



National Climate Adaptation and Risk Program

The Government is developing Australia’s first National Climate Risk Assessment and a National Adaptation Plan, to better understand the risks and impacts to Australia from climate change and to invest in a plan to adapt to those risks.

We will invest \$28 million over two years from 2023-24 to identify and prioritise nationally significant climate risks to Australia from climate change impacts, such as those relating to Australia’s environment, biodiversity, health, infrastructure, agriculture, and economy and provide a robust and scientifically sound evidence base for government investment in adaptation measures.

The risk assessment will build on the work already done in Australia by Commonwealth and state, territory and local governments’ climate risk programs over many years. It will deliver a shared national framework to inform Australia’s national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience actions and enable consistent monitoring of climate risk across all Australian jurisdictions.

Developing a national risk assessment methodology will also assist other levels of government, businesses and communities to better understand their climate risks and adaptation actions.

The risk assessment will be a continuous and repeatable assessment of our climate risks over time.

The adaptation plan will use the risk assessment to build an agreed, nationally consistent pathway that prioritises Australia’s adaptation actions and opportunities.

The Australian Climate Service (ACS) scope will be reformed to better support its role in delivering the risk assessment and the government’s climate adaptation agenda.

The Government will commission an independent review of the ACS which will consider its performance and its suitability to delivery on Australia’s future climate information needs.

The independent review will allow the government to understand the ACS’ effectiveness in supporting decisions on climate and disaster risk, both now and in the future.

Why is this important and who benefits

Even with strong global action to reduce emissions, the impacts of climate change will continue to increase over the coming decades due to past emissions of greenhouse gasses. Mitigation policies alone

are not sufficient to arrest the impacts of climate change. Australia needs to develop adaptive capacity. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted in its recent AR6 Synthesis Report the urgent need to prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The risk assessment and plan will:

- deliver a baseline of current climate risks and new and emerging risks to ascertain Australia's national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience actions, and
- allow for monitoring of adaptation progress over time and guide action and investment across all levels of government, communities and industry.

This measure builds on the 2022-23 October Budget measure Commonwealth Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program (CROMP) which allocated funding for an initial scoping of the National Climate Risk Assessment.

This new initiative will move beyond the scoping the National Climate Risk Assessment to provide both a qualitative and quantitative assessment based on a methodology developed in scoping. This initiative also funds initial development of the first national adaptation plan.

Through the risk assessment, the ACS and its partners will build and maintain datasets and indicators that are consistent across national and local scales, with supporting information to inform risk awareness and decision-making.

More information

Learn more about [Adapting Australia's unique environment to climate change - DCCEEW](#)

Web [Climate adaptation in Australia - DCCEEW](#)

Email ncra@dcceew.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2023

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.