

Adaptation Framework Update

Prospering in a changing climate



So what is happening with the draft Adaptation Framework?

From December 2010 to April 2011, the South Australian Government ran a consultation process on Prospering in a Changing Climate: SA's draft Adaptation Framework.

During that period, 17 consultation sessions were held across the state, covering each major region and identified special interest groups. An estimated 150 regional leaders were involved.

As a result, 40 formal submissions containing nearly 300 unique comments were received. Overall there was broad and positive support for the framework, although clarity was sought in the following areas:

- relationship with other plans
- funding arrangements
- links between regional approach and sectoral issues
- implementation processes.

The comments have been reviewed and considered by members of the Premier's Climate Change Council and the Natural Resources Management Council and the

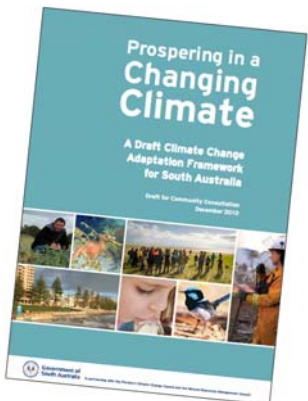
framework is now undergoing amendment.

As a result of the comments received there will be minor changes to the objectives, roles and responsibilities, and the regional sections of the document. However, the sectoral approach and the implementation sections are being substantially revamped to clarify the relationship with the regional approach and to outline how these processes will be undertaken.

The Sustainability & Climate Change Division is leading the development of a formal action plan which will outline how Government Agencies will implement the framework.

The Government has also commissioned a study on the economic impacts of climate change. This study will assess the benefits of funding adaptation activities today to offset the impacts of climate change in the future.

We are aiming for approval of the Framework in September 2011.



So what actions are already underway?

As you may remember from the draft Framework, the process to adaptation planning follows a number of steps. Put simply these are:

1. Develop regional planning arrangement under a Regional Agreement
2. Undertake an Integrated Vulnerability Assessment for the Region
3. Undertake adaptation planning based on the outcomes of the vulnerability assessment
4. Implement the adaptation plan
5. Monitor and review as required

Update on Regional Agreements

Of the 12 State Government regions there are now two regional agreements signed and underway.

The first agreement with the Eyre Peninsula was signed on 18 August 2010. The second agreement with the Barossa Region was signed by the Premier and Regional Development Australia Barossa on 18 May 2011.

A further three regions are in advanced stages of negotiation. A draft agreement with the Northern and Yorke Region is awaiting government approval. It is anticipated that this will be signed in coming months. Draft agreements are also being developed for the Southern Adelaide Region and with the Western Adelaide Region.

If you would like to commence discussions around a regional agreement for your region, please email Rohan Hamden on rohan.hamden@sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8204 1040.

Update on adaptation projects

There are already several climate change adaptation projects underway that involve both the regions and the State Government. Some examples include:

Northern, Yorke and Barossa Integrated Vulnerability Assessment

The Yorke and Mid North Region, in conjunction with the Barossa Region, are undertaking an Integrated Vulnerability Assessment for their areas. It has been funded through the Natural Disaster Resilience Fund, Local Government Association, regional partners and State Government. This project will identify those areas of the region that will be most affected by climate change, and help to prioritise actions to ensure they have a prosperous future.

This project also includes the development of a consistent methodology for use by other regions when undertaking Integrated Vulnerability Assessments.

This project is due to be completed later this year.



Contact Us

Sustainability & Climate Change Division,
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Post:

GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

Phone:

(08) 8204 2999

Email:

climatechange@sa.gov.au

Southern Adelaide and Western Adelaide Integrated Vulnerability Assessments

The Southern Adelaide Region and the Western Adelaide Region have also been successful in attracting funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Fund to undertake Integrated Vulnerability Assessments. These projects will commence shortly.

Eyre Peninsula Coastal Adaptation Options Assessment and Action Planning

This project will test a process of decision making to allow a community to formulate agreed adaptation action. The purpose of the project is to test the methodology that can be used to lead a community through a decision making process and identify adaptation options. The methodology will be tested using the impact of sea level rise on the Whyalla community. This project will commence shortly.

Local Government Asset Vulnerability Project

The Local Government Association, with the support of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and State Government, has begun a project to develop tools that allow local governments to translate climate change impacts on assets into strategic and operational financial and asset management plans.

The main objective of the project is to identify key council assets vulnerable to climate change. Key outcomes are to:

- identify the likely impacts of climate change on council assets
- undertake a financial modelling exercise to quantify the identified climate change asset risks
- guide service level standards

- develop the necessary modifications to existing asset management and financial sustainability tools so that councils may evaluate various climate change action scenarios/options at the management planning level .

The deliverables will be tested on a case study basis with a maximum of eight councils from across southern Australia for a minimum of two assets classes to ensure the processes and tools developed are rigorous and useable. The frameworks and tools developed will be designed to accommodate future changes to each of the input variables including climate scenarios and parameters, assets and costs.

This project will be completed in 2012.

