

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

BUILDING CLIMATE CHANGE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEM

LODDON MALLEE REGION



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (2023-2025)



Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) Climate Change and Health Implementation Plan Summary

Aligns with the Victorian public health & wellbeing plan (2015-19): Tackling climate change

Objectives

- Raise awareness of the co-benefits of climate change action and health
- Demonstrate potential role of health and community services in climate change adaptation
- Identify and support opportunities for health and non-health organisations and community to collaborate in climate change adaptation

While we will use a whole population health approach, **we will prioritise:**



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Health services
- Lower socio-economic population



Proposed actions

- 1 Identify a climate change and health leadership and governance structure
- 2 Support improving resilient and adaptive local health service system
- 3 Build resilient and adaptive local communities
- 4 Explore the role of public health in emergency preparedness and response
- 5 Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework that includes a suite of indicators for the Loddon Mallee region

Our approach

- A social determinants of health lens will be applied across all our work.
- We will address systemic disadvantage which will lead to improved health equity, access and inclusion.
- A gender lens will be applied where relevant.
- Focus on place-based needs and priorities and work collaboratively with stakeholders to support or enhance solutions.



We acknowledge that we can't do this alone and we need the expertise, knowledge and connection into the community held by our stakeholders. **We will support** our local prevention workforce to work towards shared outcomes and **strengthen** local cross-sector networks to create change in their communities.

LMPHU will partner with local councils, community services, Primary Health Networks, Healthy Loddon Campaspe and Loddon Mallee Health Network to build on and where possible extend existing and successful climate change action initiatives.

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed in consultation with local stakeholders. A list of possible indicators are included in the Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework. LMPHU will evaluate the effectiveness of local climate change partnerships it works with by utilising the VicHealth Partnership Analysis Tool (or equivalent).



Outcomes

Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework

Domain 5: Victoria is liveable

Outcome: Victorians belong to resilient and liveable communities

Indicators: Increase adaptation to the impacts of climate change

Measures:

- Excess death during extreme heat and heatwaves
- Community resilience (to be determined)

Our
aim

To build climate change resilient communities and service system within the Loddon Mallee PHU region

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) has described climate change as the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century [1] Increased heat waves, droughts, floods, storms, longer fire seasons, and reduced and more erratic rainfall all contribute directly and indirectly to increases in deaths, disease, mental health decline and poor nutrition.

Climate change impacts the health and wellbeing of the local population, disproportionately affecting people experiencing systemic disadvantage. However, taking action on climate change also presents the biggest opportunity to improve health and reduce inequality. According to the WHO, the health co-benefits of climate action often far outweigh the costs of implementation[2]. This points to significant opportunities for health and non-health sectors to work together for the twin goals of improving environmental and human health outcomes.

By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through investment in affordable renewable energy, energy-efficient housing, and sustainable food and transport options, we make systemic improvements that will reduce the cost of living, avoid pollution and improve our health and wellbeing.

As evidence grows about the population health impacts and implications of climate change there is a rapidly growing demand for place-based work to guide local action to address the health and social impacts of climate change.

The Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU), Bendigo Health, has produced the *Loddon Mallee Building Climate Change Resilient Communities and Service System Framework* (phase one) to assist health, government and community organisations to identify and reduce the impact of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our community, particularly for people experiencing systemic disadvantage.

Implementing the *Loddon Mallee Building Climate Change Resilient Communities and Service System Framework* will increase community resilience and strengthen the service system so that it continues to be efficient and responsive in an unstable and changing climate (phase two).



[1][1]World Health Organisation,(n.d) WHO calls for urgent action to protect health from climate change – Sign the call, accessed 13 Sept 2022, <<https://www.who.int/news/item/06-10-2015-who-calls-for-urgent-action-to-protect-health-from-climate-change-sign-the-call>>.

[2]World Health Organisation, 2021, COP26 special report on climate change and health: the health argument for climate action., accessed 13 Sept 2022, <file:///C:/Users/svlavery/Downloads/9789240036727-eng.pdf>.

Aim

To build climate change resilient communities and service system within the Loddon Mallee PHU region



Objectives: phase two

To implement the *Loddon Mallee Building Climate Change Resilient Communities and Service System Framework (The Framework)* within the LMPHU region.

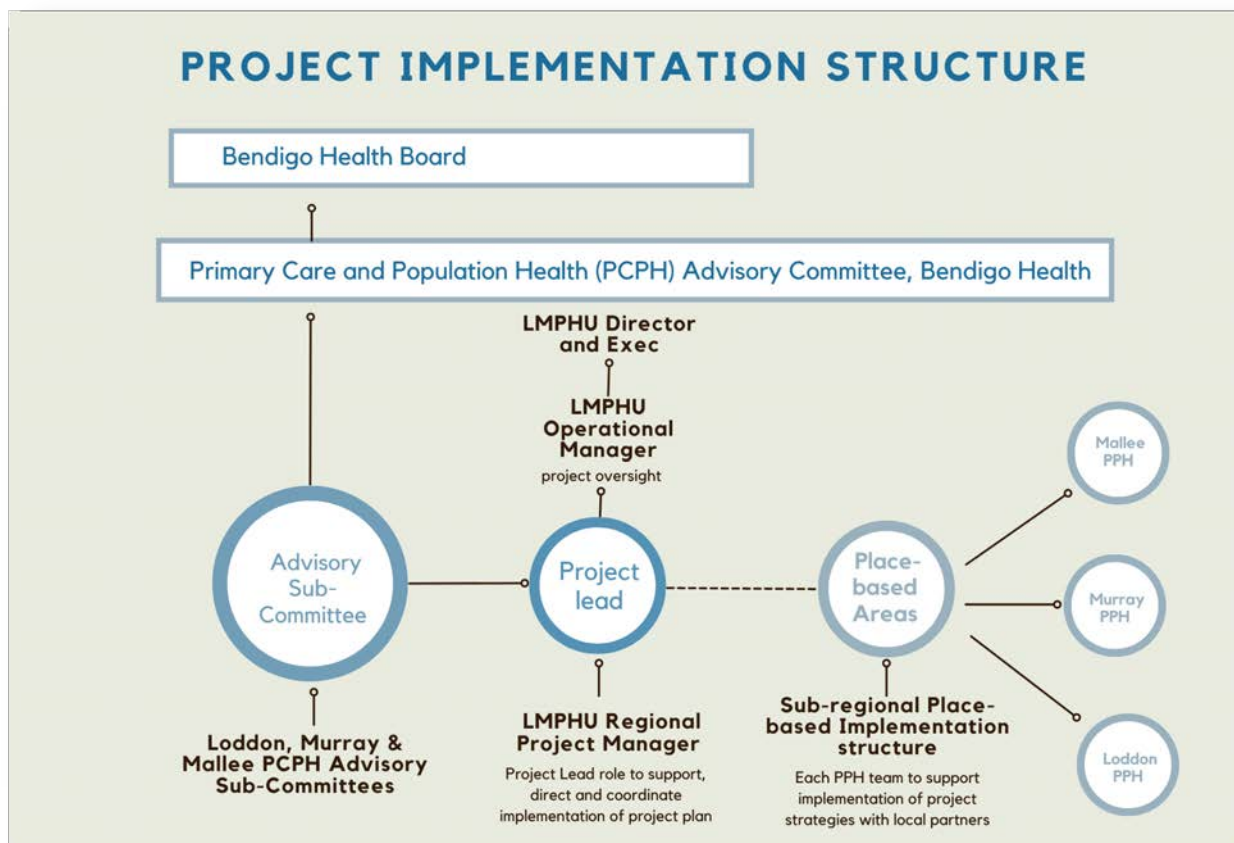
- Raise awareness of how climate change impacts people's health and wellbeing and the co-benefits of climate change action and health outcomes
- Demonstrate potential role of health and community services in climate change adaptation
- Identify and support opportunities for health and non-health organisations and community to work and collaborate in climate change adaptation
- Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledge and their self-determination in climate change adaptation and organisational practice
- Apply a systemic disadvantage lens across climate change adaptation
- Support monitoring and evaluation of effort with the inclusion of a common suite of Loddon Mallee indicators and associated data sources.

Target Audience

Department of Health
Bendigo Health governance group
Relevant stakeholders.



PROJECT GOVERNANCE



The project lead will be the LMPHU Regional Project Manager with the LMPHU Operational Manager providing oversight of the project. Approval and reporting for the project deliverables will follow the Bendigo Health governance processes.

Advisory Sub-Committee

This project will be guided and supported by the three Primary Care and Prevention Sub-Committees (Mallee, Murray, Loddon). These Sub-committees are place-based, cross sector stakeholders, who are committed to the health and wellbeing of their communities, with a focus on improving equity of health outcomes.

The Framework and implementation plan will require approval by the Primary Care and Population Health committee, Bendigo Health.

PROJECT SCOPE

- * Phase one of this project was the completion of *The Framework*, including the recommendations from the cross-sector Steering Committee - awaiting Bendigo Health final approval.
- * Phase two of this project is the implementation of *The Framework*.
- * The geographical scope of this work will be within the LMPHU boundaries, which includes nine local government areas.
- * *The Framework* implementation will include a collaborative cross-sector approach, with a focus on local health and community services, local government, community groups and community.
- * The focus of *The Framework* implementation is climate change adaptation to improve public health and wellbeing. However, adaptation and mitigation are intrinsically linked across most climate change actions and therefore mitigation will be a component of *The Framework* implementation work.
- * The guiding government document for health services will be the [Health and human services climate change adaptation action plan 2022-2026](#).
- * The implementation of this project which will happen over three years (February 2023 to January 2026) and will include recommended next steps beyond this timeline.

Methodology

In the first year, the authorising environment for the work will be established, with an increased understanding and support for further climate change adaptation within the health system. Also in the first year, two local government areas (LGAs) for the pilot trials will be selected.

In the second year, *The Framework* implementation pilot trials will be established guided by a Theory of Change (see appendix), with a community focus. There will be a deeper dive into supports required for the health systems' climate change adaptation.

The third year will review the pilot trials and upscale *The Framework* across the Loddon Mallee region.

The implementation of *The Framework* will leverage the place-based partnerships and relationships developed by the Prevention and Population Health teams of Loddon, Mallee and Murray. Collaborative cross-sector practices ensure our work is informed by diverse perspectives and knowledge across the service system including data acquisition and service system intelligence and utilises our networks and partners' connections in engaging with the community.



Implementation Plan

Although the LMPHU will potentially lead the activities within the implementation plan, it is anticipated that regional and local organisations will play a pivotal role in supporting the work. Healthy Loddon Campaspe will be the lead to implement the Healthy Loddon Campaspe Regional Food Systems Strategy.

Leadership & Governance

Recommendations	Outcomes	Outputs	Potential Support
Identify regional and sub-regional platforms to inform and coordinate the implementation of <i>The Framework</i>	Commitment, alignment and coordination of <i>The Framework</i> implementation	Regional and sub-regional platforms identified and climate change adaptation included in their strategic plans/ workplans	Regional platform organisations, Bendigo Health Primary Care & Population Health Advisory Committee, Loddon Mallee Health Services Network
Seek funding and resourcing to implement <i>The Framework</i>	<i>The Framework</i> can be effectively implemented over a period of time required	Potential funding sources identified and successfully obtained	Climate Change and Health Steering committee members, Bendigo Health Primary Care & Population Health
Define cross-sector roles, risk assessment and legal responsibility in climate change adaptation and emergency management	Improved understanding of cross-sector roles, risk assessment and legal responsibility in climate change adaptation and emergency management	A checklist is developed to define cross sector roles, risk assessment and legal responsibility in climate change emergency management	All cross-sector organisations
	Improved cross sector collaboration in climate change adaption	Indicators of collaboration included in monitoring and evaluation framework	All cross-sector organisations
Develop a health impact assessment to inform policy and leadership eg Health Impact Assessment (WHO)	Improvement in integrated planning approaches for climate change action	Advocate for organisations to implement Health Impact Assessment into their climate change adaption plans	All cross-sector organisations
Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' self-determination in climate change adaptation	Improved cross cultural safety in climate change adaptation and emergency management and in organisational practice *	Desk top analysis of organisational policies, programmes, training etc	Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations (ACCHOs)
Apply a systemic disadvantage lens across climate change adaptation	Improved understanding of the drivers of systemic disadvantage and that climate change amplifies systemic disadvantage	Implement recommendations from desk top analysis and previous reports	Jesuit Social Services, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, Bendigo Community Health, Womens Health LM, Disability organisations

*according to Victorian Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety framework for Victorian health, human services and community sector and Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places

Implementation Plan cont.

Resilient and adaptive health service system

Actions	Outcomes	Outputs	Potential Support
Encourage hospital membership to the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) and adopt the GGHH agenda	Loddon Mallee hospitals signed up to GGHH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on health and co benefits of climate change action • Improved climate change adaptation in hospital systems and service delivery • Reduction in emissions/ m2 per of hospital • Agreed common climate change adaptation outcomes 	Scoping of barriers to implementation of GGHH agenda/action plan and recommendations developed and implemented Develop a Loddon Mallee climate change adaptation strategic plan for hospitals including a Communities of Practice	LM Hospitals
Develop regional climate change policy and procedures template that can be contextualised at a local level	Consistent approach to climate change action, documentation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting	Climate change action templates for different sizes and capacity of organisations developed	LM Hospitals
Support compliance to the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026	All Loddon Mallee health services have plans to comply to the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026 See above outcomes dot points under signing up to GGHH	Audit of health services climate change action plans and to identify barriers to compliance to the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026 Report audit results and recommendations to participating health services Communities of Practice for Health services developed	LM Hospitals
	Reduction in: number of staff absences/shortages during emergencies; amount of damage to infrastructure; delay in service delivery	Hospitals to monitor progress and provide an annual report	

Implementation Plan cont.

Resilient & adaptive community

Actions	Outcomes	Outputs	Potential supports
Implement the Healthy Loddon Campaspe Regional Food Systems Strategy (to be finalised)	Improved regional and local food security and food sovereignty	Opportunities for alignment of <i>The Framework</i> with Healthy Loddon Campaspe Regional Food Systems Strategy identified	Healthy Loddon Campaspe (lead) LMPHU
Explore a cool spaces model for Loddon Mallee region	Increased community access to cool spaces for rural areas during heat waves (Infrastructure Victoria Strategy 2021-2051)	Engage with Infrastructure Victoria Strategy Loddon Campaspe summary regarding potential funding and other supports for development or enhancement of current cool spaces	LMR Councils and other relevant LM community organisations
		Scope potential cool spaces for each of the 9 LGAs within LMR and promote to the community (raise awareness of the health impact of extreme temperature)	
Co-design and implement community engagement and education in climate change adaptation	<p>Improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing</p> <p>Improved and increased climate change adaptation and mitigation implementation across the community including those community members experiencing systemic disadvantage</p> <p>Communities are aware of how to reduce emissions</p> <p>Reduction in climate change sequel disease</p>	<p>Analysis of gaps and strengths of current community engagement and education in climate change adaptation completed</p> <p>Desktop review of climate change adaptation and mitigation resources, tools, training including culturally safe materials completed</p> <p>Co-designed community engagement and education in climate change adaptation strategy developed and implemented</p>	<p>LM cross-sector organisations</p> <p>ADAPT Loddon Mallee</p> <p>Sustainability Victoria</p>
Advocate for the VCOSS: A Climate of Fairness recommendations	Improved active transport, food systems, access to affordable renewable energy	Support VCOSS's advocacy campaign	Steering committee LM cross-sector organisations

Implementation Plan cont.

Emergency Management

Actions	Outcomes	Outputs	Potential Support
Clarify the role of health services and the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit in emergency management	<p>Improved understanding of the role of health services and the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit in emergency management</p> <p>Improved collaboration of health services, LMPHU and other emergency management organisations in emergency management planning</p>	<p>Potential role of health services and the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit in emergency management developed and endorsed by Bendigo Health</p> <p>Health services role are clearly articulated in municipal and regional emergency management plan.</p>	<p>LM Health services</p> <p>Local government</p> <p>LM emergency management groups</p>
Advocate for continuity of secure funding for municipal emergency management, and ongoing advocacy needs for resources	<p>Improved resourcing of community place based responses</p> <p>Improved retention of volunteers involved in emergency planning and management</p>	<p>Scoping of needs/gaps. strengths of place based responses</p> <p>A funding submission developed to support partners to secure funding for municipal emergency management, and ongoing advocacy needs for resources</p>	<p>Emergency management groups</p> <p>LM community organisations</p>
Advocate for improved consistent integrated planning provisions across State and Federal Government eg flood plain planning provision	Improved flood and bush fire planning provisions	Support advocacy of other organisations/ networks	Local government (lead)



Implementation Plan cont.

Emergency Management

Actions	Outcomes	Outputs	Potential Lead	Potential Support
Develop an evaluation and monitoring framework that includes a suite of common indicators for the LMPHU catchment	<p>Improved cross sector monitoring, reporting and accountability in Climate Change adaptation and emergency management</p> <p>Improved learnings that inform future planning</p> <p>Improved cross sector collaboration</p> <p>Improved cross sector climate change resilience</p>	<p>Suite of common indicators identified</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation framework developed</p> <p>Annual monitoring and evaluation report developed</p>	LMPHU	Steering committee LM cross-sector organisations
Invest in regional and local climate change and health impacts and resilience data and surveillance systems	Improved measurement and monitoring of health impacts of climate change and community resilience	Current climate change and health impacts resilience data and surveillance systems scoped and recommendations developed	LMPHU	Department of Health



Timelines and Deliverables

Timelines may need to be adjusted according to available resources in the LMPHU to lead this work over a three year period.

In the first year, the authorising environment for the work, a level of understanding of and support for further climate change adaptation within the health system will be developed and the Local Government Areas (LGAs) for the pilot trials will be selected.

In the second year, the pilot trials will be implemented, guided by the first-year outcomes and their evaluations. There will be a deeper dive into supports required for the health systems' climate change adaptation.

The third year will review the pilot trials and upscale the framework to other LGAs.



Recommendations	April '23 to July '23	July '23 to Sept '23	Oct '23 to Jan '24	Feb '24 to May '24	Jun '24 to Sept '24	Oct '24 to Jan '25	Feb '25 to May '25	Jun '25 to Sept '25	Oct '25 to Jan '26
Leadership and governance	Regional platforms for implementation of framework identified	Climate change adaptation included in their strategic plans/workplans							
	A checklist is developed to define cross-sector roles, risk assessment and legal responsibility in climate change adaptation								
	Cross Cultural Safety in Climate Change Adaptation recommendations developed	Cross Cultural Safety in Climate Change Adaptation recommendations implemented						Audit report completed	
Resilient and adaptive health service system	LM Climate Change strategic plan for health services developed		LM Climate Change strategic plan for health services presented						
	Audit of health services climate change action plans		Report developed for health services including recommendations to comply to the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026					Audit repeated and report completed to monitor progress	
Emergency management	LM Emergency Management groups identified	Engage with Emergency Management Groups				Health services roles are clearly articulated in municipal and regional emergency management plan			
Monitoring & evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation framework developed	Monitoring & evaluation framework implemented		Monitoring and evaluation framework reviewed			Pilot sites evaluated		Final evaluation report delivered to Bendigo Health

Timelines and Deliverables cont.

Recommendations	Feb '23 to May '23	June '23 to Sept '23	Oct '23 to Jan '24	Feb '24 to May '24	Jun '24 to Sept '24	Oct '24 to Jan '25	Feb '25 to May '25	Jun '25 to Sept '25	Oct '25 to Jan '26
Pilot trials in 2 LGAs			Select LGAs for pilot trials	Trials implemented Health services Communities of Practice implemented Relevant templates for different sizes and capacity of health services developed and implemented			Review of pilot trials	Trials upscaled to other LGAs	
Resilient and adaptive communities	Desktop review of community education tools	Co-designed community engagement and education in climate change adaptation strategy developed		Community engagement and education in climate change adaptation strategy implemented					
Reports to Bendigo Health Executive		Deliv 1 July - Six monthly report		Deliv 2 Feb - Annual evaluation report	Deliv 3 July - Six monthly report		Deliv 4 Feb - Annual evaluation report	Deliv 5 July - Six monthly report	Deliv 6 Final report



PROJECT RISKS

Risk

1. Lack of Mildura representation for the implementation

2. Lack of stakeholder engagement

3. Proposed framework does not meet stakeholder requirements

Mitigation Strategy

- LMPHU currently recruiting Mildura PPH staff
- Realistic and clear commitment from stakeholders
- Clear documented benefits of implementing *The Framework*
- The PCPH advisory sub-committees have climate change adaptation in their work plans ensuring role modelling across the region
- A project steering committee, as defined by the PCPH Sub-Committees includes diverse cross-geographical and sector representation with local, regional and state organisations, PPHs and their relationships and connections ensure appropriate and adequate stakeholder engagement
- Input from other organisations or communities representing Indigenous and multicultural communities provided input into *The Framework*. These organisations have committed to strategic engagement with the implementation of the *The Framework*
- The implementation plan is adequately supported in EFT and resources
- Lead and support roles in the implementation of the plan are clear and well resourced
- The implementation of *The Framework* aligns with other regional and local platforms and initiatives and doesn't duplicate action
- Implementation of the *The Framework* is supported by organisational commitment across all strategic and operational levels of organisations, at a leadership and governance level through to grassroots implementation
- Project steering committee includes diverse cross-geographical and cross-sector representation with local, regional and state organisations
- Input from other organisations or communities not able to be represented on the steering committee, was included in *The Framework*
- Development of co-designed monitoring and evaluation framework ensures framework can be flexible and adjusted with learnings

Risk cont.

4. Lack of stakeholder capacity to implement framework

5. Insufficient financial resourcing

6. Duplication of action

Mitigation Strategy cont.

- Resources and funding required to support adequate implementation of framework will be sought
 - Cross-sector collaboration component and monitoring and evaluation of *The Framework* ensures cross-sector commitment and accountability
 - Communities of Practice and other similar processes/structures are developed to ensure smaller organisations can benefit from sharing of information and resources of larger organisations
 - LMPHU internal and external resources available (see budget) to assist with/implement *The Framework*
-
- Some of the PCP surplus transferred funds will be allocated to the foundational work for the next 6 months
 - A business case will be developed to continue to support this work in the next financial years
 - Opportunities for external funding will also be sought.
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- The implementation of the *The Framework* aligns with other regional and local platforms and initiatives
 - Scoping of current regional and local climate change action ensures there is no duplication
 - Diverse steering committee includes diverse cross-geographical and sector representation with local, regional and state organisations, PPHs and their relationships and connections ensure adequate knowledge of current climate change action and alignment rather than duplication



PROJECT BUDGET

The *Loddon Mallee building resilient communities and service system framework* will be implemented over a period of three years.

The budget at present includes the internal resources of the LMPHU: Prevention and Population Health team. External funding will be sought to support the participation of external stakeholders.

Internal Resources

The project will be predominantly led by the Regional Prevention and Population Health Project Manager, with support from the Loddon, Murray and Mallee PPH teams, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's Health Lead (to be recruited) and Priority Communities Lead.

This project will be guided and supported by the Loddon/Mallee/Murray Primary Care and Prevention Sub-Committees.

External Resources

The project will be implemented by a diversity of cross-geographical and cross-sector organisations and will leverage the place-based partnerships and relationships developed by the Prevention and Population Health teams of Loddon, Mallee and Murray.

Collaborative cross-sector practices ensure our work is informed by diverse perspectives and knowledge across the service system. Place-based stakeholders provide place-based community insights and organisational intelligence including community engagement outcomes, data acquisition, service demand trends, service system flow and accessibility etc.

External funding for the implementation of *The Framework* will be sought as needed.

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW STRATEGY

Our commitment that all communication and engagement is:

Respectful

Inclusive

Value based

Evidence informed

Communication and engagement objectives

1. Raise awareness of the Framework to align effort
2. Increase understanding of why climate change action is needed and the benefits to health
3. Inspire stakeholders and communities to co-design and participate in activities as documented in the implementation plan

Guiding Documents

[Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework](#)

[Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022-2026](#)

[Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-2034](#)



[ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Communication Toolkit](#)

Communication approval

Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU)

All external LMPHU published communication and media to be approved by the:

- LMPHU Director
- Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Office of the CEO as per Bendigo Health Instrument of Delegation

Communication process

- Prevention and Population Health teams will be notified if engaging with stakeholders within their sub-region
- communication to be actioned by Senior Corporate Affairs Officer
- stakeholders, local newspapers and newsletters are available in the LMPHU [Playbook](#) (community engagement)

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify stakeholders and community members of the Framework • Share information on the importance of Climate change action and the benefit to health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice from climate change experts • Leverage off the consultation work of local government • Seek advice from health services to support climate change implementation • Have conversations with community members to increase understanding of the barriers and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish/strengthen local climate action networks • Where there is existing community climate change networks, support a diversity of participation and include relevant service providers • Build capacity of service providers and community to be involved in the climate change work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the implementation of the Framework in the Mallee/Loddon/Murray Primary Care and Population Health (PCPH) Advisory Sub-Committees workplan and support ownership of the success • Find opportunities to align local networks and the Framework's objectives for a shared goal

Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation Australasia's IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Risks

Mitigation

<p>The biggest risk to climate change communication and engagement is the legacy of the political divisiveness.</p>	<p>The ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Conversation Toolkit will be used to support community conversations*</p>
<p>Climate change can feel intangible and abstract to some people</p>	<p>Focus the conversation on the impact of climate change eg rising utility bills, extreme weather conditions</p>
<p>Climate change can feel too big to tackle</p>	<p>Provide tangible examples of what is already happening and what can be achieved in the short term</p>
<p>People experiencing systemic disadvantage are disproportionately impacted by climate change. It is also these people that may have low literacy or low levels of English</p>	<p>LMPHU to work with Multicultural and Aboriginal services to understand the best method of communication to achieve the desired reach and impact</p>

	Local government & health services	Local Community	PCPH Advisory Sub-Committees	Department of Health	Bendigo Health
Target audience	<p>Local government are an essential actor in climate change mitigation and adaptation eg. planning control, vegetation, recycling, and waste management</p> <p>Supporting health services is a focus of the Framework. There is a strong will to progress this work but a lack of resources</p>	<p>People experiencing systemic disadvantage are disproportionately impacted by climate change.</p> <p>All local community engagement will be inclusive of the diversity of our communities</p>	<p>The PCPH Advisory Sub-Committee is a represented by local government, health and social services. They provide advice to Bendigo Health based on their local knowledge and expertise on prevention and population health initiatives.</p>	<p>The Department of Health are the sponsors of this project and therefore have invested interest in its success.</p>	<p>Bendigo Health auspice the LMPHU, therefore providing governance, support and oversight of all LMPHU initiatives.</p>
Communication method	<p>Local government will be informed (presentations) and involved as members of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local networks • Regional partnerships • environmental health • planning and permits <p>Communication with health services will be through the Loddon Mallee Health Network (LMHN) and its monthly publication the Regional Review</p> <p>Collaboration through the sub-regional PCPH Advisory sub-committees.</p>	<p>Communication with local community members will be multi-pronged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (through partnering stakeholders) • local media - print, radio and television • community newsletters • community climate change/resilient groups 	<p>The PCPH Advisory Sub-committees will be provided with written and verbal updates at each meeting. They will also be encouraged to share the update with their organisational executives and relevant staff.</p>	<p>The LMPHU will report to the Department of Health as requested.</p> <p>Any major risks will be escalated to the Department of Health by the LMPHU Director if required.</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will be invited to attend regional networks/activities</p>	<p>Communication will be approved through the correct Bendigo Health channels</p> <p>Board papers will be prepared for submission to the Bendigo Health PCPH Advisory Committees and the Bendigo Health Board. Verbal updates will be provided at each meeting on request</p>
Communication frequency	<p>Communication frequency will align with network meetings</p>	<p>Frequency will be dependant on planned community activities</p>	<p>These meetings will be quarterly</p>	<p>End of financial year and as requested</p>	<p>Quarterly or on request</p>

Messaging and talking points

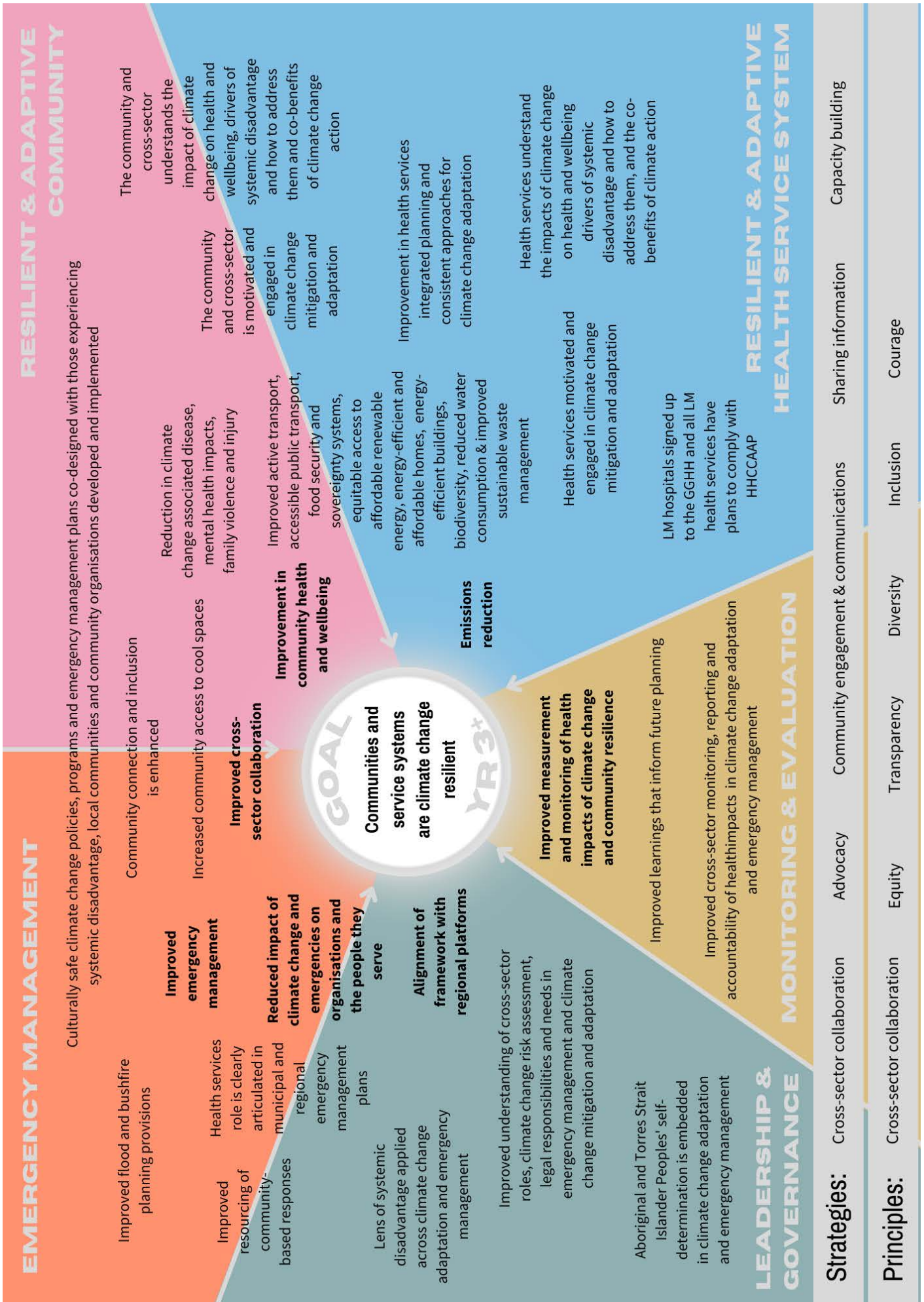
<p>Climate change is a priority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Health Organization has described climate change as the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century. • Climate change poses significant consequences for our health, wellbeing and safety • The risks posed by climate change (eg floods, fires, heatwaves) threaten to exacerbate the health and economic inequalities already experienced by those in regional areas, widening the chasm further.
<p>Climate change and health framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This framework is a step to enabling collective cross sector action to build climate change resilience. This not only reduces the high costs of future climate change impacts, but also creates a more equitable society and immediate and lasting benefits for our health, economy and environment. • There is a significant opportunity to prioritise climate change adaptation across health and community services through evaluation of climate change risk. • Climate change adaptation, including addressing systemic disadvantage, requires commitment, collaboration and collective responsibility between all levels of government, service providers and communities. • Implementing climate change adaptation strategies, such as improving healthcare systems, enhancing disaster preparedness, promoting resilient infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable communities, are vital for minimizing health risks.
<p>Climate change impact on health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-benefits of climate change action: Taking action on climate change not only benefits the environment but also has positive health outcomes. Promoting clean energy sources, active transportation, and sustainable agriculture can reduce air pollution, improve respiratory health, and enhance overall well-being. • Climate change contributes to more frequent and severe heatwaves, floods, and bushfires. These events directly impact health through injuries, deaths, and displacement. They also disrupt healthcare services and increase the risk of infectious diseases. • Global warming leads to higher temperatures, resulting in an increased risk of heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke, dehydration, and cardiovascular problems. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are particularly at risk. • Climate change exacerbates air pollution, which can lead to respiratory problems such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and allergies. Warmer temperatures also facilitate the production and spread of airborne allergens, like pollen, aggravating allergies and respiratory conditions. • Climate change influences the distribution and transmission patterns of infectious diseases. Warmer temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and changing ecosystems can increase the range and prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases. • Climate change impacts agriculture, resulting in reduced crop yields, changes in food availability, and increased food prices. Additionally, alterations in precipitation patterns affect water availability and quality, leading to water scarcity and inadequate sanitation. These factors contribute to malnutrition, foodborne illnesses, and the spread of water-borne diseases. • Climate change-induced events and associated stresses have a significant impact on mental health. Natural disasters, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and uncertainty about the future can lead to increased rates of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health disorders.
<p>People experiencing systemic disadvantage</p>	<p>Climate change exacerbates existing social, economic, and health inequalities. Marginalized communities, low-income populations and indigenous peoples, are often the most affected and have limited resources to adapt to and cope with climate-related health risks.</p>

<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' hold extensive and historical knowledge of caring for Country . Climate change is a threat to their connection to Country and is compounded by the impact of colonisation and its legacies. We need to proactively embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' self determination and knowledge in climate change adaptation initiatives as they are designed and implemented.</p>
<p>Call to action: individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce your carbon footprint: Take personal responsibility for your carbon emissions by making sustainable choices in your daily life. Small changes collectively make a big difference. • To do your bit (mitigation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Use more active transport, like walking and cycling ◦ Eat fresh fruits, veggies, and wholegrains while eating less animal products and processed, packaged foods ◦ choose tap water from a reusable water bottle over sugary drinks and bottled water ◦ Take steps, where possible, to make your home energy efficient to passively keep you cool in summer and warm in winter ◦ Choose energy efficient appliances <p>Stay safe in a changing climate (adaptation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware and prepared for extreme weather events by downloading the VicEmergency App, and having household plans for bushfire and flood events • Plan ahead to stay cool and hydrated on hot days • Limit your outdoor activity on days when air quality is poor • Protect yourself from mosquitoes and the illnesses they carry by covering up and wearing insect repellent on any exposed skin.
<p>Call to action: systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplaces can play a crucial role in adapting to climate change by implementing various strategies and practices eg access climate risk, sustainable infrastructure and facilities, foster a culture of sustainability, Integrate climate considerations in supply chains, develop emergency response plans • Advocate for policies that incentivise the construction and retrofitting of affordable housing with green building standards, renewable energy integration, and efficient water and waste management systems. Access to safe, sustainable, and affordable housing is essential for building resilient and inclusive communities. • All levels of government need to improve climate change and health impacts resilience data and surveillance systems to better understand the impact of climate change and monitor progress across all levels of government. • Encourage your local community, businesses, and policymakers to invest in renewable energy infrastructure. Transitioning away from fossil fuels is crucial for mitigating climate change and reducing air pollution.

Evaluation

Objectives	Reach	Participation	Impact	Outcomes
Raise awareness of the Framework to align effort	Number of service providers contacted	Number of service providers attend online Framework launch	Online feedback on Framework launch Number of website downloads	Regional and local Bendigo Health networks and climate action networks are using the Framework as their guiding document on climate change
Increase understanding of why climate change action is needed and the benefits to health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of social media posts, shares and comments Number of printed media articles Number of diverse communications eg translated, easy english Number of resources taken 	Number and diversity of participants to online and physical events No of visits to LMPHU stand at community events	Feedback from participants at physical or on-line events	Increased advocacy for climate change action Service providers and community members seeking support to participate in climate adaptation and mitigation
Inspire stakeholders and communities to co-design and participate in activities as documented in the implementation plan	Stakeholders and community members are culturally and demographically representative of their communities	Number and diversity of participants in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local networks community events stakeholder forums 	Feedback from participants at on-line and physical events or network meetings Partnership measures for network participants	Events and activities are co-designed and attract the target groups

APPENDIX 1: DRAFT THEORY OF CHANGE





Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit