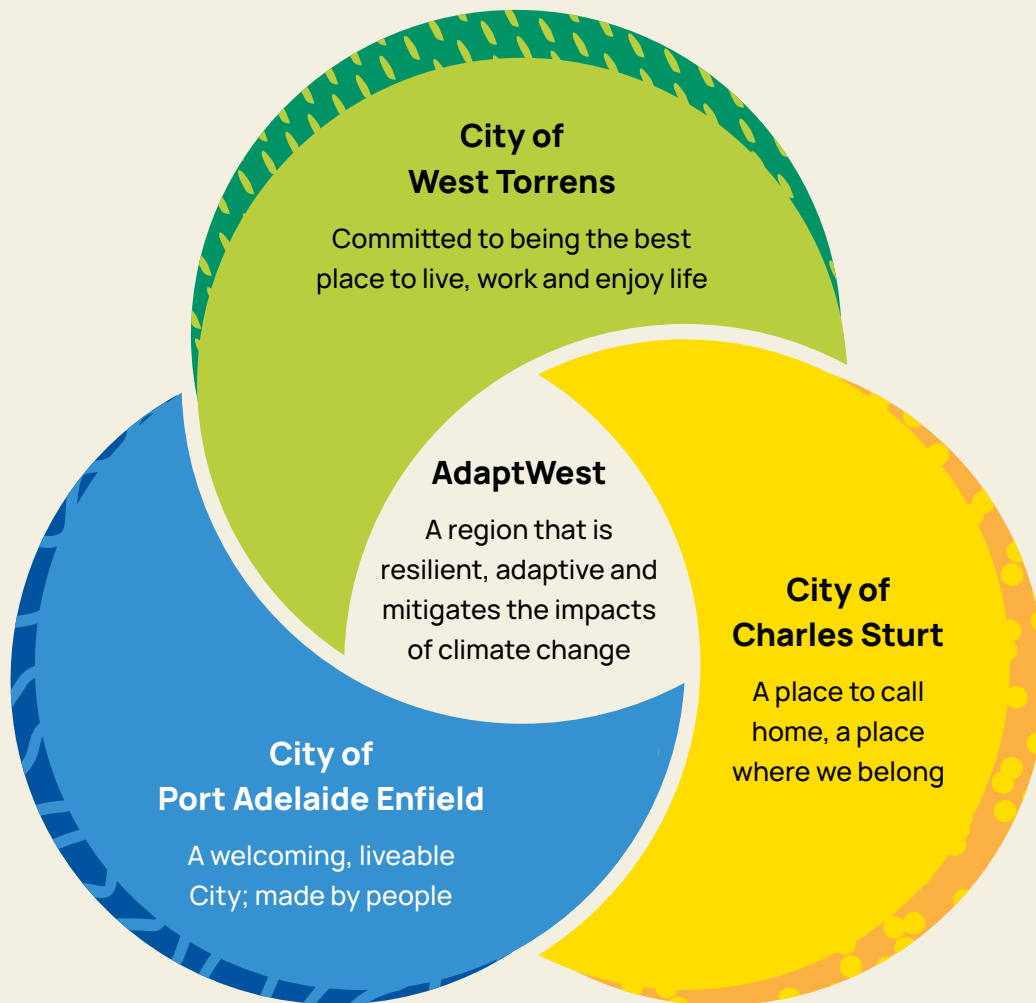
To be effective we will:

- Influence
- Innovate
- Respond
- Engage
- Connect

Strategic alignment

Ensuring the strategic alignment with the community visions and plans of partner councils is important to ensure we are aligning the strategies and actions undertaken by AdaptWest, with the work identified as important for each partner council.

In delivering this Plan we will align with the strategic direction of our organisations and have consideration of the climate responses at a state, national and international level.



South Australian context

South Australia is already experiencing the impacts of climate change and the projections show the climate will become hotter and drier in the future. In May 2022, the South Australian Government declared a **climate emergency** and committed to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to net zero emissions.

South Australia has targets to:

- reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2030.
- achieve net zero emission by 2050.
- achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027.

South Australia's **Net Zero Strategy 2024 – 2030** has been developed to guide the state's transition to a net zero emissions future and the **Climate Ready Government** initiative outlines how the South Australian public sector will manage climate related risks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its operations. The **Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act 2007** is being updated to strengthen requirements around government planning, risk assessment and action on climate change.



National context

The **National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025**, released on 29 October 2021, aims to position Australia to better anticipate, manage and adapt to our changing climate. The Strategy sets out what the Australian Government will do to support efforts across all levels of government, businesses and the community, to better anticipate, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Strategy recognises that adaptation is a shared responsibility that requires sustained and ongoing action.

In June 2022, the Australian Government lodged an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat as is part of Australia's obligations under the Paris Agreement. The updated NDC:

- commits Australia to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030, a 15% increase on Australia's previous 2030 target.
- reaffirms Australia's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

In **2024 the National Climate Risk Assessment – First pass assessment report** was released identifying 56 risks of national significance. A second pass assessment that analyses 11 priority risks identified in the first pass assessment is being finalised.

In March 2024 an issues paper to inform development of a **National Adaptation Plan** was released for public consultation and the Plan is nearing finalisation.

International context

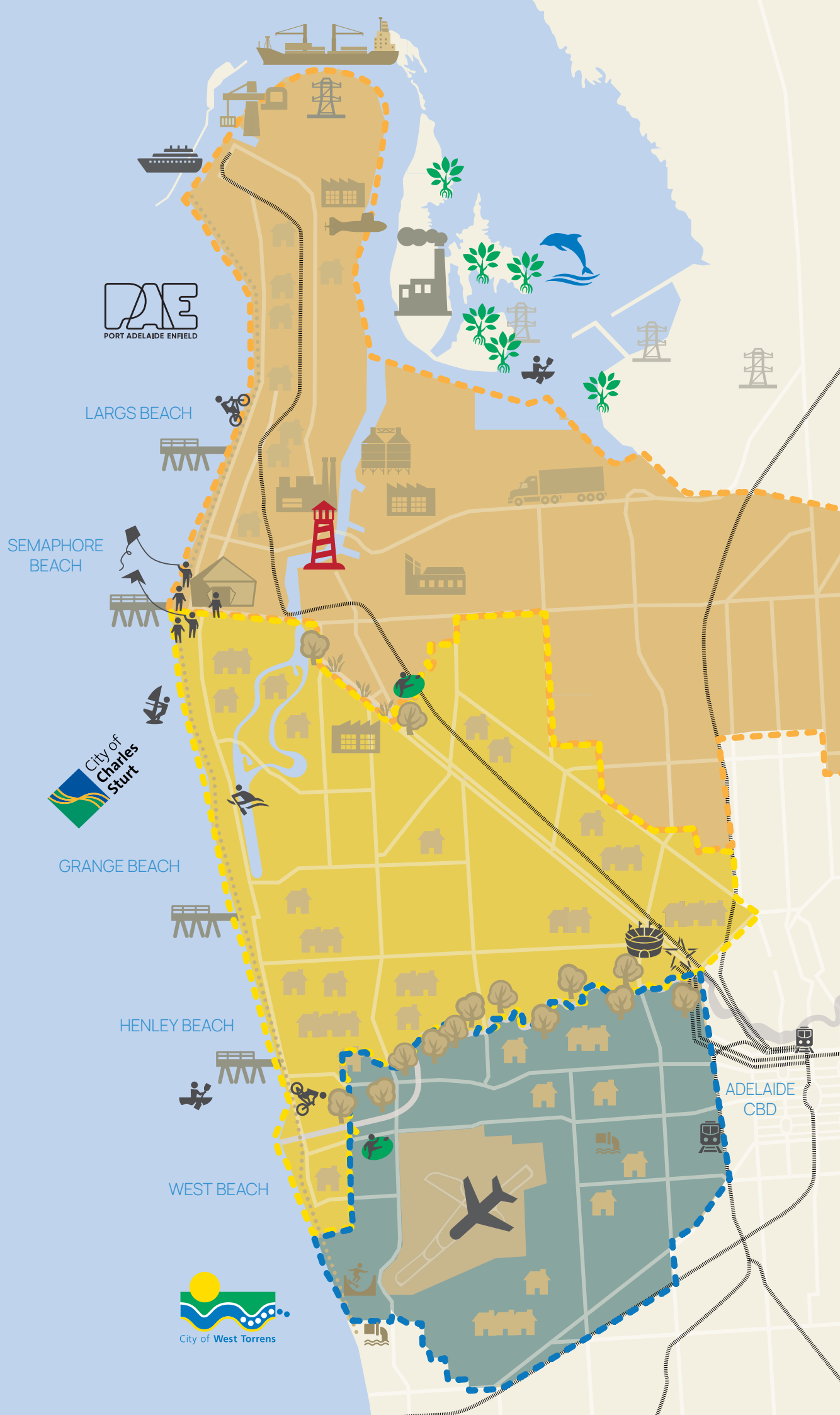
The **UN Climate Change Convention** (UNFCCC) was created at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and became active in 1994. Almost every country (198) has joined it. The main goal is to protect Earth's climate from harmful human activities.

Countries meet regularly at **Climate Change Conferences**, known as Conferences of Parties (COPs), to make decisions about climate action. Two major agreements came from these meetings: the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

The **Kyoto Protocol**, which entered into force in 2005, requires developed countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions to specific targets. It now has 192 member countries. While all countries must report their climate actions, only developed nations must meet specific emission goals.

The **Paris Agreement**, signed in 2015 by 196 countries, is a binding treaty that aims to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

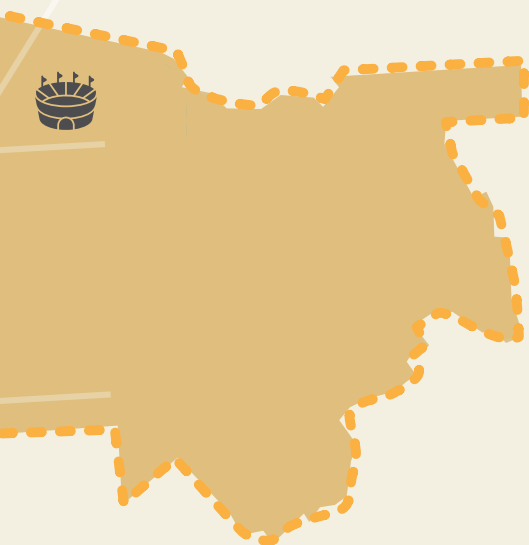
The UN's climate science expert group, the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC), was established in 1988. It regularly reviews and reports on climate change science, impacts, risks, and practical solutions.



ABOUT THE WESTERN ADELAIDE REGION



The Western Adelaide Region in South Australia lies between the city and its beautiful beaches and busy ports along the coastline of Gulf St Vincent. Climate change poses unique challenges to the infrastructure, economy and lifestyle of this special and important region.



A combined snapshot of the AdaptWest Region

186km²
LAND AREA

327,500
RESIDENTS

26,800
LOCAL BUSINESSES

\$28.04 billion
GROSS REGIONAL
PRODUCT

8.82%
TREE CANOPY COVER
(2022)

3,536,000
TONNES CO₂e

CITY OF PORT
ADELAIDE ENFIELD

CITY OF CHARLES STURT

CITY OF WEST TORRENS



Climate change impacts in the region

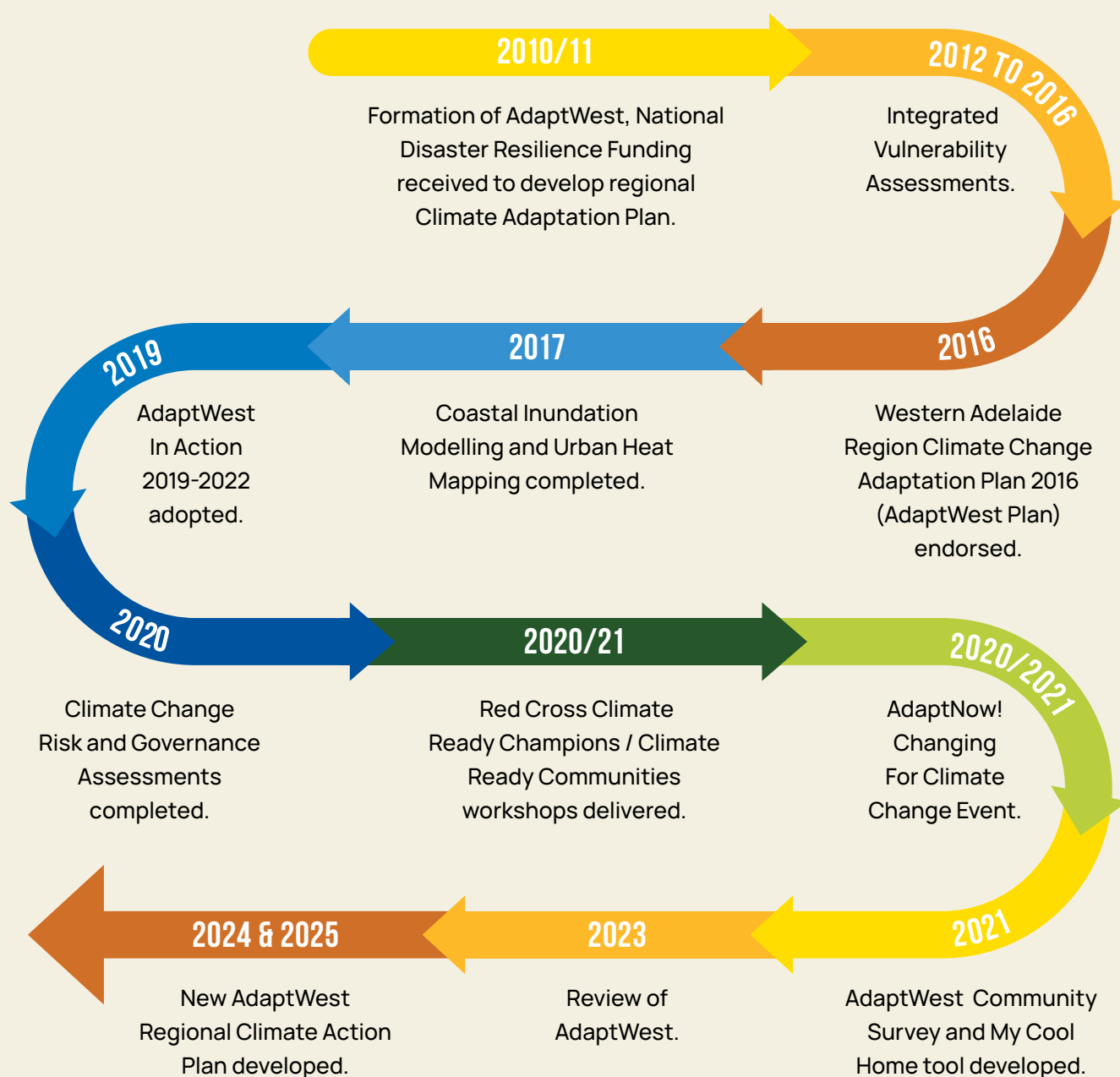
Climate projections for western Adelaide are provided in the following table. Two scenarios are provided. RCP 4.5 represents a stabilising emissions scenario where global efforts lead to moderate reductions and warming of about 2.4–3.0°C by 2100, while RCP 8.5 is a high-emissions, business-as-usual pathway with little mitigation, leading to more than 4°C of warming and severe climate impacts by century's end.

Climate Variable	RCP 4.5 medium emissions scenario	RCP 8.5 high emissions scenario
 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE	Mean daily maximum temperature increases by 2.1 degrees	Mean daily maximum temperature increases by 3.6 degrees
 DAYS OVER 40°C	Average number of days per year above 40 °C will be 3 days by the year 2090.	Average number of days per year above 40 °C will be 9.6 days by the year 2090.
 AVERAGE RAINFALL	A decrease in mean annual rainfall by -7% to 2090	A decrease in mean annual rainfall by -29% to 2090
 SEA LEVEL RISE	The Coast Protection Board advises most developments to allow for a sea level rise of 0.3 metres (to the year 2050) and development should also be protected against a further sea level rise and erosion of 0.7m from the year 2025 to 2100.	
 SEA TEMPERATURE	Average sea surface temperature continues to rise. Rising temperatures impact marine ecosystems and biodiversity, increase the risk of harmful algal blooms, fish kills, and changes in species distribution, leading to impacts of other industries e.g. fisheries, aquaculture and tourism industries.	
 OCEAN ACIDITY	The pH of our oceans is decreasing as a result of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, placing further challenges on marine ecosystems.	

Sources:

1. [New climate change projections for SA maps and findings 2022.pdf](#)
2. State of the Environment 2023, EPA [State of the Environment 2023 | Seas](#)
3. [Guide to climate projections for risk assessment and planning in South Australia | 2022](#)
4. Department for Environment and Water 2025 [How coastal hazards impact coastal development](#)

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR...





ABOUT THIS PLAN

This **AdaptWest Regional Climate Action Plan 2025-2030** builds on previous achievements and provides direction for the next five years until 2030 by setting out our priorities and identifying opportunities to work together and maximise our impact.

The first **AdaptWest Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016** (AdaptWest Plan) was endorsed by all three partner councils in 2016. It identified adaptation options for the Western Adelaide Region to address key vulnerabilities and opportunities presented by a changing climate. In 2019 the three partner councils adopted the **AdaptWest in Action Plan 2019 – 2022** plan that provided a targeted three-year delivery plan in line with priority action areas developed in the AdaptWest Plan.

Our Principles of Working Together

The AdaptWest partner councils will apply these principles to deliver climate resilient outcomes for western Adelaide:



COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

We recognise that responding to climate change is complex, and we cannot do it on our own. We will work with a range of stakeholders and partners to deliver mutually beneficial climate responses. By aligning with SA Government and Federal Government climate change goals we will strengthen partnership and funding opportunities.



ELEVATE LOCAL VOICES

We recognise and acknowledge the significant climate knowledge and passion in our community. We will give strength to climate-related advocacy positions and perspectives shared by our communities and support those who are most vulnerable to climate-related impacts.



RISK & EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

We will use the best available data, science and information to understand current and future climate risks and hazards and to inform our decisions, prioritise risk mitigation and attract funding to build climate resilience across the region.



TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS

We openly share knowledge and experiences to support a culture of continual learning and shared responsibility. We will regularly review our progress and find flexible pathways and opportunities to suit our changing local context.



STRONG GOVERNANCE

We will establish a Project Management Group to oversee delivery of the Action Plan and ensure resourcing and funding is provided for successful implementation of agreed actions. We will monitor, evaluate and report on our progress and use these processes to inform our future approach to ensure AdaptWest continues to provide tangible climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience responses for the region.

Our Delivery Approach

Delivery of this Plan will be led by the AdaptWest partner councils and, where appropriate, in partnership with the South Australian Government and other stakeholders and organisations.

We will work together in different ways:

- **Collaborative Projects** – Strategically important to the region and involving all three partner councils
- **Partnership Projects** – Priorities for two of the three partner councils, with broader regional value
- **Council Lead Projects** – Driven by one council, but with shared learning and insights made available across the partnership
- **Delivery Combination Model** – Combination of the above, with opportunity for different opt in / council lead options at various project stages and could become a collaborative project over time

Where appropriate, we will work on shared priorities with the other Regional Climate Partnerships (RCPs), including Resilient East, Resilient South, and Resilient Hills & Coasts, State Government agencies, the Local Government Association of South Australia and other key partners.

Our Key Stakeholders and Partners

Building a climate-resilient western Adelaide is a significant undertaking that we cannot do on our own. We will foster strategic relationships to help us deliver Plan priorities where there are mutually beneficial outcomes.

Our stakeholders and partners could include:

- Industry associations including Housing Industry Association, Planning Institute of Australia, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA), etc.

- Kurna Meyunna & culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA), Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (MLS) and other RCPs
- Networks such as: Adelaide Coastal Councils Network (ACCN), South Australian Urban Food Network, Adelaide Sustainable Buildings Network (ASBN), etc.
- Non-Government organisations including Red Cross, Conservation SA, Keep South Australia Beautiful (KESAB), Western Worker With Youth Network, etc.
- Research institutions including universities, Goyder Institute, National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Systems Hub, etc.
- State Government Agencies including South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), SA Health, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Green Adelaide, Green Industries SA, Department of Energy and Mines (DEM), Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), SA Water, Housing SA, Renewal SA, Plan SA, Business SA
- Water Sensitive SA
- Western-Adelaide residents and businesses

Governance

The AdaptWest partner councils are committed to ongoing collaboration on climate action. A Program Management Group (PMG) guides and oversees delivery of the Regional Climate Action Plan. Roles and responsibilities of the PMG are set out in a Terms of Reference.

WHAT WE WILL DELIVER

Focus Areas

To deliver on our vision of a region that is resilient, adaptive and mitigates the impacts of climate change, this Plan will focus on the following outcomes:



1. RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS

We will work with partners to create streets, suburbs and communities that are resilient to the impacts of our changing climate.



2. LOW CARBON REGION

We will share the learning from our own council energy efficiency transitions to help create a low carbon region.



3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

We will work together to create a cooler, greener and more biodiverse western Adelaide.



4. CLIMATE RISK AND HAZARD REDUCTION

We will identify climate risks and hazards across western Adelaide and work collaboratively to prioritise our response.



5. COLLABORATIVE AND COHESIVE REGIONAL CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

We will foster collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships and have a strong governance framework to deliver our priorities.

Prioritisation of Actions

To ensure transparent and robust decision-making it is important that an agreed framework is used.

Considerations include:

- **Delivery approach** – does the proposed action align with existing or proposed policy or action undertaken within one or more member councils? If yes, is the added value achieved through taking a regional approach.
- **Priority outcome focus** – does the proposed action respond to one or more of the priority focus areas or outcomes sought by the region?
- **Measurable outcome** – will the action have a measurable direct or indirect effect on increasing regional resilience to climate change? Is that effect, if positive, difficult to reverse?



1. RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Why is this important?

Climate change is already having an impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities and local economy. Neighbourhoods that are resilient to the impacts of climate change will help our communities to adapt and thrive into the future. Considering the social and economic impacts on communities as they adapt to climate change will support more resilient neighbourhoods.

How we will measure our progress:

Measure: Communities in western Adelaide are engaged in climate response initiatives.

Evidence:

- Community survey responses.
- Attendance at workshops / participation in events.
- Completion of projects /activities.

	Issues	Actions
1.1 Community Capacity Building	Improving community understanding and preparedness for the impacts and opportunities of climate change will be critical. Knowing neighbours and having strong local community connections can also deliver more positive outcomes, particularly during times of crisis.	1.1.1 Engage our community and raise awareness about climate issues at council-led community events and activities delivered in our libraries and community centres.
	We will take part in community events to raise community awareness of climate change issues. We will also invite our communities to attend climate related events happening in the region and build connections within their local neighbourhoods.	1.1.2 Promote climate-related events, presentations and forums being delivered by others.
	We will brand events such as community presentations on climate related topics that are being coordinated by one of the partner councils, as an AdaptWest event. This means that residents from across the three partner councils can attend, broadening the reach and there is less duplication of effort.	1.1.3 Develop targeted climate change initiatives in response to identified community need.
		1.1.4 Support initiatives that build community connections at neighbourhood and street level.
		1.1.5 Empower our communities to create a circular economy by raising awareness and identifying opportunities to act.



1.2 Western Adelaide 'Cool Refuge' Project

Issues	Actions
Heat endangers human health in many ways, under many different scenarios, including heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and in extreme cases, death. The death toll from heatwaves (3 or more days over 35 degrees Celsius) has exceeded that for any other natural disaster in Australia. With more frequent and intense extreme heat events (days over 35 degrees Celsius) experienced recently and expected in the coming years due to the impacts of climate change, the AdaptWest partners are exploring how best we can continue supporting the health and wellbeing of our community. Provision of cool spaces, such as council facilities and other establishments across the region, will help vulnerable members of our community to beat the heat. These are air-conditioned places or features that can provide respite to people, especially those that may have limited access to air conditioning within their homes or may be hesitant to turn on air conditioning and other cooling units due to potentially high electricity costs.	1.2.1. Explore opportunities to provide cool spaces across the region that includes, Council facilities as well as other locations accessible to the public such as shopping centres, swimming pools, parks and reserves, etc. 1.2.2. Develop clear guidelines and agreed processes and funding around the implementation of cool spaces during extreme heatwaves. 1.2.3. Develop a targeted communications strategy to promote the Western Adelaide Cool spaces to vulnerable communities across the region.



1.3 Youth Climate Action

Issues	Actions
Young people are very knowledgeable and concerned about the impacts of climate change. They can play a significant role in spreading awareness and driving action. Engaging young people to co-design climate change initiatives offers a valuable opportunity to strengthen the resilience of the western region.	1.3.1. Identifying opportunities to engage with young people and co-design activities to build climate resilience, such as via the City of West Torrens' Youth Advisory Committee and Green Adelaide's Youth Advisory Council.
	1.3.2. Work with Green Adelaide to include schools in western Adelaide in its Climate Ready Schools Program.
	1.3.3. Explore opportunities to enable young people to actively contribute to climate related policy and program development of the partner councils.
	1.3.4. Run 'AdaptFest' competition inviting youth to submit a short video / media / artwork outlining how they are responding to climate change.

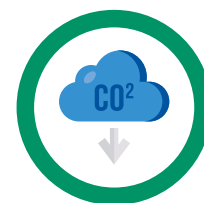


1.4 Climate Ready Development

Issues	Actions
Our homes greatly influence our health and wellbeing, and their design can affect our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Climate Ready Homes provide increased resilience against extreme weather and events compared to traditional houses.	1.4.1. Advocate to the State Government for improved housing and development standards and outcomes that support climate resilience, such as through the Planning and Design Code, Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP) and Renewal SA.
	1.4.2. Identify opportunities to adopt and implement Climate Ready Home initiatives for our western Adelaide community.
	1.4.3. Identify opportunities to promote climate ready initiatives for commercial and industrial developments.
	1.4.4. Participate in Sustainable House Day (Renew) or similar.

1.5 Cooling Western Adelaide

Issues	Actions
The liveability of western Adelaide will decline as our climate becomes hotter and drier. Heat and canopy mapping undertaken by the metropolitan Adelaide councils in partnership with Green Adelaide, the Department for Environment and Water, Preventive Health SA (formerly Wellbeing SA) and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport shows the presence of urban heat islands across our region. Urban heat can be alleviated through greening and cooling strategies, such as enhancing tree canopy cover with tree plantings, using light-coloured surfaces instead of dark ones to minimise heat absorption, and incorporating more water into the landscape to lower air temperatures.	1.5.1. Use the urban heat and canopy maps to focus and prioritise greening and cooling initiatives, particularly in relation to place activation.
	1.5.2. Promoting community rebates and incentives that support urban cooling at the household and private property scale.
	1.5.3. Encourage homeowners and developers to create cool spaces in homes/developments
	1.5.4. Consider the impacts of artificial turf and investigate alternative solutions for cost recovery and increased service levels, to maintain green and cool community spaces.



2. LOW CARBON REGION

Why is this important?

Climate mitigation and adaptation actions are recognised as complementary and equally necessary approaches to effectively address the challenges of climate change. The degree of adaptation required will depend upon the success of global and local mitigation efforts.

Western Adelaide must transition to a low carbon region. This means reducing emission across all businesses and our community by promoting opportunities to transition from gas to electric,

and ensuring council lead procurement and the engagement of businesses is leading through best practice.

How we will measure our progress:

Measure: Western Adelaide is transitioning to a low carbon region that mitigates and is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Evidence: Cumulative emissions profiles of partner councils both at corporate and community levels.

	Issues	Actions
2.1 Low Carbon Councils	Leading by example is an important way to engage and inspire others to improve the energy performance of their homes or businesses and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy related costs. The AdaptWest partner councils are committed to reducing carbon emissions and to help their communities do the same.	2.1.1 Share knowledge to support each of the partner councils to improve the energy efficiency and climate readiness across operations.
		2.1.2 Advocate and collaborate with the LGA to strengthen procurement policies and practices to influence and support decarbonisation.
		2.1.3 Explore partnerships and opportunities for carbon offsets within regional areas, to work towards 'Low Carbon Council' operations.

	Issues	Actions
2.2 Electrify Western Adelaide	To support decarbonisation of the grid and to encourage the uptake of renewable energy, we will help households to shift from gas to electric powered homes. This will build on existing work undertaken by councils as well as external organisations.	2.2.1 Host and/or promote workshops and information sessions to help households and businesses to shift away from gas and electrify their homes and businesses.
		2.2.2 Explore and promote incentives that encourage residents and businesses to electrify their homes and businesses and improve their energy efficiency and reduce power costs.



2.3. Resilient Businesses

Issues

Western Adelaide businesses are regional employment hubs and key to the economic prosperity of the state. The costs of doing business, such as rent and electricity, are continuing to rise and climate change is already having an impact on the viability of local businesses.

Manufacturing, warehousing, road, rail, sea, and air freight all feature in the mix. Understanding supply chain risk and impact of biophysical impacts on business, assisting in adaptation and business continuity planning through an emergency management lens, is one way to positively engage with regional business interests that hasn't yet been explored.

To support local businesses to be more efficient, sustainable and resilient to climate change impacts we need to first understand their needs. Council economic development staff, or the Building Western Adelaide Alliance will be key delivery partners.

Actions

2.3.1 Work with the Building Western Adelaide Alliance to develop and deliver a series of events to raise awareness with local businesses of the impacts of climate change and extreme weather on businesses, supply chains, activities and employees and opportunities to decarbonise their business operations.

2.3.2 Raise the awareness of local businesses on the new Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards that includes mandatory climate-related financial disclosures.

2.3.3 Assist businesses to reduce their emissions and the emissions in their supply chains through participation in programs delivered by Business SA and other agencies and organisations.

2.3.4 Explore initiatives that support businesses to decarbonise and enhance their sustainability performance.

2.3.5 Actively promote relevant grant opportunities available at State and Federal level that target business and enable environmental and climate resilient outcomes.

2.3.6 Support community, business and government partnership opportunities that grow the local circular economy.



3. RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Why is this important?

We value our natural landscapes and local biodiversity and recognise their contribution to our wellbeing, amenity, economy and sense of place, and their important cultural significance to the Kurna people.

Before European settlement, western Adelaide had expansive open eucalypt woodlands, grasslands, and coastal vegetation communities such as samphire flats, mangroves and swamplands (Kraehenbuehl, 1996).

Our current urban landscapes are harsh environments for trees and vegetation to establish and grow. As the region with the lowest canopy cover in metro Adelaide, we will work together to achieve our councils greening targets and respond

to the challenges that climate change will bring to our natural assets.

Maintaining and expanding nature-based services at scale is an important feature in this response and one that will require inter-regional, private landowners, multi-sector, and other levels of government to support.

How we will measure our progress:

Measure: Ecosystems across western Adelaide are resilient to climate change impacts.

Evidence: Spatial mapping shows increased tree canopy and improved linkages in green spaces across the region.

	Issues	Actions
3.1 Species Selection in a Changing Climate	Trees are facing unprecedented challenges due to a hotter and drier climate. In Adelaide, research shows our climate is changing from a Mediterranean to semi-arid climatic conditions (DEW 2022). Reduced rainfall and hotter temperatures will impact soil moisture and the health of our established trees. Understanding this better and using the knowledge to change our water regimes, if necessary, will help avoid catastrophic losses of established trees.	3.1.1 Partner with research agencies and other stakeholders to support research and trials into tree and other plant species that are better adapted to future climate conditions in western Adelaide.
	Planting a wide range of species increases diversity. This is advantageous for any urban forest as it reduces the potential for catastrophic tree loss due to disease or pests that may target a particular tree type (species, genus or family). Having many different tree species also increases biodiversity and can create a more resilient and robust urban forest.	3.1.2 Use the findings of research and trials into tree and other plant species that are better adapted to climate conditions to improve existing council planting programs.

3.2 Ecological Corridors

Issues	Actions
Green and tree-lined streets, healthy reserves, watercourses, and vegetated backyards provide many benefits to the environment, community, and economy. By increasing the greening of our streets and gardens, we can provide habitat and food sources for birds, insects and mammals and ease their movement through the landscape. The River Torrens (Karrawirra Pari) and Dry Creek (Yartala) provide important habitat corridors and support a range of aquatic animals and riparian vegetation. These watercourses pass through multiple council areas and are improving water quality and habitat connectivity requires collaboration across the region. Streetscapes and vegetation on private open space present an opportunity to link these areas and provide corridors for animals to move and native vegetation to establish. Streets and verges play a key role in enhancing urban biodiversity, particularly where medium to high density residential development has reduced or removed traditional yard space.	3.2.1 Utilise existing knowledge and capacity building resources to promote the application of Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD) amongst council staff and the community. 3.2.2 Undertake a regional spatial assessment of existing green spaces to identify opportunities to create cross-boundary ecological corridors. 3.2.3 Identify opportunities to increase biodiversity and tree canopy cover along corridors, such as the coast and active transport routes such as the Outer Harbour Greenway, Torrens Linear Path and Bike Direct network. 3.2.4 Identify opportunities to create biodiversity and green links between smaller areas of open space across western Adelaide through streetscape design and plantings. 3.2.5 Work with private landowners to assist in the creation of green corridors and maintenance of larger trees on their land to support regional urban greening and cooling outcomes. 3.2.6 Work with traditional landowners to include locally indigenous plantings and biodiversity enhancements. 3.2.7 Collaborate with State Government to introduce stronger and more consistent policies in the Planning & Design Code for improved landscaping in conjunction with infill development.



3.3 Water Sensitive Western Adelaide

Issues	Actions
Integrating green and blue (water related) infrastructure, such as green roofs and walls or rain gardens, into urban design can help manage stormwater, reduce energy consumption, reduce urban heat and improve air quality.	3.3.1 Explore options for drought-proofing western Adelaide that recognise existing integrated water management planning initiatives of each of the partner councils.
Ensuring secure water supplies and appropriately managing stormwater to mitigate flooding risks will reduce disruptions for local communities and businesses.	3.3.2 Identify options to retain more water in the environment to support cooling and greening outcomes for western Adelaide.
	3.3.3 Advocate for water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and greening outcomes, such as via planning policy and collaborate with external stakeholders, e.g. Stormwater Management Authority.





4. CLIMATE RISK AND HAZARD REDUCTION

Why is this important?

Climate change is well-recognised as a significant disruptor and threat multiplier that is already having an impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Failure to respond to these risks will result in increased frequency and severity of natural disasters and extreme weather events with flow on effects to natural ecosystems, local communities, and the business sector. These impacts can adversely affect critical public infrastructure and services, disrupting transport and water systems, communication, and energy infrastructure.

Events like extreme heatwaves can increase hospital presentations, putting more pressure on health systems, and present health risks for those living in inefficient housing and urban heat islands. Flooding and storms can also lead to road closures, power outages and

interruptions to communication networks, further disrupting the delivery of essential community services.

Modelling and mapping of future climate change scenarios informs our ability to manage current and future risks through informed planning, the design and construction of resilient infrastructure assets and adaptive service strategies that can ensure the continuity of council operations and community wellbeing.

How we will measure our progress:

Measure: Climate-related risks and hazards across western Adelaide are understood and being addressed.

Evidence: Climate-related risks and hazards are included in Zone Emergency Management Plans (ZEMP), Asset Management Plans, Corporate Risk Registers and other key strategic documents.



	Issues	Actions
4.1 Corporate Climate Risk Management	There is a growing recognition of the need for councils to manage their exposure to climate related legal and financial risks. Risk assessments help to identify gaps in our strategic and governance frameworks and processes related to climate change, and to identify physical and transition risks related to a changing climate as part of council service delivery, asset management and operations.	4.1.1 Share learning from the climate-related risk work already undertaken by each partner council and other State Government agencies to accelerate activity across Western Adelaide.
	Ongoing climate-related risk management is more likely to be successful if it is embedded in formal organisational processes rather than if it relies upon particular people or relationships to make it happen.	4.1.2 Deliver climate-related risk training to upskill staff and elected representatives and support informed climate decision-making.
	Each of the three partner councils has completed a climate-related risk and governance assessment and is now separately looking at how to progress this work.	4.1.3 Actively participate in and contribute to the Climate Risk Community of Practice (CoP) convened by the LGA that supports and enables cross-council collaboration and learning on climate risk and governance matters.

	Issues	Actions
4.2 Disaster Resilience	AdaptWest has established links with emergency management processes, primarily through the WZEMC (Western Zone Emergency Management Committee), SAFECOM (South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission), and SES (State Emergency Service). The City of Port Adelaide Enfield also takes part in the Northern Zone Emergency Management Committee (NZEMC).	4.2.1 Build our relationship with the ZEMCs to identify opportunities to embed climate considerations into Zone Emergency Management Plans.
	Through engagement with WZEMC and formal advocacy AdaptWest provides regular updates on implementation of the climate adaptation plan.	4.2.2 Develop spatial information on current and future climate risks and hazards for western Adelaide.



	Issues	Actions
4.3 Resilient Assets and Infrastructure	Local governments are responsible for managing thousands of infrastructure assets including roads and stormwater drains, sports facilities and community centres, bridges to libraries. Ensuring that critical assets and infrastructure across the region continue to support and enable our people and businesses to thrive will be important as our climate continues to change.	4.3.1 Adopt best practice in asset management plans, such as from IPWEA and Water Sensitive SA.
		4.3.2 Collaborate with owners of critical infrastructure and assets to enhance resilience to climate change.
		4.3.3 Collaborate through trials and case studies to determine suitable materials and innovations that will increase the climate resilience of our assets and infrastructure.
		4.3.4 Learn from resilient assets initiatives being developed by others (e.g. Resilient South RAMP) and identify opportunities to incorporate learning into the processes being used by partner councils.
		4.3.5 Encourage research that enhances best practice in asset and infrastructure management.

	Issues	Actions
4.4 Climate Ready Coasts	Climate change is causing rising seas, stronger storms and more severe coastal hazards. This is increasingly putting people, homes, infrastructure, livelihoods and natural resources at risk. The SA Climate Ready Coasts program is improving the approach to coastal management and accelerating coastal hazard adaptation planning in South Australia.	4.4.1 Work regionally with other key partners to develop Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan(s) for our region.
		4.4.2 Continue to participate in the Adelaide Coastal Councils Network.



5. COLLABORATIVE AND COHESIVE REGIONAL CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Why is this important?

To successfully deliver on our shared vision, it is important that there is a trusted collaboration between the partner councils and key strategic partnerships are fostered.

We need to strategically use our funding contributions to attract external investment in our program priorities to maximise impact and advocate for key regional outcomes.

How we will measure our progress:

Measure: AdaptWest RCP is a high-performing and well-resourced partnership that is widely recognised as leading climate response action in western Adelaide.

Evidence: Annual program report that summarises projects delivered against key priorities and targets, opportunities for improvement, external funding achieved, and strategic delivery partnerships.

	Issues	Actions
5.1 Secure Funding	Securing adequate financial resources to support various projects and initiatives can be difficult, especially in a competitive funding environment.	5.1.1 Proactively seek external funding to support delivery of the Regional Climate Action Plan and program priorities.
	This Plan will be delivered using a variety of funding sources. The partner councils will each allocate funding to agreed priorities, and we will actively seek State and Federal Government grants to support mutually beneficial initiatives. Working together can deliver cost savings by reducing duplication and sharing resources and staff time across the four partner councils.	5.1.2 Ensure that each of the partner councils has allocated budgets to deliver priority initiatives.



5.2 Strong Relationships

Issues	Actions
Ensuring sustained political and community support over the long term is essential for the successful execution of climate action plans, which may be challenging in a changing political landscape.	5.2.1 Develop a Sector Agreement with the South Australian Government to formalise the regional climate partnership and to demonstrate shared objectives and outcomes.
Community and conservation groups, Kurna Meyunna, government agencies, residents, businesses, schools, and research institutions all play a role in responding to climate change. Maintaining and enhancing partnerships between AdaptWest and these partners is integral to the delivery of this Plan.	5.2.2 Identify key partners and collaborators and foster strategic partnerships to accelerate delivery of regional climate response priorities.
Partnerships with research institutions and State Government agencies will enable AdaptWest to support research into leading approaches to responding to climate change and to stay informed of emerging knowledge.	5.2.3 Develop a relationship map to identify key strategic partners to implement regional priorities.

5.3 Regional Advocacy

Issues	Actions
Existing regulations and policies may hinder the implementation of certain actions or require significant adjustments to accommodate new initiatives. We recognise that councils are one player in the broader climate response system. To elevate regional climate response priorities and influence state and federal climate-related policy and strategy we will jointly advocate for the region to ensure it stays relevant and focussed on the things that matter to our region.	5.3.1 Network with other Regional Climate Partnerships to focus advocacy activities and collaborative opportunities.
	5.3.2 Prepare submissions to State and Federal policy and strategic planning processes that will help advance regional climate priorities.
	5.3.3 Foster strategic partnerships and alliances that will advance regional climate response priorities.
	5.3.4 Actively participate in state climate-related consultation and engagement processes to ensure that the voice of western Adelaide is heard.



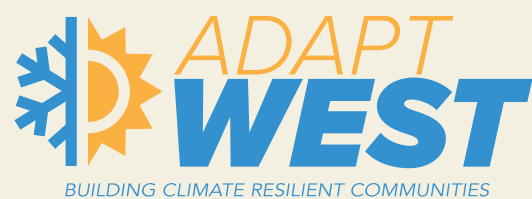
	Issues	Actions
5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation	Regular monitoring and evaluation of program delivery is critical to informing good decisionmaking when trying to manage complexity. A monitoring and evaluation framework that includes a suite of key performance indicators or measures of success will be developed to support tracking and reporting on the delivery of the Plan priorities and monitoring of achievement of Plan targets.	5.4.1 Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework that will support regular reporting on delivery of the Regional Climate Action Plan.
		5.4.2 Provide regular program delivery updates to partner councils as part of annual reporting processes.
		5.4.3 Develop a short annual report to communicate program delivery achievements against key priorities and targets that can be used as an internal and external communications tool.

	Issues	Actions
5.5 Telling Our Story	It is important that we raise awareness of the work we are doing to respond to climate change in western Adelaide.	5.5.1 Develop a Communications Strategy to increase awareness of, and demonstrate the value of the Regional Climate Partnership and this Regional Climate Action Plan.
		5.5.2 Review and update the AdaptWest website and ensure that information is refreshed on a regular basis.
		5.5.3 Refresh the AdaptWest e-newsletter and proactively use this as a mechanism to promote program aims and achievements.
		5.5.4 Explore opportunities to share local climate response activities and experiences to help build community awareness and action.

GLOSSARY

Adaptation	The process of adjusting to actual or expected changes in climate to reduce or avoid climate impacts or exploit beneficial opportunities. (DCCEW National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025)
Biodiversity	The variety of life in all its forms (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms), the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live. (Government of South Australia – Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025)
Circular Economy	A circular economy aims to sustainably reuse materials through reuse, repurposing, recycling and remanufacturing. (Advancing the Circular Economy – CSIRO)
Climate Change	Climate change is any change in the climate, lasting for several decades or longer, including changes in temperature, rainfall or wind patterns. (What is climate change and what can we do about it?)
Climate Emergency	Climate Emergency is a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it. (Oxford Dictionary)
Climate Resilience	Resilience is the capacity of communities, environments and economies to cope with a hazardous event or disturbance, while maintaining their essential functions and structure. (National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025 – DCCEEW)
Climate Risk	Climate risk typically refers to the potential negative impacts that climate change, and efforts to limit it, can have on the natural environment, ecosystems, infrastructure, economies, and society. Climate risk is made up of two primary types physical and transition. Liability risks can also arise when a person or entity may be held responsible for not acting sufficiently on physical or transition risks, causing damage to others. (Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water 2023 – Climate Risk Management Guide)
Cool Refuge	A cool refuge is an air-conditioned place that can provide individuals relief from extreme heat weather. They are a place to go to keep cool and save during these extreme weather events.
Emissions	Refers to greenhouse gas emissions, released into the atmosphere primarily due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), agriculture, and land clearing. (Modified from Understanding climate change – DCCEEW)
Greenhouse Gas	Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and some artificial chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). (Understanding climate change – DCCEEW)
Liveability	Liveability is a measure of quality of life that considers socio-economic, environmental, transport and recreational factors and is used to benchmark cities around the world. (Government of South Australia – Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025)
Low Carbon Actions	Actions and strategies aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigate/ Mitigation	The action we take to limit changes in global climate caused by human activities. (National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025 – DCCEEW)
Net Zero Emissions	Net zero emissions means that any remaining greenhouse gas emissions, after emissions are reduced, are balanced out by removal of an equivalent amount of carbon through additional carbon storage or carbon credits generated from a range of emissions reduction activities. (Government of South Australia – Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025)
Regional Climate Partnership	The Regional Climate Partnerships, including AdaptWest, are a network of regional, cross sectoral groups delivering practical action aimed at strengthening the climate resilience of their communities, economies, and natural and built environments.
Renewable Energy	This energy produced using natural resources that are constantly replaced and never run out (What is renewable energy? Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)).
Resilience / Resilient	In the context of climate change, resilience refers to the ability of an ecosystem, society or business to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. It is built on understanding climate-related risks and vulnerabilities and implementing the necessary measures to manage these risks effectively.
Urban Greening	The process of increasing and improving green spaces within cities, including parks, trees, green roofs, and wetlands, to enhance the environment and quality of life, and promote sustainability.
Urban Heat	The urban heat island effect is where urban areas are warmer than surrounding land. This is due to the density or movement of people, cars, buildings, infrastructure and less green space. This density, movement and mass amount of hard and dark surfaces holds in heat, making the area much hotter than the green spaces around it, creating an 'urban heat island'. (National Geographic)
Vulnerability	The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change. Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change is a function of exposure to climate conditions, sensitivity to those conditions, and the capacity to adapt to the changes.
Water Sensitive	Refers to a systems-based approach to urban water management. A water sensitive city is productive, providing efficient and diverse water sources provide the water security essential for economic prosperity, sustainable, water systems enhance and protect the health of waterways and wetlands, the river basins that surround them, and the coast and bays



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