



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Ref: EC-000548

Mr Darren Cheeseman MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr Cheeseman

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee's *Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities*.

The Department of the Environment and Energy is pleased to provide a submission on:

Interstate and overseas best practice models that could be implemented in Victoria

The Department of the Environment and Energy has a developed climate risk management framework with the CSIRO called *Climate Compass*. The Department considers this framework could be adapted for use within Victoria.

Climate Compass reflects leading practice in guidance for climate risk management and planning for long-term, uncertain and pervasive change. It provides a framework and guidance to identify and manage climate-related risks and opportunities for public sector agencies.

Climate Compass contains three "cycles" that address climate risks in increasing levels of detail. The first, a Scan Cycle, is a high-level identification and prioritisation of climate risk. The second, the Strategy Cycle, helps users develop climate risk management plans. Finally, the Project Cycle enables users to develop a detailed risk management plan for a specific project (operational or strategic). *Climate Compass* recommends integrating climate change risk into agencies' business-as-usual processes to ensure ongoing climate risk management.

A number of Australian Government agencies, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, are beginning to use *Climate Compass* to consider climate-related risks in their policies, programs, assets and operations, and to undertake appropriate planning to manage those risks.

This initiative is being directed and coordinated through the Australian Government Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group, a coordinating committee comprising all Australian Government departments and science agencies. The Department of the Environment and Energy has developed resources to support the use of Climate Compass across the Australian Public Service to enable Departments to take ownership of their own climate-related risks, including climate risk masterclasses and complementary materials such as short factsheets on climate risk and climate impacts.

Climate Compass was finalised in August 2018 and is available on the Department's website: <https://environment.gov.au/climate-change/adaptation/publications/climate-compass-climate-risk-management-framework>

Although it has been designed as a framework for Commonwealth agencies, its advice can be adapted to be used for other levels of government. We have shared *Climate Compass* with colleagues at the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The Department would be happy to discuss *Climate Compass* in more detail if the Committee is interested.

Governments at all levels, businesses, households and the community each have important roles in adapting to the impacts of climate change. These roles are outlined in the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (2015) and stem from an agreement made by the COAG Select Council on Climate Change in 2012.

The key contact for this work is:

Chris Johnston
Assistant Secretary,
Climate Change Policy

Yours sincerely

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group
30 August 2019