

Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in the Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership

VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project

CASE STUDY REPORT

Authors

Sophie Millin¹, Philip Wallis², Emily Anderson³, Marianne Hendron³ and Meagan Ward³

¹Centre for Urban Research, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies / Climate Change Adaptation Program, RMIT University, Melbourne

²Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University, Melbourne

³Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership, Ararat, Victoria

© 2013 RMIT University, Monash University, Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research

ISBN: 978-0-9923532-2-3

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the copyright holder.

Please cite this report as:

S Millin, P Wallis, E Anderson, M Hendron and M Ward (2013): Case Study Report: Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in the Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership. Melbourne: RMIT University, Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research, Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership.

Acknowledgement

This work was carried out with financial support from the Victorian Government through the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR) and the Department of Health.

Images

Courtesy of the Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership.

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not represent those of the Victorian Government or VCCCAR. They are the views of the report authors.

This case study report is a co-developed research output of the Implementing Adaptation project, funded by the Victorian Government through VCCCAR. The report was co-written by researchers and key individuals from the Grampians Pyrenees and Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP). Chapter 5 of this report draws heavily on interviews held with GPPCP as part of an evaluation meeting. The report captures the views of the partner organisation and the researchers involved.



Table of contents

- 1 About us 3
- 2 The VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project 3
 - 2.1 The project 4
 - 2.2 The process..... 4
- 3 Getting started 5
 - 3.1 Why we wanted to participate 5
- 4 The tool 6
 - 4.1 Our chosen tool 6
 - 4.2 How the tool was selected 6
 - 4.3 How the tool was implemented 8
- 5 Outcomes of the process 9
 - 5.1 What did we learn? 9
 - 5.2 What was challenging? 9
 - 5.3 What has changed during this process? 10
 - 5.4 What was most important for us? 10
- 6 What next? Moving forward.11

1 About us

The *Grampians-Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (GPPCP)* is located in the central west of Victoria. Its region takes in Ararat Rural City and Northern Grampians and Pyrenees Shires and includes a range of population groups and living environments. The health and wellbeing of GPPCP residents varies considerably both between and within the Grampians-Pyrenees PCP local government areas and population groups. However, the GPPCP region (as with many rural areas in Victoria) is typified by relatively low-growth or a declining population, a high proportion of older residents, high levels of chronic disease and relatively high levels of socio-economic disadvantage.



FIGURE 1 STAFF AT THE GRAMPIANS AND PYRENEES PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP, ARARAT

2 The VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project

2.1 The project

Our organisation has been involved in a project funded by the Victorian government through the *Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR)*. The project entitled '*Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resources management sectors*' (*Implementing Adaptation* in the following) has been conducted to gain a better understanding of the adaptation capabilities and needs of three types of government service providers and funded agencies. These were catchment management authorities (CMAs), community service organisations (CSOs), and primary care partnerships (PCPs) and the purpose of the project was to facilitate the implementation and testing of tools and methodologies for climate change adaptation planning.

Five CSOs and PCPs participated in the tools-testing phase of the project. The Grampians and Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership was one of the five organisations which aimed to gain a better understanding of how identified climate change adaptation needs can best be responded to using existing decision-support tools.

2.2 The process

The Implementing Adaptation research involved four meetings facilitated by the research team over the course of a six month period, with associated work carried out between each meeting. The meeting process is shown below.

- 1: Scoping – Organisational context, needs and capabilities
- 2: Tool Selection – Introducing and selecting an adaptation tool
- 3: Tool Implementation – Progressing the tool use
- 4: Evaluation – Reflection on project process and usefulness of tool.

3 Getting started

3.1 Why we wanted to participate

We wanted to participate in this research because we felt that the project would benefit GPPCP greatly as the tools testing process could provide:

- A starting point and clearer pathway, guided by informed tools, to engage with a diverse range of members and stakeholders and commence our journey to better adapt to climate change and mitigate potential impacts.
- The ability to be able to offer tangible tools and engage in meaningful dialogue with our partners in a challenging environment where our partners have competing priorities and climate change is seen as a complex, overwhelming or peripheral issue.
- The capacity to disseminate experiences and our learning across the wider Grampians PCP network in order to extend the project's application.
- A better understanding of how tools can be developed and tested in order to apply learning and replicate this method and approach in developing tools for other priority issues and concerns in our sector.
- An enhanced relationship with RMIT and Monash University (through VCCCAR) and knowledge and understanding in participating in a research project and fostering mutual beneficial outcomes.

"From working in the Grampians region and being influenced by extreme weather events and emergencies, we thought there would be great value for (adaptation) work in this catchment"

4 The tool

4.1 Our chosen tool

We chose to apply the *Climate Change Adaptation Navigator (The Navigator)* out of a suite of tools presented to meet our adaptation needs. The Navigator is a web-based guidance framework developed as part of a VCCCAR research project entitled: '*Framing multi-level and multi-actor adaptation responses in the Victorian context*' (*Framing Adaptation*). Although at a conceptual stage, the Navigator can be used as a facilitation tool to investigate the varying stages on the adaptation journey appropriate to GPPCPs member agencies. It can be used either as a hard copy map to facilitate discussion and draw on the journey of adaptation, or as an interactive website (Figure 2). Each of the highest level areas, shown in bold in Figure 2, provide further information and associated resources, when explored.

4.2 How the tool was selected

After the first meeting, the Implementing Adaptation research team identified three 'adaptation needs' of GPPCP, shown below.

1. Raise awareness and educate member agencies on climate change adaptation to ensure each agency is at a similar starting point
2. Develop a process to create a resource that can be utilised by members and agencies to better embed climate change adaptation into policy and practice.
3. Develop a process to enable GPPCP to take other agencies on the climate change adaptation journey

With these adaptation needs in mind, the research team searched through an *Adaptation Product Database*¹ consisting of approximately 300 international and Australian products and tools.

¹Webb, R, and Beh, J. 2013 Leading adaptation practices and support strategies for Australia: An international and Australian review of products and tools, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast, 106pp.

The research team then identified a short list of adaptation tools that were considered suitable and presented them to GPPCP, highlighting why it would be useful, what would be required and the outputs that could be produced.

From the selection, The Navigator was chosen as it was visually appealing, there were many layers of information and most importantly, because of its flexibility when practically applying the tool.



FIGURE 2 THE ADAPTATION NAVIGATOR

In response to the researcher’s survey we highlighted the following categories as the most important factors:

- Visual appeal

- Comprehensive
- Simplicity of the tool
- Wealth of example outputs provided
- Trustworthiness of the tool
- Language used
- Researchers expertise around the tool

4.3 How the tool was implemented

The Adaptation Navigator was used to undertake the preliminary stages of the adaptation process and to scope out a project plan. Using a hard copy version of the Navigator map, we highlighted elements of the adaptation process that we were going to work on and the order we were going to complete them. The map facilitated and enabled discussion around the elements of the adaptation planning process. Subsequently, five out of the ten 'high level' 'areas' of the Navigator's map were identified for focus. It was also decided that an adaptation guide (*The Guide*) would be produced for GPPCPs partner agencies to provide a starting point for climate change engagement with a diverse range of members and stakeholders.

Determining the purpose and scope was the second 'area' of the Navigator to be addressed and we used UKCIP's Adaptation Wizard Notepad to support us with this stage and document our aims and decisions. This process provided further focus for the project and helped us to identify the people involved and articulate our motivations.

The other stages of the Navigator that were part of the process were the business case for adaptation, knowing the climate science, assessing the effects of climate change (on the health and community sector) and understanding the policy context. These stages were explored through the production of the Guide so as to showcase regionally specific information, resources and tools to assist members carry out their own climate change adaptation planning.

5 Outcomes of the process

5.1 What did we learn?

- The Navigator was only a small part of the process.
- The fact that the project was also action research added more layers of meaning to the work and its importance.
- Learning how to use reflective processes, which there isn't often time set aside to do as a part of our day to day work.
- Being a part of a broader research project and working with the VCCCAR team was very rewarding.

5.2 What was challenging?

- It was initially difficult to get our head around what our role was in the process. Later, it was challenging to engage partner agencies and selling the need to work on climate change adaptation. We also had to determine how it connected with our core role and the other work that we were doing.
- It was concerning as to whether we had put enough time into researching each of the tool options presented to us. We wanted to make sure that the tool we chose was the most appropriate.
- It was challenging trying to justify the importance of this work over other projects not as obviously relevant, for example, an anti-obesity campaign.
- We had to ensure that working through the process enabled a tangible outcome to show that the time was well invested.

5.3 What has changed during this process?

- The greatest 'tool' was the combined effort of the team in progressing from the beginning of the project to where we are now - better skilled, better connected and better able to support our members.

5.4 What was most important for us?

- The process was driven by the research team, which made it much easier to be active participants. Plus, we came out of the process with a tangible outcome.
- The meetings were well spaced out, well organised and flexible; it felt like a nicely-paced project. This gave us time to absorb, reflect and remain engaged.
- It was important that the decision to choose The Navigator wasn't made at meeting 2, but was made between meetings 2 and 3 with input from partner agencies. This provided us with additional time to reflect and feel more informed about the tools so we felt that we were making the right decision.
- The research team were very engaging, responsive, and flexible to the needs of the PCP. The research team and deliverers of the project were well placed to ensure optimum engagement and meaningful and productive relationships.

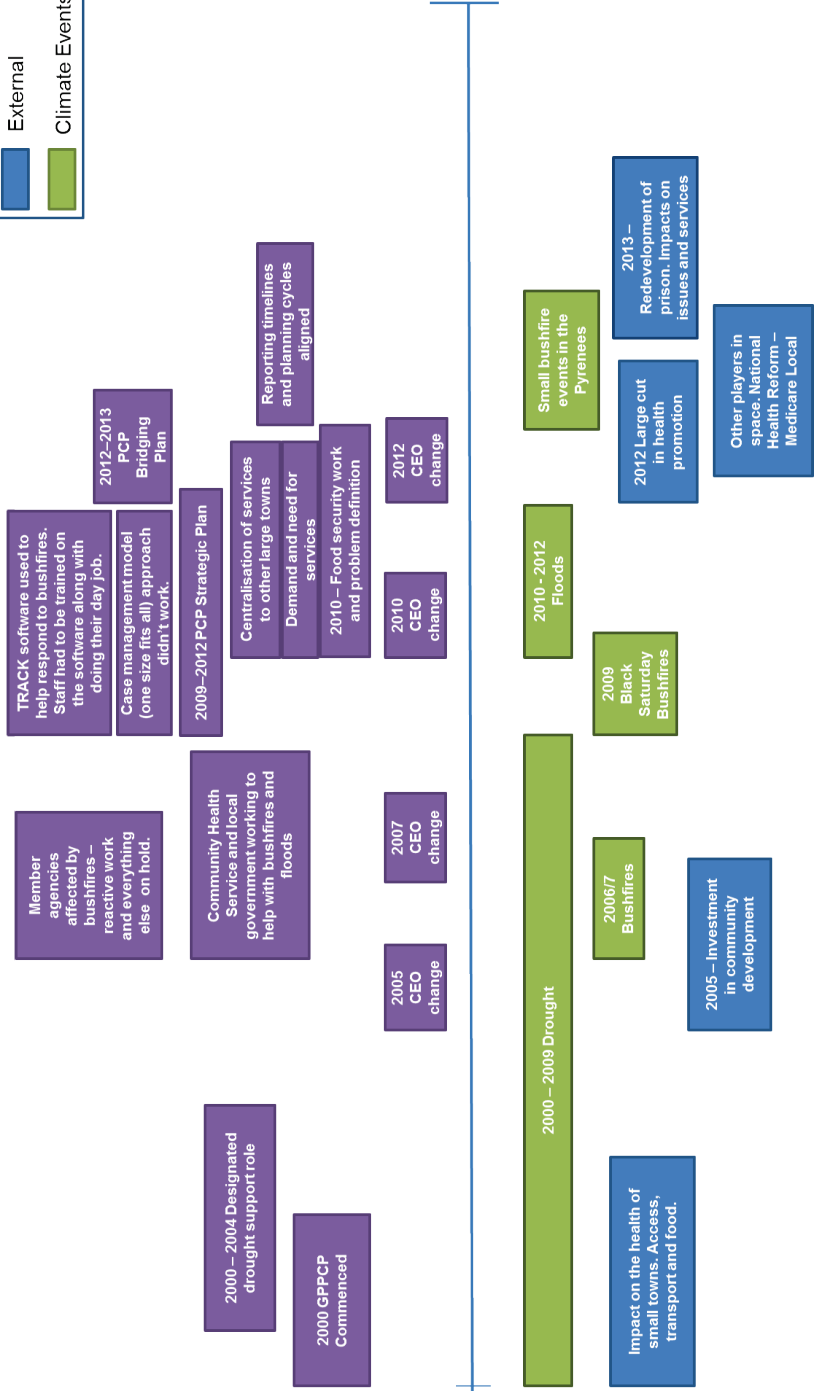
6 What next? Moving forward.

- The aim is to complete the Guide within 2-3 months of meeting 4.
- Ideally, we would like to hold a launch for the Guide and/or a workshop session by the end of 2013 to instigate discussion and engagement with our stakeholders. We would then hope to engage further with our members using The Adaptation Navigator and The Guide to enable them to undertake their own adaptation planning process. (These action points rely on additional time available and further funding).
- We would also like to engage with the Southern Grampians & Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) in Hamilton to share lessons learnt, and explore collaborative climate change related opportunities across a broader region.
- Once the Guide is complete we will have a comprehensive and tangible tool that can be applied to a range of settings and utilised by a range of members. In the next phase of our work, when we engage more meaningfully with our members, we will feel equipped with the knowledge and confidence that we have something significant to offer our member agencies. We really look forward to progressing this work in the future.

GPPCP Timeline Activity

Key

- Internal
- External
- Climate Events





Partner Universities



Project Sponsor

