



Australian
Centre for
Disease
Control

Guidance on climate risk assessment and adaptation planning for Australian health system organisations

Risk assessment template

Context

Objective/s Why are you undertaking this climate risk assessment, and what do you hope to achieve?	<i>e.g. This assessment aims to identify and address climate risks to our organisation's infrastructure, operations, workforce, and service delivery, as well as impacts on the health of the community we serve. We are undertaking this work to strengthen our resilience to climate hazards, and to safeguard the health outcomes of the populations we serve. By understanding our vulnerabilities and integrating climate risk into planning and decision-making, we seek to ensure continuity of care, protect population health, and support a climate-resilient health system aligned with national and state adaptation strategies.</i>	
Policy context What local, regional, or national policies, plans, and/or legislation are relevant to this process?	Plan, policy or strategy	How it will inform this project
	<i>e.g. National Health and Climate Strategy</i>	<i>e.g. The Australian Government's National Health and Climate Strategy identifies that comprehensive local and regional risk assessments and adaptation plans, developed in consultation with local communities and priority populations, will be crucial in effectively addressing climate-related risks to health and wellbeing.</i>
	Policy/strategy-1	
	Policy/strategy-2	
	Policy/strategy-3	
	Policy/strategy-4	
	Policy/strategy-5	
	Policy/strategy-6	

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	Policy/strategy-7	
	Policy/strategy-8	
	Policy/strategy-9	
	Policy/strategy-10	
Scope What is the scope of your assessment?	<i>e.g. This assessment covers the entire Primary Health Network region, encompassing multiple communities and healthcare facilities. It will evaluate climate-related risks to population health, infrastructure, facilities and equipment, workforce, supply chains and resources, and service delivery and continuity. The assessment will consider dependencies on external systems such as transport, energy, and water infrastructure. It will address both physical climate risks (e.g. heatwaves, bushfires, flooding) and transition risks (e.g. policy, regulatory, and market changes) that may affect service delivery and organisational resilience.</i>	
Timeframes Which timeframes will you use, and why?	<i>e.g. This climate risk assessment will evaluate current and near-term risks using baseline climate data, as well as using 2050 and 2090 timeframes to assess medium- and long-term impacts. The baseline timeframe helps us understand how existing climate conditions affect infrastructure, services, and population health outcomes. The 2050 timeframe supports planning for infrastructure and service delivery over the coming decades, while 2090 enables long-term strategic planning, including for new infrastructure investments. These timeframes align with national and international climate modelling standards, and help ensure our organisation is prepared to respond effectively across short, medium, and long-term horizons.</i>	
Climate scenarios Which climate scenarios are you using, and why?	<i>e.g. This assessment uses two climate scenarios (SSP2-4.5 and SSP3-7.0). SSP2-4.5 represents a 'middle of the road' pathway with moderate emissions and a projected temperature rise of ~2.7°C by 2100, while SSP3-7.0 reflects a 'reasonable worst-case' scenario with continued emissions growth and ~3.6°C warming. These scenarios were chosen to support balanced risk planning, helping the organisation prepare for a range of potential climate impacts across health services and population outcomes.</i>	

Past hazard analysis

Impacts of the past-/present-day climate on your organisation and/or community				
	Has this hazard affected your organisation and/or community in the past? Give a brief description of when this hazard has affected your organisation/ community previously	How frequently has this hazard affected your organisation in the past? Choose from the options below.	What were the impacts? Consider impacts on population health; infrastructure, facilities and equipment; workforce; supply chain and resources; service delivery and continuity	How severe were the impacts? Choose from the options below.
Heat & humidity	<i>e.g. This is a recurring hazard that affects our region most summers. For example, the 2019-20 summer included multiple days of extreme heat across several communities.</i>	<i>Has not occurred previously</i>	<i>e.g. Extreme heat events have led to increased presentations for heat-related illness and exacerbation of chronic conditions. Some facilities experienced cooling system failures, affecting patient comfort and equipment performance. Staff availability was reduced due to heat stress, and service continuity was challenged in remote areas with limited climate control infrastructure.</i>	Choose an item.
Bushfires		Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Drought		Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Rainfall & flooding		Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Storms		Choose an item.		Choose an item.
Coastal inundation		Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Future hazard analysis

How climate hazards are projected to evolve over time, relative to the present day			
Heat & humidity		Timeframe 1 (e.g. 2050)	Timeframe 2 (e.g. 2090)
	Climate scenario 1 (e.g. middle of the road)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Climate scenario 2 (e.g. reasonable worst case)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Bushfire		Timeframe 1	Timeframe 2
	Climate scenario 1	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Climate scenario 2	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Drought		Timeframe 1	Timeframe 2
	Climate scenario 1	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Climate scenario 2	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Rainfall & flooding		Timeframe 1	Timeframe 2
	Climate scenario 1	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

How climate hazards are projected to evolve over time, relative to the present day

	Climate scenario 2	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Storms		Timeframe 1	Timeframe 2
	Climate scenario 1	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Climate scenario 2	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Coastal inundation		Timeframe 1	Timeframe 2
	Climate scenario 1	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Climate scenario 2	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

Risk identification

Identify current and future climate-related risks to your organisation and/or community

Risk ID	Risk statement Describe your risk. Consider using a structure such as: "[Hazard] could lead to [impact] affecting [who/what], resulting in [consequence]."
1	<i>e.g. Extreme heat and/or humidity could lead to heat stress in the local population, resulting in increased morbidity and/or mortality and increased demand on health services.</i>

Risk analysis and risk evaluation

Assess the vulnerability of elements at risk; identify current controls, assess the likelihood and consequence of each risk; and decide whether to treat, tolerate and/or transfer

Risk ID	Current controls	Vulnerability of element at risk	Current risk likelihood	Current risk consequences	Current risk rating	Future risk likelihood	Future risk consequences	Future risk rating	Treat, tolerate, and/or transfer?
1	e.g. Hospital heatwave response policy, community outreach program, cooling centres run by council	Population vulnerability is moderate (high adaptative capacity, low sensitivity)	Possible (3)	Minor (2)	Low (6-10)	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	Medium (11-15)	
			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
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			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

Adaptation options

Identify and assess additional adaptation options.				
Risk ID	Adaptation option/s	Effectiveness Consider how well the action addresses the risk	Feasibility Consider cost, ease of implementation, and stakeholder support	Other impacts Consider whether the action will have other impacts on your organisation and/or community
1	e.g. Develop heatwave response plan that includes HVAC failure contingencies	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	e.g. Improve building insulation and reflective roofing to reduce heat gain in buildings	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
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