

The Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment is being delivered by the Department of Climate Change Water and Environment and will draw on the expertise and capability of world-leading scientists through the Australian Climate Service. It will:

- **cover a range of risks** driven by physical climate change and the warming already being experienced now and in the future
- **consolidate current understanding of Australia's climate risks** and adaptation adequacy
- **deliver a baseline of current climate risks and new and emerging risks** to ascertain Australia's national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience action
- deliver a **granular analysis of nationally significant risks**
- use a **consistent approach** to understanding risk ownership, priorities and urgency
- **provide the information needed by government** to identify new climate risks and evaluate the adaptation actions.

Stakeholder advice

The Risk Assessment must be fit-for-purpose to meet the needs of a diverse range of users, including:

- all levels of governments
- First Nations people
- the private sector
- academia.

First Nations people have a critical role to play in monitoring, adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change – including through fostering an intimate relationship with Country and leading place-based climate adaptation and conservation management practices over millennia. First Nations will be engaged through dedicated consultation processes.

Targeted stakeholders will be engaged to provide input to the Risk Assessment based on their expertise and knowledge of different environments, climate risk and their role within the community, and involvement in other projects of similar scope, to inform the development of the Risk Assessment.

A **broad range of stakeholders** will be kept informed throughout the process on the project progress and as results become available.

A National Climate Risk Assessment for Australia

Australia has always faced risks arising from our harsh climate, but we know climate change is exacerbating our current risks and creating new ones, posing serious consequences for our communities, infrastructure, economy, and environment.

The Australian Government is taking action to help prepare Australians for extreme weather and climate events.

We are 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.

The Risk Assessment will identify and prioritise what Australians value the most that are of national significance and are at risk of impacts from climate change. These may include aspects of Australia's environment, biodiversity, health, infrastructure, agriculture, the economy and our social and cultural way of life.

The Risk Assessment will build on the work already done on climate risks to Australia over many years. It will deliver a shared national framework to inform national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience actions. It will enable consistent monitoring of climate risk across Australia.

Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment is being developed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, in partnership with the Australian Climate Service.

The roadmap for the National Climate Risk Assessment

The Government is developing Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment to better understand the risks and impacts to Australia from climate change.



Scoping & developing a framework

Dec 2022

- Expert advice
- Targeted engagement
- First Nations consultation

Scoping of the Risk Assessment commenced in 2022 and a methodology was finalised in July 2023. The methodology consists of:

- ✓ end-user needs
- ✓ international best practice
- ✓ time horizons
- ✓ climate hazards
- ✓ geographic scope
- ✓ future climate scenarios
- ✓ risk assessments conducted by counterparts (e.g., UK & NZ)
- ✓ capabilities needed for current and future climate risk assessments.
- ✓ a preliminary list of key national systems and sectors



A first pass assessment

Jul 2023

- Qualitative analysis
- First Nations consultation
- Expert advice
- Literature scan
- Targeted engagement

The first pass assessment (Stage 1) commenced in July 2023 and will be delivered by December 2023. It will:

- ✓ Analyse a list of climate change risks to Australia's key systems and sectors
- ✓ develop a systems map identifying interdependencies, hazards affecting elements at risk, exposure and vulnerabilities
- ✓ consolidate understanding of Australia's risks from literature, experts and previous work
- ✓ deliver a high-level understanding of complex risks to nationally prioritised systems
- ✓ Rate and prioritise risks for a detailed analysis in the second pass



A second pass assessment

Dec 2023

- Quantitative hazard, exposure and vulnerability analysis
- First Nations consultation
- Expert advice
- Targeted engagement

The second pass assessment (Stage 2) will begin in January 2024 and will be completed by the December 2024. It will provide:

- ✓ An in-depth analysis of the highest priority risks, using quantitative data, where available
- ✓ Hazard, exposure and vulnerability indicators and metrics to measure risks and monitor progress in the future
- ✓ Limits and constraints to adaptation
- ✓ In-depth consideration of risk ratings based on the second pass assessment
- ✓ an interactive website providing the public access to climate data and information



Targeted engagement

A targeted range of stakeholders from across Australia will inform the development of the Risk Assessment. This will include people from all levels of governments, communities, the private sector, academia, and First Nations people. A range of stakeholders across Australia will continue to be informed on the development of the Risk Assessment. This will include users from all levels of governments, the private sector, academia, and First Nations people.

A National Adaptation Plan

The National Adaptation Plan will be the first truly national plan in Australia and will provide a basis for fulfilling the Australian Government's role of providing national strategic leadership on climate adaptation.

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

It will provide guidance on the national response, including:

- how we adapt to the risks, scale up our adaptation efforts
- build our national resilience to climate impacts.

Want to hear from us?

Send us an e-mail to ncra@dceew.gov.au