



6 September 2021

NCRAS Taskforce  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Jessica Ward

## RE: NATIONAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY

This submission is provided on behalf of the management of the City of Melbourne and is based on endorsed Council policy. The City of Melbourne welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and commend the Australian Government for its commitment to building a climate-resilient nation through the development of this strategy.

The City of Melbourne acknowledges that more needs to be done by all levels of government to accelerate climate action. Local government authorities look for clarity at a federal level around roles and responsibilities and commend the Australian Government for providing these definitions. The Victorian Government has provided clarity through the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Roles and Responsibilities under Victorian legislation.

The City of Melbourne acknowledges that local governments are at the heart of climate adaptation action. We urge the Australian Government to increase its ambition to not only address the impacts of climate change but to future proof the safety of citizens, assets and critical services, in partnership with all levels of government. Covid-19 has exposed the existing vulnerabilities experienced by historically disadvantaged groups, widening inequality. Strategically deployed relief efforts and longer-term policy reforms are needed to challenge the perennial and unequal impact of disasters including extreme weather events as a result of climate change.

Our key recommendations to strengthen the ambition of this strategy are:

1. **Formally incorporate climate risks in all decisions and policy-making** - this includes mandating the consideration of climate risk in Federal Government business cases and construction codes.
2. **Lead from the front** - by ensuring all new Government owned and funded assets and infrastructure are adapting to the impacts of climate change.
3. **Provide direct financial support to local government** - to prepare, prevent, respond and recover from detrimental climatic impacts.
4. **Prioritise the rapid implementation of recommendations made in the National Natural Disaster Arrangements Royal Commission and 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan**- this includes taking a lead role on mapping and acting on critical system interdependencies vulnerabilities.
5. **Accelerate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals** – given that climate change is a risk amplifier across society, we encourage the Federal government to accelerate leadership and implementation of the UN SDGs in achieving targets towards Agenda 2030.
6. **Address issues of social inequality of climate risk** – by investing in an inclusive and well-targeted social safety net, where “no one is left behind”.

The City of Melbourne’s [Response to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency 2020](#) outlines the organisation’s priorities for achieving zero net emissions by 2040 and adapting our city to the impacts of climate change. In recognition of the serious risk to the people of Melbourne the Response

commits to adapting the city to the impacts of climate change, which includes investing in ecosystem based urban forests, Integrated Water Management, green buildings, waste innovation and better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

The City of Melbourne has recognized and responded to the risks associated with climate change in since 2009. The journey around managing our climate risk has matured over time and we now consider “failing to take appropriate and timely action on the changing climate and extreme weather events” as a key strategic risk. To manage this risk the City of Melbourne seeks to partner with all levels of government to appropriately coordinate responses and allocate shared responsibility to climate change risks and impacts. This co-ordination is a key area that requires future investment.

If you would like to further discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact Vicki Barmby, Manager Climate Adapted and Water Sensitive City at [vicki.barmby@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicki.barmby@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the development and delivery of this strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Tiffany Crawford

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