

# Heatwave pilot projects

Detailed below is an outline of each of the 13 heatwave pilot projects conducted in 2008. This information has been compiled by PDF Management Services.

Councils starting the process of developing a heatwave plan are encouraged to contact pilot projects and gain the benefit of their experiences. The information below is designed to assist you select pilot projects with characteristics or experiences that might be most relevant for your area and needs.

## **Baw Baw Shire Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project undertook major information and data analyses in the areas of hazards throughout the municipality; demographics and identification of vulnerable population groups; assessment of impacts of heatwave occurrences on emergency services, other services and the community; identification of intervention options and resource and procedure requirements; production of communication and awareness strategy for the community and other key stakeholders; and ensuring the required information regarding heatwave was included in all relevant Council plans and strategies.

## **City of Greater Bendigo**

**Pilot Outline:** The project developed an understanding of the current and predicted climate change and associated social impacts for the Bendigo region; identified gaps and developed strategy recommendations in community awareness, adaption and preparation for heatwave conditions; identified relevant stakeholders for a Municipal Heatwave Strategy; and developed recommended content for a Municipal Emergency management Heatwave Sub-plan.

## **Hobson's Bay City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project developed a response plan to protect specific vulnerable population groups within the community from heat-related illness during heatwaves. The two vulnerable groups that were the focus of the pilot were socially isolated, frail aged people living at home and residents and visitors to Williamstown and Altona beaches.

## **Hume City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project involved consultation with the community and community service providers to identify vulnerable population groups and better understand their needs and behaviour during heatwave conditions.

## **Latrobe City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project undertook heatwave hazard analysis and risk assessment; audited community infrastructure to establish potential uses for this infrastructure around heatwave events; created checklists and resources to assist with the development and application of resident support plans by service providers; and developed a community education plan.

## **Melbourne City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project developed a Heatwave Response Plan that describes emergency and community response and preparation arrangements to heatwave, as well as structural changes in Melbourne to reduce the temperature in the city. Components of the plan include: community awareness and education; establishment of a heatwave alert, response and recovery system; health community and emergency response arrangements; identification of vulnerable population groups; a communication strategy; formalised operational links with other municipal planning and service delivery processes – in areas including public health, emergency management, event management and climate change adaptation strategies.

## **City of Port Phillip and City of Stonnington**

**Pilot Outline:** The City of Stonnington and City of Port Phillip partnership developed a Communication Plan in close collaboration with ISEPICH and Inner South Community Health Service. Each council undertook a project to do the planning and mapping of the municipality and then combined to develop the Communication Plan. The planning and mapping included: Identifying a consultation process; Identifying procedures to trigger an emergency response; Identifying communication tools for community. The collaborative project focused on vulnerable population groups.

## **Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership**

**Pilot Outline:** This project involved the Primary Care Partnership establishing and engaging a reference group of key stakeholders across two municipalities to develop the Southern Grampians and Glenelg Heatwave Strategy. The strategy included the identification of vulnerable population groups, and structured research to better understand temperature patterns and effects on a range of houses in small rural settlements. The reference group is likely to continue to work together to plan and respond to heatwave issues across the two municipalities.

**Western Port Greenhouse Alliance**

including: Bass Coast Shire Council; Cardinia Shire Council; City of Casey; Frankston City Council; and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

**Pilot Outline:** The project undertook benchmarking and workforce readiness assessment activities and developed a self-assessment tool to assist local councils consider the organisational factors needed to ensure an effective response to heatwave events.

**Wimmera Primary Care Partnership**

including: Horsham Rural City, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack Shires.

**Pilot Outline:** The project focussed on understanding the community, community networks, service provider and local relationships in order to build on these and strengthen the capacity of the community, service providers and government agencies to respond and minimise the health and wellbeing impacts of heatwave on vulnerable population groups. The project produced a number of recommendations for the local councils involved, in areas including emergency management and public health and wellbeing planning for heatwaves; building design; community and council facilities and infrastructure; event organisation; heat planning for major community and government services; further research on the behaviour of some vulnerable population groups; resource and utilities planning; and community awareness and education.

**Whitehorse City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project explored how heatwaves might impact on the roles and functions of the Whitehorse City Council; undertook research to identify examples of best practice; developed a recommended framework for strategic and operational heatwave planning; and identified considerations for the development of a heatwave plan.

**Wodonga City Council**

**Pilot Outline:** The project developed a Heatwave Strategy that was adopted as a sub-plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. The Heatwave Strategy aims to provide decision makers with accurate information regarding infrastructure, other relevant plans, policies, people and partner organisations, with particular emphasis on vulnerable population groups including the elderly and the very young.

## **Yarra City Council**

### **Pilot Outline:**

The project developed a number of heatwave strategies for inclusion in the Municipal Public Health Plan, including: ensuring business continuation during heatwave conditions; agencies and organisations working together to assist the community to cope with heatwave events; working toward an urban environment less impacted by heatwaves through enhanced design, buildings, planning and open spaces; identifying climate change as a health priority and assisting with adaptation by vulnerable population groups.