

AdaptNSW 2023 Forum: Adaptation Planning 101

SUMMARY DOCUMENT | DECEMBER 2023

An introductory adaptation planning workshop to learn how to apply simple processes to explore climate risks and create adaptation plans across different sectors and contexts. This supporting document aims to provide insights into where to go next in the adaptation planning journey including where to seek support and guidance documentation.

Adaptation Planning Considerations

Developing an adaptation plan is important for any organisation wanting to respond to climate change, and as part of this process it is essential to investigate various potential adaptation options.

When starting the process and evaluating potential adaptation options, several factors must be taken into account, including those outlined on the right. Furthermore, successful adaptation planning requires **collaboration and consultation** with diverse stakeholder groups, including those within the organisation and external parties like the community or other businesses.

Potential adaptations **can vary from incremental changes to transformative initiatives**, spanning a spectrum from minor enhancements to an organisation's existing adaptive capacity to substantial capital investments that demand extensive planning, design, and financing efforts.

Commonly used categories of adaptation actions, as outlined within [NSW Climate Risk Ready](#), include:

- **no/low regrets or win/win options** are low-risk responses that deliver economic benefits and should be implemented as a priority
- **accommodate** the risk by including provisions that reduce the consequence of impacts
- **retreat**, for example by relocating assets and people to safe areas
- **defend** existing and new structures against climate change affected hazards using largely structural measures, and
- **co-exist or adapt** through a combination of innovative measures including planning.

PRIORITISATION OF RISKS

- How does your organisation identify risks?
- Does your organisation require all identified risks to be managed, or only risks above a certain risk level (e.g. High and above)?

TIMING OF ADAPTATION OPTIONS

- What is the potential timescale for implementing different adaptation options?
- How can current best practice be improved in the short to medium term versus additional adaptation options in the longer term?

TOOLS

- What tools will support the decision process for adaptation planning?
- Tools such as multi criteria analysis, or cost benefit analysis are examples that can assist decision making for the most effective adaptation approach and help prioritise and time resilience investments.

MALADAPTATION

- Are the adaptation options that will be implemented to address a climate risk going to have an unintended, negative impact on other services, assets or features that are of value to a community or business?

Case Studies

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

The council have developed a change climate policy to identify how the council will manage, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The policy includes a commitment to undertake detailed risk assessments of climate change hazards that are consistent with federal and state government guidelines, considering a variety of climate hazard. Climate change-related risks identified within these assessments are embedded within council's integrated planning and reporting framework.

It is an integrated and collaborative approach with collaboration with community, key stakeholder and other local councils and other tiers of government that strengthen the council's adaptive capacity in response to climate change.

[Orange City Council Climate Change Policy](#)

INGHAM'S

Inghams are building a systematic approach to report in alignment with the taskforce for climate-related financial disclosures. This includes an assessment of the potential impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities on organisations were assessed to an extreme climate stress test scenario set in 2035, using a variety of physical climate parameters.

The key physical risks that were identified as part of this process included:

- International extreme climate events (particularly drought in south america where feedstock is sourced)
- Drought and rainfall decline in australia and new zealand
- Direct and indirect impacts of fire, extreme heat inducing heat stress on people and animals

Climate-related risks are incorporated into the enterprise risk management framework as core risks to the business.

[Sustainability Report - web.pdf \(ingham.com.au\)](#)

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

The sydney opera house has completed a climate change risk assessment to pilot the NSW climate risk ready process. The first step of this was to review the existing risk assessment considering climate projections for the metropolitan sydney region.

It was a multi-stage process, with multiple workshops engaged key functions across the organisation.

The outcomes of the process highlighted the sustainability maturity of the opera house, with many risks being managed, but identified need for improved collaboration between staff to support assessment of future risks.

[Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide](#)

NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The NSW national parks and wildlife service (NPWS) developed a climate change adaptation strategy to identify climate risks to park assets and values, as well as management responses. This process was supported by narclim climate change projections and climate risks were identified for key park functions such as biodiversity protection, asset protection, and aboriginal heritage management.

Adaptation pathways were then used to document management responses for each function.

The pathways show staff what they can do now to protect park assets and values, what they need to plan for, and what will be challenging to protect if climate.

[Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide](#)

Resources

AdaptNSW Newsletter

The AdaptNSW newsletter covers the latest research, events, publications, grants and news. Sign-up to learn about future adaptation planning training opportunities.

Purpose Conference 2023

High level adaptation content designed to educate business and other organisations on what adaptation is, and what opportunities adaptation planning can provide.

Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide | AdaptNSW

Includes practical guidance to assess and manage climate change risks

- Climate Risk Maturity Health Check Tool: a tool to help organisations in the NSW Government sector to assess their existing climate risk management capacity
- Climate Risk Assessment Tool: a template to support organisations in completing a climate risk assessment, identifying risk treatments and implementing adaptation actions

Climate projections used on AdaptNSW

Learn more about NARClIM 1.0, with links to the NSW Climate Data Portal, interactive projections map, other climate projections available for NSW, and climate system modelling.

Interactive climate change projections map: the interactive climate projections map displays projected changes to climate variables across NSW for the near and far future in both a regional and grid view.

NARClIM case studies: explore this series of case studies to highlight the journey towards effectively applying the NARClIM data for a range of climate adaptation planning and research activities, including for local government, state government, and the education sector.

NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Learn more about how your adaptation planning actions align with this broader state-wide strategy.

Basics of climate change

Learn more about the causes and impacts of climate change.

Climate change in my region

Projections are available for NSW and ACT and each region of NSW, with snapshots available for NSW, ACT region, Central Coast, Central West and Orana, Far West, Hunter, Metropolitan Sydney, Murray/Murrumbidgee, New England and North West, North Coast, and South East and Tablelands.

How to adapt to climate change

Information for households, community groups, business, state government and local councils and authorities.

How councils and authorities can adapt

Includes information on the adaptation planning process with information on, and a link to, the Local Government Climate Readiness Tool.

NSW business and climate change

Information on how businesses can adapt, reducing business impact, understanding the local area vulnerabilities for your business, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and resources to support businesses make this transition.

Stories and case studies

Search for case studies based on location, themes, climate change effects, and audiences.

AdaptNSW YouTube Playlist

A collection of inspiring video case studies from across NSW – adaptation in action!

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