

# RESILIENT EAST

# ACTION PLAN

*Climate Ready  
Eastern Adelaide*

# 2020-24



**Resilient East** is a regional climate initiative between state and local government organisations in eastern Adelaide. It is about making sure the eastern region remains a vibrant, desirable and productive place to live, work and visit, and that our businesses, communities and environments can respond positively to the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing climate.

This partnership includes Campbelltown City Council, the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Norwood Payneham and St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, the Town of Walkerville and the Government of South Australia.

Resilient East regularly works with agencies and organisations from all levels of government, NGOs, community groups, individuals and the private sector.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Resilient East councils are located on the Adelaide Plains, the traditional lands for the Kurna people. We acknowledge this land as the traditional lands for the Kurna people and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting from other areas of South Australia and Australia.

Visit [resilienteast.com](http://resilienteast.com) for more information.

**This report was prepared by Resilient East.**

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## Introduction

Resilient East is about making sure the Eastern Region remains a vibrant, desirable and productive place to live, work and visit and that our businesses, communities and environments can respond positively to the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing climate.

In 2016 a [Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) was prepared that provided the foundation for a coordinated and collaborative response to climate change and identified priorities for adaptation across the Eastern Region.

Since that time, the Resilient East Project Partners have worked together to improve the resilience of their communities, assets and infrastructure, local economies and natural environment so they can cope with the continuing impacts and challenges of climate change in the short, medium and long term, through the implementation of the Adaptation Plan.

This Action Plan describes the priorities for the Resilient East Project Partners over the next 4 years to progress the implementation of the Adaptation Plan. It includes actions that will be undertaken at a regional scale (i.e. multiple councils) and will have regional benefits.

It has been prepared with input from the following:

- A workshop in November 2019 with the partner Chief Executive Officers, the Resilient East Steering Group and Green Adelaide that identified priority themes for action
- A workshop in March 2020 with the Resilient East Steering Group that identified opportunities for action aligning with the priority themes
- A workshop in May 2020 with the Resilient East Steering Group that confirmed actions and discussed plan development and costs.
- Ongoing review and input from the Resilient East Steering Group and the Resilient East Project Coordinator.

The priority themes for action identified include:

- Green Cover
- Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
- Planning Reforms
- Councils, Governance and Communications, and
- Resilient Communities.

This Action Plan identifies what is planned for the next 4 years within the expected available budget from Council contributions. Actions have been grouped into 5 programs of work:

1. Supporting on-ground action
2. Strengthening partnerships and advocacy
3. Communications and capacity building
4. Measuring success
5. Governance

The following sections describe these programs, key actions and proposed budgets. Many of the desired actions of Resilient East will only be achievable with financial contributions from grants or other sources and these are identified.

It is acknowledged that there is a significant amount of work undertaken by individual councils. The sum outputs of this work have an important role in making the region more resilient to climate change. Measuring the inputs, outputs and impact of this work has been identified as priority action in the *Measuring Success* work program.

Table 1. Regional priorities as identified in the Regional Adaptation Plan 2016

<b>REGIONAL PRIORITIES</b>	
1	Prepare and implement climate ready guidelines for public realm, green infrastructure and urban design
2	Business and infrastructure owners' continuity planning
3	Improve stormwater management to maximise amenity and water reuse
4	Increase community education and awareness regarding climate hazards
5	Increase planting across urban areas
6	Make asset management plans climate ready
7	Increase the area of open space in strategic locations
8	Prevent development in hazard prone areas
9	Facilitate changes to business practices

## Funding opportunities

Grant and funding programs will be necessary to resource the actions identified in the Action Plan. A range of opportunities are available including:

- Greener Neighbourhood Grants
- Water Sustainability Grants
- Biodiversity Urban Design Grants
- LGA Research and Development Fund
- Open Space and Places for People Grant.

# 1 Supporting On-Ground Action

Increasing green cover and the implementation of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) features across the region will provide cooling, amenity, biodiversity and recreation benefits. All of the Councils in the region undertake a range of greening and WSUD projects including tree planting, landscaping, irrigation management and the design, construction and maintenance of wetlands, rain gardens and detention basins. These projects contribute to the resilience of the region as a whole. The planning, design, construction and operation of associated open space, public realm and stormwater management infrastructure needs to identify how they will be impacted by warmer and drier conditions with more frequent and severe extreme weather events and how identified issues will be addressed.

At a household scale, on-ground action including landscaping and tree planting, rainwater management, building resilience and energy efficiency retrofits that improve thermal comfort and improve health, safety and wellbeing outcomes.

## 1.1 Desired Outcomes

Resilient East plays a key role in supporting the partner councils and the community to undertake on-ground action to achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Increase the success of grant applications for on-ground works by individual councils
- Increase regional green cover
- Increase WSUD implementation in infill development
- Enhance Kaurna involvement in planning, design and development of on-ground works
- Increase ongoing community action
- Enhance community resilience.

## 1.2 Action Plan

Seventeen actions have been identified to support on-ground action over the next four years. These actions align with the regional priorities identified in the Regional Adaptation Plan.

Actions		Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
1	Scope regional large-scale planting project (for 2021/22 Greener Neighbourhood grant rounds)	✓				5
2	Support delivery of large-scale tree planting project		✓	✓	✓	5
3	Scope opportunities to establish large scale collaborative WSUD systems that provide catchment scale benefits, through review of SMPs and land availability.	✓				3, 5
4	Support delivery of large scale WSUD project		✓	✓	✓	3, 5
5	Support councils to develop grant/funding submissions and manage grant processes	✓	✓	✓	✓	3, 5, 7
6	Identify and promote opportunities for Kaurna involvement in partnership projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
7	Support ongoing interaction and development of climate ready champions project and investigate future opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
8	Review council policy and determine leading practice approach to achieve optimal greening outcomes		✓	✓		1, 5, 7

Actions		Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
9	Scope a tree inlet project (including locations) in a coordinated approach		✓			3, 5
10	Support private developers to incorporate WSUD systems (as demonstration sites) with Water Sensitive SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	3, 5
11	Work with Green Adelaide and others to develop greening program for private land (tree planting and verges)	✓				5
12	Support delivery of greening program for private land		✓	✓	✓	5
13	Investigate opportunities and develop program to support household scale community climate resilience/adaptation, e.g. community grant programs delivered through councils or as a region, for works including making homes climate ready through retrofit, tree planting etc	✓				4, 5
14	Implement community climate resilience/adaptation program aligning with funding opportunities and community demand		✓	✓	✓	4, 5
15	Provide guidance and training for councils to incorporate climate impacts on useful life of assets into Asset Management Plans (AMPs) - including AMPs for stormwater and WSUD, roads, footpaths, buildings and open space		✓	✓		6
16	Collaborate with IPWEA, FMG (Financial Management Group) and the LGA asset management group to investigate opportunities to manage trees as a capital asset and include in AMPs	✓	✓			6
17	Support councils to identify local and regional hotspots and target planting efforts Use heat and canopy mapping, overlay planned key plantings and use to identify gaps and inform priorities. Use information to assist with funding applications.		✓	✓		5, 7

### 1.3 Theme Contribution

Supporting on-ground action contributes to the following priority themes for action:

GREEN COVER ✓	WSUD ✓	M&E	PLANNING REFORMS	COUNCILS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ✓	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ✓
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## 2 Strengthening Partnerships and Advocacy

Collaboration and partnerships between all sectors and levels of government and the community is needed for successful adaptation. More can be achieved if we work together and share experiences, knowledge and resources. The collective voice of the region will have a greater ability to influence decisions that influence the region. State government land use planning and natural resource management planning systems are changing. Participation in reform processes will ensure the region is represented and advocated for, and outcomes that benefit the region are included.

### 2.1 Desired Outcomes

Resilient East plays a key role in strengthening partnerships and advocacy to achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Ensure region climate change issues and opportunities are represented in the regional plan and landscape plan (Green Adelaide)
- Enhance relationships with partners and stakeholders to deliver projects that benefit the region
- Engage with Kaurana to identify future opportunities.

### 2.2 Action Plan

Ten actions have been identified to strengthen partnerships and advocacy over the next four years. These actions align with the regional priorities identified in the Regional Adaptation Plan.

Actions	Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
1 Advocate for and participate in projects that enable greater space for and survival of trees and greening, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with State Government and SA Power Networks to align canopy goals, tree planting and requirements regarding establishment and maintenance</li> <li>• Participate in and use research findings about tree species and climate resilience</li> <li>• Work with State Government through policy input on the Planning &amp; Design Code and monitoring impacts of PDI Act outcomes - especially in relation to canopy loss and WSUD</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1, 5, 6
2 Collaborate with Green Adelaide to develop regional landscape plan	✓	✓			5, 7
3 Continue advocacy through Regional Plans and Planning & Design Code for greater opportunities for landscaping and WSUD in infill development	✓	✓	✓		3, 5
4 Continue to collaborate with SA Water on temperature monitoring at parks and irrigation projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
5 Continue to collaborate with Water Sensitive SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	3
6 Continue to work with business precincts, community organisations and hazard leaders on resilience building projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	2, 4, 9
7 Coordinate submissions on relevant policy and plans, for example SA Government Climate Change Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
8 Host discussion with Kaurana (through Green Adelaide) to share Resilient East history and opportunities	✓	✓			4

Actions		Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
9	Support research into regional issues	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
10	Investigate opportunities to establish regional <i>Urban Tree Fund</i> required by the PDI Act		✓			5

### 2.3 Theme Contribution

Strengthening partnerships and advocacy contributes to the following priority themes for action:

GREEN COVER ✓	WSUD ✓	M&E ✓	PLANNING REFORMS ✓	COUNCILS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ✓	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ✓
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### 3 Communications and Capacity Building

The Regional Adaptation Action Plan identified community education and awareness raising as a fundamental requirement to deliver behaviour change, focused on simple messages that focus on the benefits of adaptation. Communications and capacity building also need to support decision makers and those responsible for implementing adaptation action including council staff and Elected Members. Celebrating the benefits and success of regional action is important to recognise how this work will improve the resilience of the region and provide motivation to keep working toward our shared goals.

#### 3.1 Desired Outcomes

Resilient East plays a key role in supporting the partner councils and the community to undertake on-ground action to achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Regionally consistent approach to sharing climate change information with community
- Regular provision of information to community and stakeholders about what Resilient East is achieving and learning
- Increase capacity of council staff and Elected Members to embed climate change in all decisions and actions
- Increase capacity of community to understand and manage impacts of climate change
- Increase capacity of business to understand and mitigate climate risks
- Increase understanding of climate change transition costs and risks to our region

#### 3.2 Action Plan

Fourteen actions have been identified to support communications and capacity building over the next four years. These actions align with the regional priorities identified in the Regional Adaptation Plan.

Actions		Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
1	Deliver regional communications, media and capacity building strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outward looking (external) – community focus, development of key messages, provision of regular and consistent messaging, opportunities for communications linked to monitoring and evaluation or project success, opportunities for information sessions, capacity building events other events and activities</li> <li>• Inward looking (internal) – council focus, capacity building, sharing learnings, understand cross-functional impacts of climate change</li> </ul>	✓				4, 9
2	Develop reporting templates to provide information to community and support annual reports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles or case studies for inclusion in council magazines/newsletters/websites</li> <li>• Report card / snap-shot for community and annual report</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Fact Sheets on projects to communicate to EMs</li> </ul>	✓	✓			4, 9

Actions		Timing				Alignment with regional priorities
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
3	Host a workshop for Elected Members and Executives on the climate risks to local governments, and support with any follow-up steps	✓				1, 2, 4
4	Host community events and activities Community tour of WSUD features Community tree planting events Being prepared for heatwaves	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
5	Maintain an online secure shared platform for staff to access information	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
6	Maintain the website as a central point for all community facing communications, and other tools such as LinkedIn and a regular e-news	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
7	Work with external partners on communications or capacity building projects that support community resilience, especially in vulnerable communities, including Red Cross, SES, SACOSS etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	2, 4
8	Work with external partners on communications or capacity building projects that support community resilience in business, including with ERA Business, Business SA, Small Business Commissioner, Business Hubs, traders' associations	✓	✓	✓	✓	2, 4, 9
9	Develop materials to support external capacity building, including business climate risk awareness and climate impacts for the community	✓	✓	✓		2, 4, 9
10	Develop materials to support internal capacity building (case studies, presentation materials etc), in conjunction with relevant lead State Government agencies. For example on LIDAR, greening, heat and canopy mapping, WSUD, climate impacts on community, greening, climate risks etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	All
11	Celebrate success through annual event and regular communications	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
12	Publish (2) articles or case studies each year in council magazines/newsletters/websites	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
13	Undertake regional assessment of impacts on local business of more frequent extreme weather to identify if any regional response is needed		✓			2, 9
14	Undertake regional assessment of impacts on Council workforce of more frequent extreme weather to identify if any regional response is needed to be able to maintain capacity		✓	✓		2

### 3.3 Theme Contribution

Communication and capacity building contributes to the following priority themes for action:

GREEN COVER ✓	WSUD ✓	M&E ✓	PLANNING REFORMS	COUNCILS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ✓	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ✓
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## 4 Measuring Success

Monitoring and evaluation are needed for Resilient East to understand regional successes and where adjustments are needed to achieve desired outcomes. Having information and data to report to stakeholders and the community is essential to build support for Resilient East and demonstrate accountability. The Regional Adaptation Plan recommended the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework, consistent with an adaptive management approach. Accurately measuring regional outputs and outcomes requires a consistent approach as actions are undertaken by a range of government and private stakeholders.

### 4.1 Desired Outcomes

Resilient East plays a key role in supporting the partner councils and the community to measure success to achieve the following desired outcomes:

- Increase accountability as ability to measure and report success of Resilient East improves
- Develop an adaptive approach where learnings are shared to the benefit of future projects.

### 4.2 Action Plan

Five actions have been identified to measure success over the next four years. These actions provide support for the regional priorities identified in the Regional Adaptation Plan, so the 'Regional Priorities' column has been left out of this section.

Actions		Timing			
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1	Prepare regional monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan (aligning with communications plan) and including green cover, canopy and tree planting compliance with development approvals, community monitoring (e.g. awareness, support for Resilient East, behaviour change etc) and local impact of new tree-related performance outcomes in the Planning and Design Code	✓	✓		
2	Implement regional monitoring to evaluate regional impact and support reporting and communications	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Identify related State government targets and monitoring (e.g. SA Health public health indicators, DPTI tree planting, Green Adelaide as developed)	✓			
4	Partner with State government and other regions to undertake heat mapping and canopy cover			✓	
5	Develop and share templates and processes for project post implementation debriefs and evaluation	✓	✓		

### 4.3 Theme Contribution

Measuring success will contribute to all of the following priority themes for action:

GREEN COVER ✓	WSUD ✓	M&E ✓	PLANNING REFORMS ✓	COUNCILS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ✓	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ✓
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## 5 Governance

The Regional Adaptation Action Plan identified the need for all sectors and levels of government to come together, with strong partnerships and clarity of roles and responsibilities to contribute to the implementation of adaptation action. A lead group or agency responsible for driving implementation is critical to the governance structure. The Resilient East partnership was established to lead adaptation implementation and governance. The governance work program includes the essential administrative and coordinating roles of Resilient East and its regional coordinator.

### 5.1 Desired Outcomes

- Ensure responsibilities in Sector Agreement are met
- Facilitate a cooperative approach across the Eastern Adelaide region
- Ensure projects are scoped for early financial commitment

### 5.2 Action Plan

Three actions have been identified to measure success over the next four years.

Actions		Timing			
		20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1	Facilitate meetings of steering group and working groups including Canopy and Urban Heat, WSUD and Communications. Other working groups or discrete project groups as required are supported by Project Coordinator	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Provide a bi-annual report, which include financial reports and likely commitments to CEOs via the ERA CEOs monthly meetings plus an annual report in conjunction with the next year's detailed priorities. Other updates provided as necessary	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Support ongoing regional coordinator position	✓	✓	✓	✓

### 5.3 Theme Contribution

GREEN COVER ✓	WSUD ✓	M&E ✓	PLANNING REFORMS ✓	COUNCILS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ✓	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ✓
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