

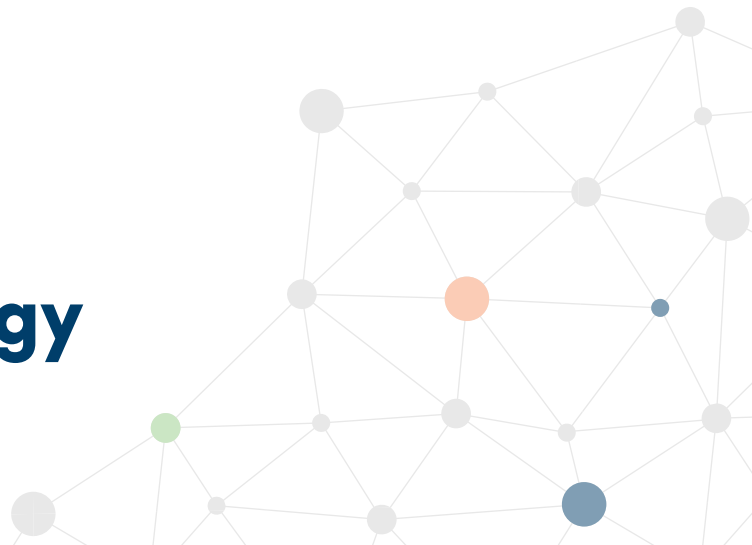
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GIPPSLAND

An Australian Government Initiative



Gippsland PHN

**Climate Change
Adaptation Strategy**





Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Gippsland PHN acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of country throughout Gippsland, and their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

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Introduction

Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) was first challenged by its Community Advisory Committee to develop a position statement on climate change in February 2020 because the committee understood the connection between climate change and health, and the importance for Gippsland PHN to have a leadership role in adaptation. This challenge led to the development of a position statement, followed by this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (the Strategy) and associated Action Plan.

The Strategy investigates and is informed by current literature, policy, and the context for action. The Strategy is focused around leadership, mitigation and resilience- in alignment with the Health Care Climate Challenge¹.

Being an outcomes focused organisation, the Action Plan contains objectives, actions and outcomes which are aligned to the Gippsland PHN strategic objectives:

- Progress our priority issues
- Strong local capability
- Borderless systems
- Access for everyone everywhere
- Exceptional organisation

A summary of timeframes and outcomes of the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy are detailed in Figure 1 below.

Short term: 1-3 years



Gippsland PHN will be respected as a leader in understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our communities



Gippsland PHN will monitor and mitigate climate related risks and maximise emerging beneficial opportunities



Gippsland PHN will show leadership in climate mitigation and adaptation, and reduce its carbon footprint



Gippsland PHN will be responsive to community needs in providing access to services following disasters and emergencies.

Medium term: 3-5 years



Gippsland PHN's climate change position and response will be well understood and communicated



Capacity and capability for climate change adaptation will be supported and built within Gippsland health providers- through embedding encouragement of sustainable solutions within tender processes

Long term: 5+ years



Reduced hospital utilisation and more effective use of health service resources may positively impact emissions generated by the health sector



Our priority issues are understood and communicated- climate change is understood as an equity issue



The voice and role of primary care is heard and understood in disaster/emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Figure 1: Timeframes and Outcomes of the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Action Strategy

¹ greenhospitals.net/about-challenge

Definitions

National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy² definitions:

Adaptation - the process of adjusting to actual or expected changes in climate to reduce or avoid climate impacts, or exploit beneficial opportunities

Resilience - the ability of communities, environments and economies to cope with a hazardous event or disturbance, while maintaining their essential functions and structure

Mitigation - the action we take to limit changes in global climate caused by human activities

Gippsland

The Gippsland Region spans more than 42,000 square kilometres and has a population of greater than 300,000 people³. Located east of the metropolitan centre of Victoria, Gippsland consists of six Local Government Areas (LGA's), and 3 sub-regions of Central, East and South Gippsland Coast.

The median age of people in Gippsland is 45 years compared to 37 years in Victoria. The median age of Indigenous people in Gippsland is 22 years.

The Indigenous population in Gippsland has a much younger age distribution compared to non-Indigenous people. Only about 5% of the Indigenous population are 65 years or older compared to around 20% of non-Indigenous people. A high proportion of the Indigenous population Gippsland is aged 0-24 years.

The Gippsland population is expected to have grown to 310,624 in 2026 and to 328,861 in 2031. Baw Baw and Bass Coast have a higher growth rate than Victoria⁴.



² Dawe 2021, National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025: Positioning Australia to better anticipate, manage and adapt to our Changing Climate, Department of AGRICULTURE, Water and the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census of Population and Housing. abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/205

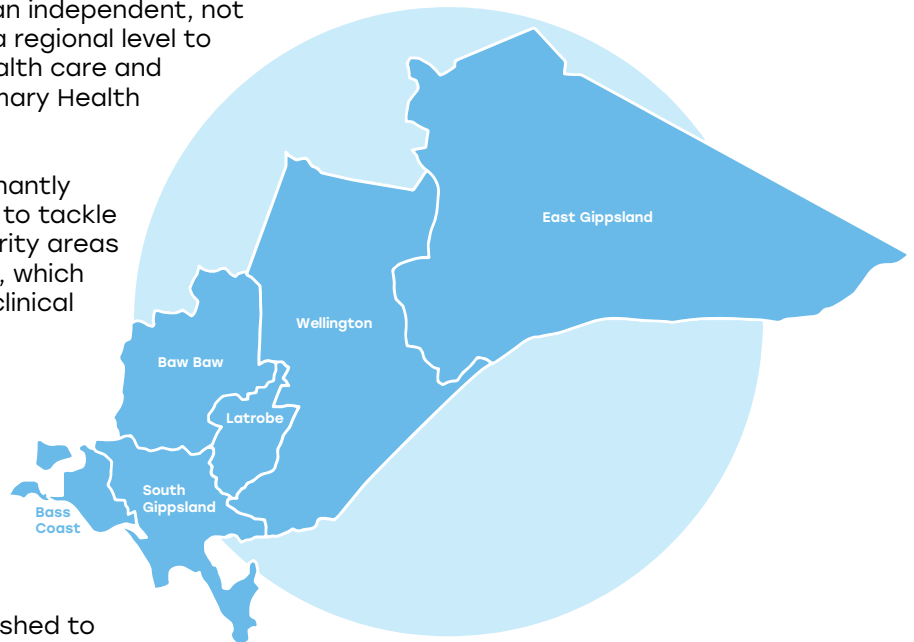
⁴ Gippsland PHN 2021 Health Needs Assessment

Gippsland PHN

Established in 2015, Gippsland PHN is an independent, not for profit organisation that works at a regional level to achieve improved whole of system health care and is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia.

Primary Health Networks are predominantly funded by the Australian Government to tackle identified national objectives and priority areas and frame the work of Gippsland PHN, which is also guided by the community and clinical input to improve health outcomes.

We work with communities, general practice, allied health, hospitals and other primary and community health providers to drive, support and strengthen primary health in Gippsland to meet the needs of local communities.



We are consumer focused and established to reduce fragmentation of care by integrating and coordinating health services and supporting general practice. We leverage and administer health program funding from a variety of sources to commission flexible services to realise our vision of a measurably healthier Gippsland.

Our key objectives are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

The Gippsland PHN offices are located on the Traditional Lands of the Gunaikurnai and Bunurong peoples.

The territory of the Gunaikurnai Lands and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) includes the coastal and inland areas to the southern slopes of the Victorian Alps and extends from West Gippsland, near Warragul, east to the Snowy River and north to the Great Dividing Range.

The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation covers the areas of Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast and South Gippsland.



Literature and Policy Review

The World Health Organisation (WHO), in their position paper *Climate change and health*⁵, state that climate change has been evidenced by global warming of 0.85 degrees Celsius in the past 130 years, and that this trend has accelerated for the last 3 decades resulting in rising sea levels, melting of polar ice, changed weather patterns and extreme weather events. These changes have resultant effects on the social and environmental determinants of health, manifesting in global increased costs for health and increased mortality rates. They argue that health impacts of climate change are “overwhelmingly negative” and that reducing emissions of greenhouse gases will improve health outcomes, particularly if air pollution is reduced. Extreme heat exacerbates pollution, pollen and other aeroallergen levels which negatively impact on cardiovascular and respiratory disease, trigger asthma, and contributes to deaths in the elderly population. The increasing incidence of weather-related natural disasters (reported disasters have tripled since the 1960s) are impacting on coastal and regional populations in the form of destroyed homes which negatively impacts on mental health and communicable diseases. The production of food products is also impacted by higher temperatures and variable rainfall patterns.

The changes increase the risks of vector borne diseases such dengue fever, Ross River virus, and Barmah Forest virus due to longer transmission seasons and changed geographic ranges. Additionally, severe droughts are associated with increased incidence of mental health disorders such as depression and suicide, and the impact on farming and food production is manifested in issues with food availability and affordability⁶.

Increased temperatures during the hottest period of the year can also have an impact on performance and capacity for workforces. Kjellstrom et al⁷ posit that climate change will impact the work capacity of many people who live in areas of high average temperature, resulting in losses to GDP of as much as 20% by 2100 due to increased incidence and severity of extreme heat conditions. Occupations most at risk include construction workers, transportation and community/emergency services. Predicted health impacts of increased heat include fatal kidney disease, interactions with prescription drugs, and increased burden of morbidity.

The increased incidence and severity of excessive heat exposure also affects the ability of people to undertake exercise and sporting activities which may also impact negatively on health⁴.

Additionally, those health practitioners and emergency responders impacted by natural disasters, such as bushfires due to extreme weather events, may have difficulty attending their workplace if they are personally affected, placing greater strain on local agencies involved in emergency response.

Recent history of climate change impacts in Australia



374 and 167 excess deaths in Victoria in 2009 and 2014 respectively attributed to heatwaves



Health and social cost of 2011 Black Saturday bushfires \$3.9 billion



Thunderstorms asthma event in Victoria 2016 resulted in 3,000% increase in asthma related admissions and contributed to nine deaths



Reduced productivity due to extreme heat costs the Australian economy \$8 billion annually



Health Impacts of coal fired power generation estimated to cost Australia \$2.6 billion annually



Financial impact of 2022 NSW and Queensland floods \$4 billion

Figure 2. Recent history of climate change impacts in Australia

Data source: *Framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia 2017* and more recent estimates of 2022 NSW and Queensland floods.

Extreme weather events and natural disasters driven by climate change will increasingly define the work of PHNs as they are recognised as the logical co-ordinators of regional primary care emergency response. A report released by the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements recommended that:

Australian, state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including: representation on relevant disaster committees and plans and providing training, education and other supports⁸

The PHN Cooperative therefore argues that PHNs should be authorised co-ordinators of emergency response, have appropriate representation on relevant disaster management committees, and be funded and resourced for preparedness and action⁹.

The need for Primary Health Care to be involved in emergency response for extreme weather events is echoed by the WHO. The WHO argues that Primary Health Care can become an influential change agent that facilitates community climate resistance and development which has a low carbon footprint⁴.

The impacts of climate change will exacerbate inequality because the greatest impact will be on the lowest greenhouse gas contributors, therefore organisations have an opportunity to address inequality through environmentally responsible actions. Health systems in developed countries contribute 3-10% of national greenhouse gas emissions, produce large amounts of waste, and have large carbon footprints through transport and procurement¹⁰. Potential benefits of environmentally responsible action for an organisation include saving money, improving organisational quality and resilience, and improving the wellbeing of staff and the community.

The Lancet Countdown¹¹ tracks progress on health and climate change across the globe through a range of indicators which report and benchmark the understanding of communities, health systems and governments, and the strategies and resources being deployed. Their most recent report states that, for Domain 1 (climate change impacts, exposures and vulnerabilities), the 2020 indicators are at the most concerning since the inception of the Lancet Countdown. However, the authors noted that there is extensive progress globally in engagement with climate change by the health professions. Additionally, health professions and their associations globally are increasingly divesting in assets associated with fossil fuels. A key message of the 2020 report is that:

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change represent converging crises. Wildfires and tropical storms in 2020 have tragically shown us that we don't have the luxury of tackling one crisis alone. At the same time, climate change and infectious disease share common drivers. Responding to climate change today will bring about cleaner skies, healthier diets, and safer places to live- as well as reduce the risk factors of future infectious diseases

⁵ World Health Organisation 2018. Climate change and health [who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health) Accessed 31/12/2020

⁶ Blashki G 2007 Climate Change and primary health care Australian Family Physician 36: 12

⁷ Kjellstrom T, Briggs D, Freyberg C, Lemke B, Otto M, Hyatt O, 2016. A key issue for the assessment of global climate change impacts. *Annu. Rev. Public Health* 37:97-112

⁸ Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements- draft propositions by Council Assisting. 2020 Canberra: Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/interim-observations-1 Accessed 12/01/2021

⁹ PHN Cooperative 2020. The role of Primary Health Networks in natural disasters and emergencies - a white paper

¹⁰ World Health Organisation 2020 WHO Guidance for climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities. Geneva

¹¹ Lancet Countdown: Tracking progress on health and climate change 2020. www.lancetcountdown.org/2020-report Accessed 16/01/21

Gippsland PHN Climate Change Position Statement

Gippsland PHN accepts the call to action from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.¹² Gippsland PHN also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13¹³ requiring coordinated, urgent and timely action in response to climate change.

Gippsland PHN endorses the outcomes of the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit.¹⁴ Gippsland PHN commits to actions in alignment with the targets announced in the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius and to make efforts to restrict warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Underpinning the Gippsland PHN commitment is an understanding¹⁵ that:

- Climate change has resultant effects on the social and environmental determinants of health, manifesting in global increased costs for health and increased mortality rates.
- The health impacts of climate change are overwhelmingly negative and that reducing emissions of greenhouse gases will improve health outcomes, particularly if air pollution is reduced.
- Extreme heat exacerbates pollution, pollen and other aeroallergen levels which negatively impact on cardiovascular and respiratory disease, trigger asthma, and contributes to deaths in the elderly population.
- The increasing incidence of weather-related natural disasters are impacting on coastal and regional populations in the form of destroyed homes. This negatively impacts on mental health including depression and suicide, and communicable diseases.
- The production of food products is impacted by higher temperatures, variable rainfall patterns and drought impacting on food availability and affordability.
- Weather changes increase the risks of vector borne diseases such as dengue fever, Ross River virus, and Barmah Forest virus due to longer transmission seasons and changed geographic ranges.
- Health care contributes more than 4.4% of net global climate emissions, which is equivalent to 514 coal-fired power plants¹⁶
- Extreme weather events and natural disasters driven by climate change will increasingly define the work of PHNs as they are recognised as the logical co-ordinators of regional primary care emergency response¹⁷.



Gippsland PHN Climate Change Position Statement - Guiding principles for action

Gippsland PHN's guiding principles for action in response to climate change are informed by the Health Care Climate Challenge.¹⁸ This encourages health care organisations to be proactive about climate change, and to influence, advocate and show leadership through example.

Leadership

Gippsland PHN will:

- work with other Gippsland leaders to plan for and respond to climate change impacts through understanding, articulating and advocating for the impact of climate change on our communities including the social implications of climate change for inequality; and
- develop our provider workforce with relevant knowledge and skills to address climate related issues.

Mitigation

Gippsland PHN will:

- encourage environmentally sustainable solutions and development of initiatives which reduce the reliance on hospital care; and
- consider environmental sustainability and climate impacts in operational decision making in order to move towards net zero emissions.

Resilience

Gippsland PHN believes that PHNs should be authorised coordinators of emergency response, have appropriate representation on relevant disaster management committees, and be funded and resourced for preparedness and action.

Gippsland PHN will:

- continue to support mental and physical wellbeing of those impacted by more severe and frequent disasters; and
- work with Commonwealth and State governments to partner and co-ordinate local disaster and emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

¹² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018. **Global Warming of 1.5°C** an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. [ipcc.ch/sr15/download](https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/download) Accessed 16/4/2021

¹³ United Nations 2015. *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.* [Climate Change – United Nations Sustainable Development](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/) Accessed 16/04/2021

¹⁴ United Nations 2019. *Climate Action 2019 Climate Action Summit | United Nations* Accessed 16/04/2021

¹⁵ World Health Organisation 2018. Climate change and health [who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health) Accessed 31/12/2020

¹⁶ Health Care Without Harm 2019. Health Care's Climate Footprint: How the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action [HealthCaresClimateFootprint_092319.pdf \(noharm-global.org\)](https://www.noharm-global.org/HealthCaresClimateFootprint_092319.pdf) Accessed 16/04/2021

¹⁷ PHN Cooperative 2020. The role of Primary Health Networks in natural disasters and emergencies- a white paper

¹⁸ Health Care Climate Challenge [The Health Care Climate Challenge](https://www.healthcareclimatechallenge.org/) Accessed 16/4/2021

Context for action

In 2021, ahead of COP26, the WHO released *The Health Argument for Climate Action*¹⁹ which links a zero emissions target by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius with “...a healthy, clean and resilient future” (p. V). The report includes ten recommendations and calls the global health community to act with urgency noting that:

...the health sector and health community are a trusted and influential- but often overlooked- climate actor that can enable transformational change to protect people and the planet (p. VIII)

The ten recommendations of the report are:

1. **Commit to a healthy recovery.** Commit to a healthy, green and just recovery from COVID-19.
2. **Our health is not negotiable.** Place health and social justice at the heart of the UN climate talks.
3. **Harness the health benefits of climate action.** Prioritize those climate interventions with the largest health-, social- and economic gains.
4. **Build health resilience to climate risks.** Build climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and facilities, and support health adaptation and resilience across sectors.
5. **Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health.** Guide a just and inclusive transition to renewable energy to save lives from air pollution, particularly from coal combustion. End energy poverty in households and health care facilities.
6. **Reimagine urban environments, transport and mobility.** Promote sustainable, healthy urban design and transport systems, with improved land-use, access to green and blue public space, and priority for walking, cycling and public transport.
7. **Protect and restore nature as the foundation of our health.** Protect and restore natural systems, the foundations for healthy lives, sustainable food systems and livelihoods.
8. **Promote healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems.** Promote sustainable and resilient food production and more affordable, nutritious diets that deliver on both climate and health outcomes.
9. **Finance a healthier, fairer and greener future to save lives.** Transition towards a wellbeing economy.
10. **Listen to the health community and prescribe urgent climate action. Mobilise and support the health community on climate action.**

Figure 3 below outlines the national, state and regional contexts for climate change adaptation action.



Figure 3: Context for action

National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy

The Australian Government’s National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025 was published in 2021²⁰ and built on a previous strategy which was published in 2015. The Strategy has a framework of four domains- natural, built, social and economic and recognises the shared nature of the responsibility of adaptation action. It recognises the role and responsibilities of federal, state and local governments. Additionally, it calls out the importance of private organisations managing their own risk and building climate change adaptation capacity. The strategy advocates for nationally coordinated but locally led place-based partnership approaches which respond to local community need and circumstances in order to build adaptive capacity and resilience. It also recognises the wisdom of indigenous practices and cultures in managing the environment. The Social domain intersects with the Gippsland PHN strategic objectives and includes Health & Wellbeing, Families & Communities, Social Welfare Services, and Emergency Services, with an emphasis on supporting vulnerable communities.

Victorian Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan

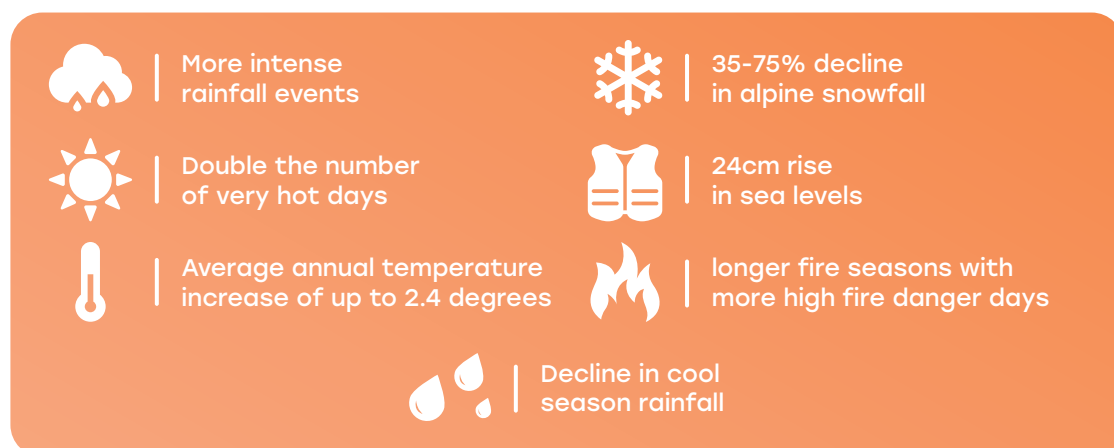


Figure 4: Projected climate change impacts under a high emissions scenario²¹

Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy includes a whole of government pledge to reduce emissions, including a goal for all public hospitals to be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2025.

As part of the seven systems identified in the Victorian Government five year adaptation action plans, the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026²² was published in 2022 and was developed in response to the *Climate Change Act 2017*²³ which requires Victorian Government departments to develop plans to address climate change impacts.

The Action Plan recognises that the health impacts of climate change will be felt more in vulnerable populations such as children and young people, pregnant women, people over 65, people experiencing homelessness or insecure housing, people experiencing financial hardship, aboriginal communities, people with a disability, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and new migrants, people with one or more chronic conditions, and LGBTQIA+. The identification of these vulnerable population groups aligns with the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Position Statement in terms of viewing climate change impacts as an equity issue, and with the Gippsland PHN health priorities for 2022-25²⁴. It also identifies the opportunity of increased confidence and trust in public health and health leadership during the COVID19 pandemic which can be leveraged to show leadership in calling for action on climate change.



The Action Plan encompasses disease prevention, physical health care and mental health care to address public health and wellbeing, health services and social housing infrastructure, and support services for vulnerable communities. Strategic actions relevant to Gippsland PHN include:

- H6- transform the health asset base for improved climate resilience
- H8- develop options to secure climate-resilient health infrastructure
- H9- promote cross-portfolio consistency in adaptation processes, assessments, guidance and reporting within the sector
- H11- leverage the Health and Human Services delivery footprint to embed sector-wide climate change adaptation and risk management
- H14- develop mental health and wellbeing support tailored to climate change impacts

The five yearly adaptation cycle requires a community-led regional adaptation strategy for Gippsland to complement the wider Victorian plan.

Gippsland Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Gippsland Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy was published by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)²⁵ as part of the Supporting our Regions to Adapt (SORAd) program and aims to impact on regional resilience and adaptive capacity through targeted adaptation action.

The vision of the strategy includes (p.2):

- Ensuring our communities and people are climate ready and capable of coping with climate change, challenges and impacts, with support available for the most vulnerable
- Ensuring our landscapes of built and natural environments can support our people, our wildlife, our businesses and our producers
- Our regional economy is prepared to cope with the impacts and challenges of climate change and can continue to provide both economic and employment security and opportunities

The actions of the strategy are grouped under Adaptation, Mitigation, and Mutual Actions which deal with both the effects and causes of climate change. The strategic actions are further divided into 10 focus areas, with one of these being Health and Human Services.

The authors of the report identify that the community is not well informed about the potential health impacts of climate change and encourages promotion of these messages by health services and established organisations within the region.

Actions include encouraging Health Service Boards to understand the risks and develop strategic plans, source and disseminate prevention strategies, promote education materials to the community, and provide mental health supports for communities particularly in the context of large-scale disaster events.

Gippsland PHN is listed as a key partner in this strategy.

¹⁹ COP26 special report on climate change and health: the health argument for climate action. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

²⁰ Dawe 2021, National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025: Positioning Australia to better anticipate, manage and adapt to our Changing Climate, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia

²¹ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2019. Victoria's Climate Science Report

Primary care context

The WHO have issued guidance¹⁰ for “climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities”, and Primary Care facilities are included in their consideration. The guidance provides four action areas for intervention:

- Health workforce- adequate numbers of skilled human resources with decent working conditions, empowered and informed to respond to environmental challenges
- Water, sanitation, hygiene and health care waste management- sustainable and safe management of water, sanitation and health care waste services
- Energy- sustainable energy services
- Infrastructure, technologies, products- appropriate infrastructure, technologies, products and processes, including the operations that allow for efficient functioning of the health care facility

In Australia, the Climate and Health Alliance, an alliance of health services, peak bodies, colleges and professional organisations, has published the *Framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia*²⁶ and described the risk posed to health by climate change as “a health emergency”. The framework describes seven areas of policy action:

1. Health-promoting and emissions-reducing policies- policies that reduce the risks to people’s health and well-being while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Emergency and disaster preparedness- supporting the identification of vulnerable populations and gaps in infrastructure in order to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate change
3. Supporting healthy and resilient communities- enhancing the capacities of communities to anticipate their climate risks and reduce impacts on health and well-being in their communities
4. Education and capacity building- education and raising awareness of the health impacts of climate change within the health workforce, and the wider Australian community
5. Leadership and governance- establishing effective governance arrangements which facilitate horizontal and vertical collaboration in implementing climate change and health initiatives at the national level, and advocating and demonstrating leadership internationally on action to address the impacts of climate change
6. A sustainable and climate-resilient health care sector- a low/zero carbon, environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient health sector which can effectively respond to the health impacts of climate change
7. Research and data- supporting Australia’s health and climate research capacity to evaluate specific health threats, priority needs and to monitor trends and opportunities for maximising multi-sector benefits

²² The State of Victoria Department of Health and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing 2022. Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026

²³ Climate Change Act 2017
climatechange.vic.gov.au/legislation/climate-change-act-2017

²⁴ Gippsland PHN 2022. Health Needs Assessment
gphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Gippsland-PHN-Health-Needs-Assessment-November-2021-APPROVED-website-version.pdf

²⁵ Victorian Government 2022. Gippsland Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy climatechange.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/549718/Gippsland_Regional_Climate_Adaptation_Strategy.pdf

²⁶ The Climate and Health Alliance 2017 Framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia cha.org.au/national-strategy-climate-health-wellbeing Accessed 14/01/21

Action Plan

As stated in the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Position statement, the Climate Change Action Plan is divided into actions relating to leadership, mitigation and resilience.

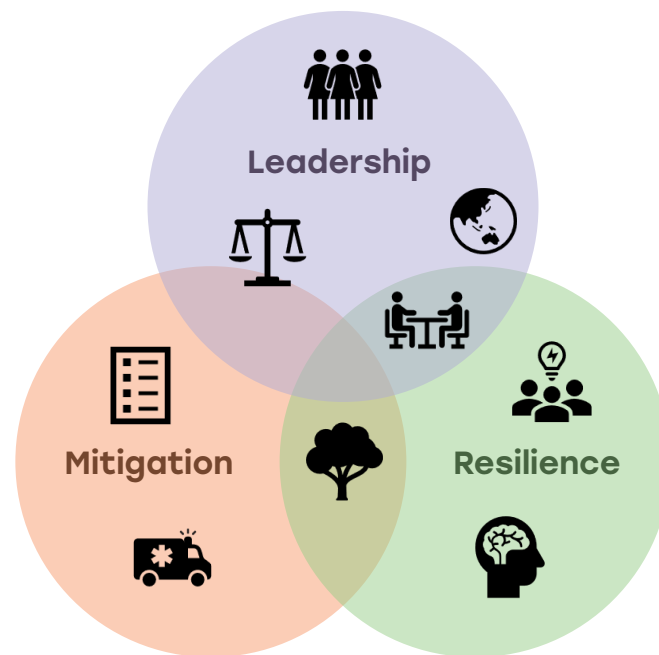






Figure 5. Framework for Gippsland PHN Climate Change Action Plan





Leadership

Principle	Strategic Alignment	Objective	Action	Outcome
Leadership	Progress our priority issues	Understand, articulate and advocate for the impact of climate change on health for our communities	Consider the impacts of climate change on health during Needs Assessment and advocate for action on mitigation, through emissions reduction, and climate adaptation	Gippsland PHN will be respected as a leader in understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our communities
	Strong Local Capability	Provide leadership for Gippsland in planning for and responding to climate change impacts	Continue to be an active participant and partner for relevant jurisdictional committees and working groups	
	Borderless systems	Have a seat at the table for Commonwealth, State and local disaster preparedness, response and recovery	Continue to be an active participant and partner for relevant jurisdictional committees and working groups; and a trusted source of information regarding the role and capability of primary care	
		Understand the social implications of climate change for inequality	Advocate for action on climate change including through the lens of equality	Our priority issues are understood and communicated

Mitigation

Principle	Strategic Alignment	Objective	Action	Outcome
Mitigation	Borderless systems	 Encourage development of initiatives which reduce the reliance on hospital care	After hours programs Remote patient monitoring PBFF program Social Prescribing	Reduced hospital utilisation and more effective use of health service resources may positively impact emissions generated by the health sector
		 Understand and identify climate related risks and opportunities	Record climate change as a risk on the strategic risk register	Ongoing monitoring and mitigation of climate related risks and maximisation of opportunities
	Access for everyone everywhere	 Encourage environmentally sustainable solutions	Request information from providers about sustainability initiatives during the tender process	Capacity and capability for climate change adaptation will be supported and built within Gippsland health providers
		 Consider environmental sustainability and impacts in operational decision making	Undertake an emissions audit and undertake to be accountable in reporting and monitoring reductions. In all purchasing decisions low emissions/environmentally sustainable options will be considered. Consider recycling or repair rather than replacement options.	Gippsland PHN will show leadership in climate action and seek to reduce its carbon footprint

Resilience

Principle	Strategic Alignment	Objective	Action	Outcome
Resilience	Strong local capability	 Provide leadership for Gippsland in planning for, and responding to, climate change impacts	Develop a Gippsland PHN climate change strategy informed by discussion with organisations such as DELWP, Gippsland Water Authorities etc	Gippsland PHN's climate change position and response will be well understood and communicated
		 Develop our provider workforce with relevant knowledge and skills to address climate related issues	Provide education and training to practices and providers regarding sustainable and low emission practice and business strategies, skills for adaptation- knowing how to prepare the community and their own procedures for climate related impacts.	Capacity and capability for climate change adaptation will be supported and built within Gippsland health providers
	Borderless Systems	 Have a seat at the table for Commonwealth, State and local disaster preparedness, response and recovery	Continue to be an active participant and partner for relevant jurisdictional committees and working groups.	The voice and role of primary care is heard and understood in disaster/emergency preparedness, response and recovery
	Access for everyone everywhere	 Support mental and physical wellbeing of those impacted by more severe and frequent disasters	Commission programs and initiatives when funded, in response to disasters and emergencies	Gippsland PHN is responsive to community needs in providing access to services following disasters and emergencies.

Developing the strategy

Gippsland PHN thank the following partners for their input and feedback into the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:

- Baw Baw Sustainability Network
- Healthy Futures
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Governance and reporting

Monitoring and evaluation of the Gippsland PHN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will occur under the governance of the Gippsland PHN Board of Directors, and progress against the action plan will be reported to the Board quarterly.
