



# Media release

## Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

### Climate risk to Victoria's built environment is clear and growing

The risk that climate change poses to Victoria's built environment is real and growing, a report tabled in the Legislative Council today has found.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee found that increased transparency and regular progress updates on Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans would help build public confidence and engagement in Victoria's climate resilience efforts.

The Committee inquired into climate resilience in the state and drew on the evidence from more than 280 written submissions, 130 witnesses, eight days of public hearings and extensive regional engagement.

"The impact of a changing climate on Victoria's built environment is clear," Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

"Hotter summers are leading to longer bushfire seasons, more intense rainfall is creating new flooding patterns, and coastal erosion continues apace. We are experiencing more frequent high-intensity wind and storm events."

The report has recommended the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action be required to monitor and report on all Adaptation Action Plans and that there should be annual publication of the results of the assessment and monitoring of the plans.

The report found that metropolitan Melbourne faces distinct climate change risks due to its high population density and impervious surfaces, intensifying the heat island effect. Many witnesses to the Committee raised the urban heat island effect as being a critical issue for attention.

The Committee also heard evidence that tree canopies play an important role in mitigating urban heat islands, and the report recommends that the state's planning system provide clear guidance on tree canopy coverage and vegetation.

Rural and regional communities face increasing vulnerability to more frequent and intense natural disasters, including bushfires, floods, and

storms. Coastal erosion is also a particular concern for many communities.

The report explores a wide range of issues including the risk to Victoria's built environment and infrastructure and the response required of the state's planning system. It also explores opportunities for government, individuals, and communities to investigate in enhancing their resilience in the face of a changing climate.

The report has made a total of 80 recommendations and is available on the Committee's [website](#).

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