

# Emergency Management

February 2021

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

# SA GOVT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2021-2025

### South Australian Government **Climate Change Action Plan** 2021–2025



The South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 will deliver the directions for a Climate Smart South Australia, and drive further progress towards state-wide goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

By implementing the Action Plan, the government is expecting to grow climate smart and low emissions industries, create new jobs and attract additional investment, particularly to regional areas.

The Action Plan describes 68 government-led actions addressing key objectives in seven focus areas:

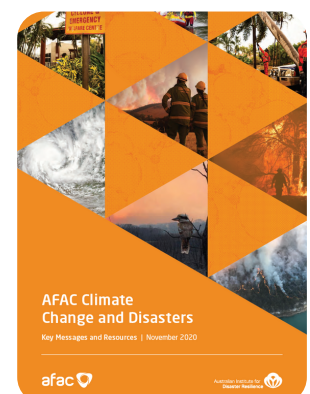
1. Clean energy transformation
2. Climate smart economy
3. Climate smart agriculture, landscapes and habitats
4. Low emissions transport
5. Climate smart built and urban environments
6. Resilient communities
7. Government leading by example

[Download a copy of the Action Plan here.](#)

# AFAC CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

The *AFAC Climate Change and Disasters – Key Messages and Resources* document is designed to assist member agencies to continue to support their communities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This resource may also assist in preparing consistent communications and messaging in response to media queries about climate change.

More information on climate and disaster risk is [available here](#)





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# FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Martin Pullan, DIT

The Flood Hazard Mapping and Assessment Project seeks to ensure consistent and contemporary Flood Hazard mapping in South Australia to ensure, where possible, that future development can avoid the impacts of flooding. It also aims to decrease the likelihood of flooding for landowners whilst supporting community resilience in developed areas where flooding does occur.

Flood Data and Mapping Guidelines will be created to ensure that any future flood studies or hazard modelling meets nationally defined benchmarks and standards and are fit for purpose, in determining planning controls and providing flood intelligence products that can inform emergency response planning.

These Guidelines will include considerations and projections on the impacts of climate change and future development e.g. urban infill. Existing flood studies will be reviewed to ensure alignment with national guidelines and best practice and, where practical, new studies or updates may be undertaken for high risk areas.

The Planning and Design Code Flood Hazard Overlays will be reviewed, and either updated or replaced with a new spatial framework and policy

approach that meets the objective of the Planning and Design code of land use planning policy, enabling the planning process to be quicker, simpler and more equitable.

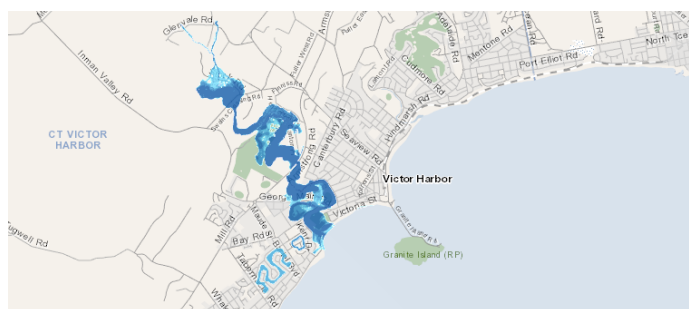
Practice Guidelines and Directions related to the Flooding Hazard Overlays will be prepared for the assessment of development applications, for consideration in regional planning and in preparing amendments to overlays in the future.

The project seeks to enable flood study mapping and data to be accessible to all stakeholders in a centralised location facilitating data sharing and coordination across jurisdictions and reducing costs and duplication of resources across government.

A multi-agency team based in AGD – Planning and Land Use Services will be undertaking this project in collaboration with staff from the Department for Environment and Water, Stormwater Management Authority and Emergency Services agencies.

Consultation will occur in multiple stages with councils, water industry and engineering consultants and other stakeholders.

This project will be completed in June 2022 at which time an amendment to the Planning and Design Code would have commenced.



If you would like more information about this project, please contact

Martin Pullan on 7109 7030 / [martin.pullan@sa.gov.au](mailto:martin.pullan@sa.gov.au) or Sally Jenkin on 7109 7038 / [sally.jenkin@sa.gov.au](mailto:sally.jenkin@sa.gov.au).



*Each decision and action makes us more vulnerable to disasters – or more resilient to them. Thus disaster risk reduction involves every part of society, every part of government, and every part of the professional and private sector.” United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.*



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# WATER REPLENISHMENT GUIDELINES

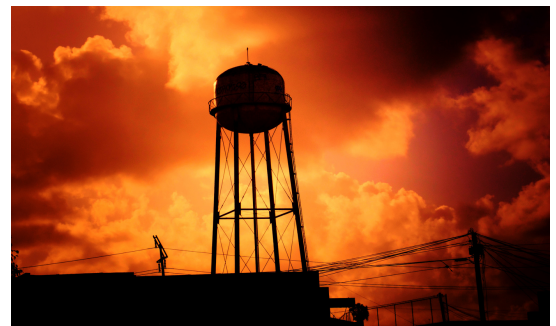
In January 2021, The State Emergency Management Committee released the Coordinated Water Replenishment Guideline for South Australia. The guideline is to facilitate streamlined water replenishment to impacted communities after a large-scale event.

The Guideline outlines the coordination of the provision of one-off immediate water relief for those directly impacted by a natural disaster. It provides initial water replenishment where property owners/tenants have facilities to store the provided water (up to 9,000 litres). The water is for the health and welfare of humans and animals (such as residential drinking purposes or immediate livestock drinking or hygiene purposes).

The document defines how recovery coordination identify:

- who requires water for immediate relief,
- how the provision of water is funded, and
- how it is distributed to those in need.

**The Guideline requires that ZEMCs identify regional-specific water replenishment issues.**



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE HANDBOOK



The focus of the Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook is the ongoing improvement of disaster preparation, response and recovery and reflects the increasing need to reduce disaster risk and build disaster resilience within and across communities.

The handbook reflects approaches that are strengths-based and inclusive and improve the quality and effectiveness of community engagement practices. It is designed to maximise inclusion and participation to achieve effective disaster resilience outcomes.

The handbook is for use by practitioners working in the government, non-government and private sectors, as well as volunteers and community leaders and can be accessed in the [Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub](#).



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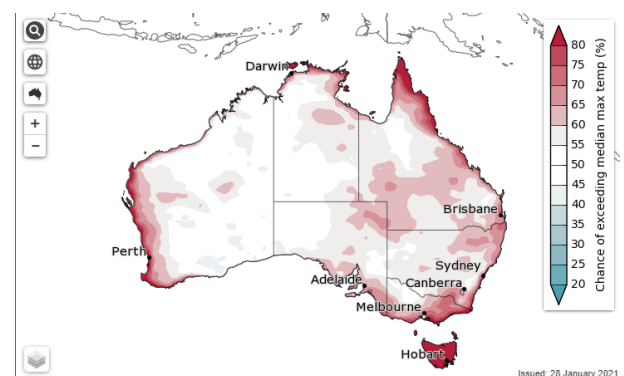
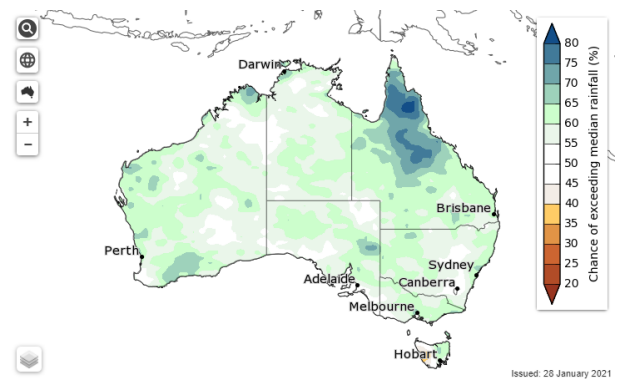
Government  
of South Australia



RESCUE



- Temperatures for February to April are likely to be warmer than average around much of the Australian Coastline.
- Overnight temperatures for February to April are likely to be above average across nearly all of Australia.
- La Nina remains active in the tropical Pacific. The event has likely reached its peak strength but is expected to continue to influence Australian rainfall patterns until at least early autumn.



## THE UNEQUAL BURDEN OF DISASTERS IN AUSTRALIA

While it is well known that the cost of disasters can often run in to the billions of dollars, research has found that income losses is one area that is often not accounted for.

Those most likely affected included low-income earners, small business owners and part time workers. The industries with the greatest losses were agriculture and accommodation and food services (includes tourism industry).

For example, following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, agricultural employees who lived in the area experienced an average of \$8,000 drop in annual income for the next two years. Those employed in the accommodation and food services industries lost an average of \$5,000.

The gap between middle- and low-income earners was also found to have widened by approximately \$7,000 after the 2010–2011 Queensland floods.

To read more, including which demographics saw an increase in income, see [the Australian Journal of Emergency Management \(Oct 2020\)](#).



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# DISASTER RESILIENCE INNOVATION CHALLENGES

Sue Gould, SAFECOM

Disaster Resilience Innovation Challenges for high schools were trialled in SA as an initiative aligned to Stronger Together: SA's Disaster Resilience Strategy. The project was funded through the 2019-20 Commonwealth and State funded SA Disaster Resilience Grants and delivered by Incept Labs in partnership with SAFECOM. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Challenges planned for March 2020 had to be rescheduled and delivered online later in 2020, reducing the availability of some schools.

The program involved high school students identifying solutions to complex real-world resilience and emergency management problems, provided by the sector. Students were supported through a design thinking process to research the problems, interview stakeholders and pitch ideas assessed by sector experts.

From a range of ideas from Emergency Management agencies, three problems were selected, which resulted in some great collaboration and hard work to prepare the context for the students. The students were mixed into across school groups and competed to present the best idea, best pitch, and best group work. This produced some great ideas, learning, and food for thought for agencies.

## Challenge 1:

### The problem:

How can communities be motivated to plan together to be sufficient and resilient for a minimum of 3 days during a disaster?

### Students were from:

Heathfield Highschool, Adelaide Botanic and Darwin Middle School

### Winner of Best Idea:

Initiation of a National Disaster Day (like Japan's Disaster Prevention day).

## Challenge 2:

### The problem:

How might agencies within the Emergency Services sector collaborate to attract diverse, young adult volunteers in country communities?

### Students were from:

Scotch College and University Senior College

### Best Idea:

An Emergency Services Fair that would provide a platform for social media engagement, as well as experiential opportunities for community to engage with EM technologies.

## Challenge 3:

### The problem

Develop a culturally inclusive evacuation process, that provides effective ways to assist international students to evacuate safely.

### Students were from:

Immanuel College and Eden Marine High School

### Best Idea:

A mobile app that international students download, can deal with multiple languages, and provides for all elements of the evacuation process. A prototype was developed.





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## BUSHFIRE BOOKS FOR KIDS



After the NSW Rural Fire Service saved his home during the 2019–2020 Australian bushfires, Ted Prior, realised that Grug would only survive a bushfire by being underground. He hopes his latest book will help to spread a message of hope and preparedness.

Since these bushfires, several other Australian children's authors have also recognised the need to teach children about bushfires. For other books and more information, see the article in [The Guardian](#) (12 Jan 2021).

## DISASTER RESILIENCE

To stay up to date between editions of EM News, sign up for Neil Dufty's [This Week in Disaster Resilience](#) for a range of articles related to disaster resilience throughout Australia and the world.



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