

Maroondah City Council Adaptation Plan Case Study

Maroondah City Council is a local government within the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria. Larger suburbs within Maroondah are Ringwood, Croydon, Doncaster, Lilydale and Templestowe. The council has nine elected councillors to represent the community. There is a population of over 100,000 people within Maroondah. (information from Maroondah Council's website)

The plan is dated from 2018/19 - 2021/22.

Initial Plan Motivation:

The plan originated after the council's Carbon Neutral Strategy in 2008 that set a goal for the council to be carbon neutral by 2020. The Climate Risk and Adaptation Strategy was the next step in achieving the goal and continuing adaptation practices. This was facilitated by commitments to develop a climate adaptation strategy within various council reports and plans.

Key stakeholders: Maroondah council

Defining a Vision, Objective and Goals:

The strategic planning and sustainability team created a group of officers from different teams within the council to be responsible for the administration of the adaptation plan and strategy. A working group with a larger group of council officers established existing actions and responsibilities of the council. This engagement was in partnership with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) and identified areas for potential adaptation actions. It was decided that the strategy would focus on the entire council with an additional focus on climate adaptation within the council's risk management team.

Key stakeholders: The Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, Maroondah council strategic planning and sustainability team, Maroondah corporate management team, EAGA

Analysing Multiple Futures:

EAGA's *Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap for Melbourne's East: A guide for decision makers in the EAGA Councils* was used to inform a risk assessment that identified long term projections (2030 and 2055) of climate changes within Maroondah council. This was enhanced by further

research, workshop and forum participation, peer reviews and learning from other municipalities. The risks were categorized by department. Whilst there was not extensive work into scenario planning, the strategy aimed to raise awareness into the current and continuous climatic changes and the need for adaptation.

Key stakeholders: EAGA, other councils, Maroondah council strategic planning and sustainability team,

Choosing Priorities and Options for Adaptation:

Following the workshops with officers from different teams in the councils, the community was consulted using a variety of methods. This included surveys, social media and a consulting stall at the Maroondah festival. The intention was to determine how the community interacts with climate change adaptation and their vision of climate resilience. This engagement was steered by the Engagement Operations team. The risk assessment mentioned previously was used to identify areas of significant priority within the 2030 scenario. These areas were used to base adaptation strategies upon to concentrate the plan to the most vulnerable aspects. A discussion paper was created to outline climate change risks, the council's goals, adaptation principles for best practice and the key directions and priority action areas. This was an accumulation of the prior stakeholder engagement. The paper was open for public review and was then formulated into a draft strategy which was also available for public comment.

Key stakeholders: The Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, Maroondah council strategic planning and sustainability team, the Maroondah community, media, Maroondah corporate management team, Maroondah engagement operations team, EAGA

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Improving and Learning (MERIL):

Maroondah acted as an observer to the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action's 'How Well are We Adapting' project to develop a framework for implementation for non-WAGA councils. An internal working group was set up to report on the implementation of the plan. As the risks identified in the risk assessment were categorized by department, a streamlined system of reporting, monitoring and recording was enabled. Despite this, some risks were present in a number of departments, which was addressed by having a lead department on each risk.

Key stakeholders: Maroondah council, WAGA, reporting working group

Biggest Challenge:

A realisation was that a single person struggles to manage a mitigation and adaptation agenda and this needs to be integrated across the organisation. There is also a lack of awareness and knowledge in what adaptation planning is and how it can be implemented strategically. In particular, recognition that there are a number of climate scenarios that need to be taken into account is often not considered.

Key stakeholders: Maroondah council, Maroondah community

Biggest success:

Maroondah council was able to elevate climate change as an issue to be considered a part of the council's risk management process. This also included a greater corporate effort to incorporate climate change adaptation and associated strategies. Interestingly, this has had a bigger integration than climate change mitigation.

Key stakeholders: Maroondah council, risk management team

Key stakeholders: Maroondah council, internal teams such as the risk management team, the strategic planning and sustainability team and the corporate management team, EAGA and WAGA, the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, the Maroondah community, the media, and other councils

Key resources: Collaborations with WAGA and EAGA; committing to plan and strategy development within other council strategies and visions; engaging with the community to gather information and ideas for adaptation; integrating climate change adaptation into the council's risk assessment to ensure it is considered on a regular basis.

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