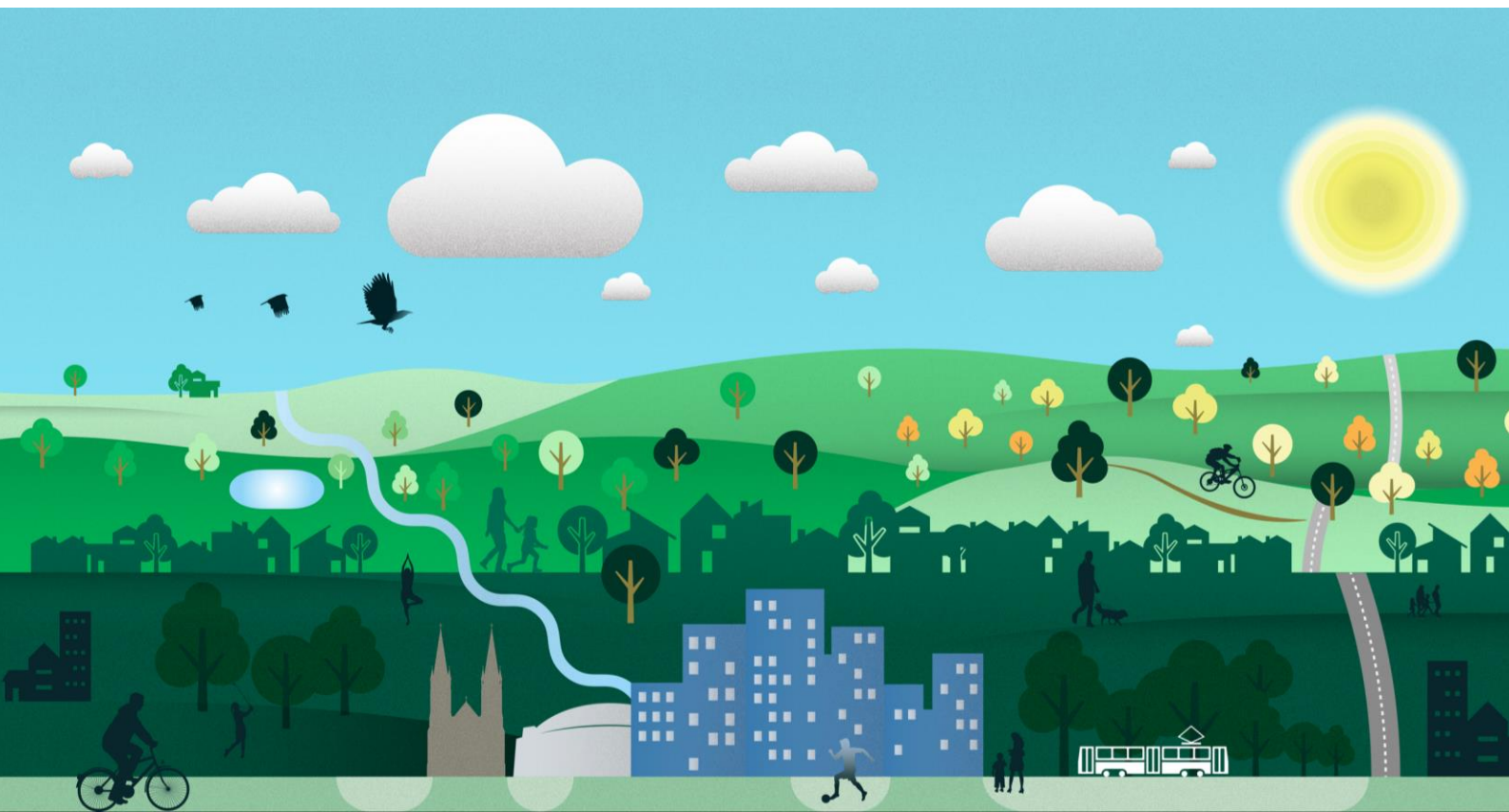


RESILIENT EAST

*Climate Ready
Eastern Adelaide*

2019/20

ANNUAL REPORT



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 for more information.

This report was prepared by Resilient East.

Created: 20 August 2020

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1. Executive Summary

Resilient East is a group of eight councils and the Government of South Australia working together in preparing for climate change in eastern Adelaide. We have recently renewed a commitment in working together through to 2025. This annual report summarises 2019/20 key achievements and provides an overview of the priorities for the next financial year.

The climate in eastern Adelaide has already experienced the impacts of climate change, with more intense storms, flooding, heatwaves and bushfires. As the climate continues to change, our region faces serious risks that will become increasingly difficult to manage. Community expectations for action on climate change risks, heightened by the widespread Australian summer 2020 bushfires, are also increasing.

Resilient East focuses on adapting to the already locked-in climatic changes to build resilience, reduce impacts and create a prosperous future for the region. Like the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to climate change requires coordinated effort by everyone, innovative thinking and immediate and long-term actions.

In 2019/20, our focus was across five key priorities:

1. Align planting programs to meet the pathway for increased canopy cover on public land.
2. Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design in all relevant projects where possible.
3. Increase community awareness and education regarding climate hazards.
4. Manage legal and financial risks of climate change.
5. Continue to engage on State Government Planning and Landscape Reforms with the Local Government Association SA and the Government of South Australia.

The year saw a range of research, collaboration, trialling, community projects and outreach that have continued to optimise understanding, future investments and prioritise work for future years. More detail is in the body of this report, though highlights include:

- Completion of a study looking at the **monetised benefits of water sensitive urban design (WSUD)** for five Resilient East on-ground projects.
- Participation in the **Australian Red Cross Climate Ready Champions** program, expanding our understanding of community needs.
- **WSUD for a Resilient East report**, demonstrating the breadth and diversity of WSUD use, effectiveness and knowledge within our region.
- **A research project** on the risk to productivity for councils during days of extreme heat.
- Organising a **Cool Infrastructure Forum** for staff, and subsequent trials of cool road products in City of Adelaide and Campbelltown City Council.
- Analysis of **canopy LIDAR data**, to improve data of current canopy percentages and provide a benchmark to work with for potential analysis.
- Multiple submissions, advocacy and engagement on State Government's **planning reform**, most specifically on the draft Phase 3 of the **Planning and Design Code**.
- **Renewal** of our Sector Agreement for another five years.
- Developing the draft **action plan to 2025**.
- **Fostering stronger partnerships, working collaboratively, storytelling and sharing learnings** within councils, across councils and with governments, external organisations and communities.

Outputs were reduced due to an extended vacancy of the Project Coordinator role and the COVID-19 pandemic, both causing project implementation delays.

Through our achievements to date and the continuing collaboration of Resilient East partners on climate adaptation, councils are well placed to demonstrate how they are addressing the physical and transitional risks associated with climate change. The challenging year of 2019/20 has further solidified the value of collaboration and the importance to adapt regionally.

2. Background

Resilient East is a partnership between Campbelltown City Council, the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, the Town of Walkerville and the Government of South Australia.

Resilient East holds a strong relationship with the Eastern Regional Alliance (ERA), with six partner councils holding ERA membership (excludes the Cities of Adelaide and Tea Tree Gully).

Our shared goal is to improve the resilience of our communities, assets and infrastructure, local economies and natural environment so they can cope with the impacts and challenges of climate change.

Key Strengths of Resilient East include:

- Learning and upskilling in best practice to support and facilitate improved on-ground action,
- Forming partnerships for better outcomes, including data collection, attracting funding and building community resilience,
- Adopting what works well elsewhere,
- Advocating as a region for our agreed principles, and
- Work strategically across the region and between council programs, to address challenges and opportunities to manage climate risks.

Resilient East came together in 2013 under the State Government's Prospering in a Changing Climate initiative, and it is one of eleven Regional Climate Partnerships across South Australia. A Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan (the Plan) was developed as Resilient East's first project and was endorsed in mid-2016. The Plan was supported through a partnership Climate Change Sector Agreement (2017) with the South Australian Government. The Sector Agreement has recently been renewed (July 2020) for five years.

The Project Coordinator role is currently hosted by the City of Unley on behalf of the participating councils, and the City of Burnside manages associated finances.

Steering Group

The Resilient East Steering Group includes membership from each partner and oversees the implementation of the Plan. The Steering Group reports progress twice yearly to the partner Chief Executive Officers and annually to the Minister for Environment and Water. Representatives from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Green Adelaide are members of the Steering Group, assisting in providing strategic advice and input.

Working Groups

The Resilient East Working Groups work on different priorities and projects within our action plan, comprising membership from partners and stakeholders who have relative expertise for the topic. There are currently three Working Groups:

- Canopy and Heat Working Group.
- WSUD Working Group.
- Communications Working Group.

Representatives of the Working Groups are useful in maintaining up to date information for grants, shifting priorities and ensuring that we are working collaboratively across governments to ensure the region is climate ready.

2020 – A Challenging Year

Priorities and actions this financial year have experienced several disruptions, including resourcing issues (i.e. a gap in the position of Project Coordinator for four months), and unexpected disruption due to COVID-19 restrictions and subsequent impacts. As a response to COVID-19, Resilient East partners successfully transitioned to an online working approach, which subsequently resulted in a stronger collaboration with the South Australian Climate Adaptation Practitioners Network. Despite setbacks, Resilient East had been able to deliver key governance priorities, such as renewal of the Sector Agreement and development of a four-year Action Plan.



Felixstow Reserve – a new wetlands system in Grey St, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters (2019)

3. Outcomes

Guided by the [Resilient East Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(2016\)](#) and building on the foundational work from previous years, the Steering Group focussed on five priority areas in the 2019/2020 work plan. Each priority action was undertaken as a collaborative task through the Working Groups.

3.1. GREENING AND COOLING

Align annual planting programs to meet the pathway for increased canopy cover on public land

The Canopy and Heat Working Group led implementation of actions that delivered on our agreed **Canopy Mission and Strategies** and the ongoing work associated with urban heat and heat mapping. These strategies consider the targets in the State Government 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (updated 2017) to increase canopy and green cover by 20% by 2045, compared to the 2013 baseline data levels.¹

LIDAR Analysis of Tree Canopy and Stormwater from LIDAR Data

Resilient East is part of an Adelaide metro region LIDAR data analysis project using 2018 and 2019 flyover data. Each council contributed a small amount of funds (\$1,563 each) with State Government contributing \$15,000. Resilient East will contribute under \$1,000 in the 2020/21 year to complete this analysis.

Each council has received data and spatial mapping that will help to:

- strategically plan canopy cover management,
- extract trees above a certain height from the data and assess vegetation risk to power lines and other utility infrastructure, with potential links to fire management,
- undertake stormwater management and flood modelling, and
- inform strategic and land-use planning and development for urban cooling.

Not only will this data create a new baseline for Adelaide, it will enable accurate tracking into the future by repeating the same data capture to observe how canopy changes between private and public realm over time. Outputs are already being used to inform policy and an external communications campaign is planned to correspond with the public release of this data on DEW's Urban Heat Mapping Viewer by October 2020. This allows the ability to compare and overlay this data with the existing heat mapping layers.

The former Department of Planning Infrastructure and Transport (DPTI²) compared a LIDAR capture of Campbelltown City Council in 2018 to 2020 to understand how urban infill has impacted the rate of tree loss. This will help determine the frequency at which the State Government will continue to capture LIDAR data and changes to tree canopy overtime.



¹ The baseline for this Plan was developed through a national i-Tree Canopy benchmarking report by the Institute of Sustainable Futures of the UTS (2014).

² At time of writing the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) has split, however for consistency with the financial year it is referred to as its former name.

Cooler Infrastructure Forum

Innovations in heat reflective products are being used around the world to cool urban environments, especially where trees and other cooling strategies might not be possible. In August 2019, Resilient East council infrastructure staff attended a workshop and tour of a cool street trial at Mawson Lakes. This included presentations on a wide range of case studies from across the region, with expert guest speakers from the City of Salisbury, City of Charles Sturt, and Adelaide Airport presenting on their cooler tarmac work. Follow up actions have included ongoing sharing of technical information, knowledge and experience, as well as collaborating across organisations.

Cool Road Trials in Resilient East

The City of Adelaide and Campbelltown City Council both laid cool road surfaces on one street in their area in early 2020.

The [Cool Road Project](#) in Adelaide was led by Climate-KIC in partnership with the State Government. This project tests three cool road surface products on Bowen St West, monitoring their effects on reducing surface and ambient air temperature. The results will be shared in August 2020.

Campbelltown undertook a trial in Hectorville on a small street with a limited number of street trees for an alternative cooling strategy. Council will monitor this over the summer to obtain temperature data.

Strategic Council Tree Planting

While councils are at different stages of implementing various tree and urban forest strategies, Resilient East works to support each in the development of policies, frameworks, and improved data collection to ensure we all work towards a common goal. The benefit of the LIDAR analysis is that councils now have a more accurate estimate of tree canopy to use as a 2018/19 baseline; repeat data collections (along with targeted heat mapping) will be able to show direct comparisons of where trees have increased or decreased, and the effect this has on cooling.

The i-Tree canopy statistical methodologies used to determine canopy cover demonstrate that to meet 2045 canopy targets, further work is required to support the increase of trees on private land. Initial observation of current LIDAR canopy mapping data shows a similar trend and message.

Two examples of new and updated tree strategies and targets:

[Town of Walkerville: Urban Forestry Strategy](#) (July 2019) created their first tree strategy. Analysis of canopy cover shows that to achieve targets, Walkerville would need to increase canopy by the equivalent of 9.5 Adelaide Ovals – of which only 2.6 Adelaide Ovals are available for potential planting on public land. Walkerville has set a target of a 1% annual rise of canopy cover.

[City of Unley: Tree Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2024](#) (May 2020) sets a long-term vision for the Council and community to keep Unley leafy for future generations. Unley has a target to increase canopy by 20% by 2045, which is equivalent to that of about 14,000 trees.



Street Tree Species Review

Street trees face all sorts of pressures – from increasing underground services, soil compaction, access to water, reaching end of life, pests, and impacts of climate change, in particular extreme heat and decline in rainfall. The conditions councils create for trees now is even more important for reaching the canopy targets desired. To support decision making and considering climate impacts, Resilient East arborists have reviewed approximately 140 street tree species currently used, or that could be used, in the eastern region.

A Decision Support Framework has been prepared to assist in selecting suitable species for a given location, considering resilience, form, water availability, and drought and disease resilience. This is currently being peer-reviewed in line with SA Power Networks new street tree rules and will be accompanied by a short guidebook. The intent is that this will be a living document for our region's arborists.



3.2. WATER MANAGEMENT

Incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design in all relevant projects

The WSUD Working Group led the implementation of actions to deliver on our agreed **WSUD Mission Statement and Strategies**.

WSUD for a Resilient East Report (2020)

This report captures the extent and performance of WSUD in the Resilient East region. There are over 1,000 working examples of WSUD across Resilient East, some of which are explored further in this report.

Large-scale schemes are producing thousands of megalitres of fit-for-purpose water to maintain local parks and reserves. There are approximately 12 Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) schemes plus ERA Water and the Glenelg-Adelaide Pipeline (GAP). Felixstow Reserve (an initiative of ERA Water) and Harpers Field in Golden Grove are two examples that became operational this financial year. The majority of WSUD examples **are small-scale WSUD systems** – ranging from the passive capturing of water from kerbsides and residential roofs (over 600+), to the growing range of permeable paving (27+). Small-scale installations are functioning well up to a decade after installation. Inspections of older kerbside inlet systems have found them functioning as designed, with sustained infiltration capacity.

WSUD is becoming more mainstream across Resilient East, although progress in this area has not always been well documented. The ongoing implementation of WSUD in asset management plans will assist local and state governments in meeting commitments to protect natural environments and create a liveable and climate ready eastern region.

Monetising the benefits of WSUD

A wide range of benefits flow from implementing WSUD. Utilising urban stormwater reduces reliance on mains water and reduces the cost and impact of stormwater management. WSUD also benefits urban vegetation



management, supporting urban cooling, and assisting in the creation of attractive urban environments. Resilient East was successful in obtaining a \$25,000 grant from the State Government to use their newly developed “South Australian Monetised Benefits Tool” to evaluate large and small WSUD initiatives included in stormwater, roadworks and other applicable built infrastructure projects. The benefits of several WSUD projects in the region have been assessed in monetary terms to understand the value they have on water quality, neighbourhood character, health benefits and more, with results ranging from tens of thousands to millions of dollars per project (see Table 1).

These two reports will inform and enable greater rollout of WSUD initiatives, programs and commitments.

Table 1: Summary of the monetised benefits calculated for five WSUD projects in the Resilient East region.

Full report: [Monetising the benefits of water sensitive urban design \(WSUD\) and green infrastructure features](#) (December 2019)

WSUD System	WSUD monetised benefit calculation (value over 30 years)
Gray Street (7 trees + 2 rain gardens; City of Adelaide)	\$98,283
Bell Yett Reserve car park and swale (City of Burnside)	\$57,949
Felixstow Wetlands (City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters; ERA Water)	\$5,269,736
Florence Street (3 Rain gardens + 3 bioretention filters; City of Unley)	\$64,100
Way Avenue (water inlet wells for 31 trees; City of Unley)	\$300,520

Water Sensitive SA Partnership

Water Sensitive SA (WSSA) is South Australia’s own WSUD capacity building program, which drives success in the delivery of a cooler, greener, more resilient Adelaide. Core funding for the delivery of WSSA is provided by Green Adelaide, with additional funding provided by local government, state government and industry partners. Funding and delivery arrangements are secure to the end of 2020–21. WSSA regularly contributes to our WSUD Working Group.

Six of the Resilient East councils have currently committed to ongoing funding for WSSA: new partner Campbelltown, and continuing funding partners Adelaide, Burnside, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully and Unley.

WSUD Case Studies

Resilient East now has 41 case studies on the WSSA online [interactive map](#), and six detailed [written case studies](#) hosted on their website. These are good examples for different types of WSUD initiatives, and where possible have images of construction and operation.

Mainstreaming WSUD – in Council Policies

Our intention is that councils will integrate key policy steps for mainstreaming WSUD projects as requirements set out in policies or standards, rather than optional on a case by case basis as is currently exercised. Three examples of councils successfully mainstreaming WSUD:

- Town of Walkerville currently seeks water sensitive opportunities as a part of a project’s scoping and design. This includes, but is not limited to, the installation of Treenet inlets, permeable paving and rain gardens.



- Campbelltown City Council endorsed trialling permeable pavers as part of the annual footpath program for 2020/21, and are looking at opportunities for greening/WSUD as part of their annual road/kerb reconstruction.
- City of Burnside has a WSUD policy and WSUD is routinely implemented through the council's annual capital works programs; Burnside is sharing the design of their innovative 'B-pods', which divert residential stormwater to street trees and garden verges.

Staff Education – A Collaborative Pathway to Water Sensitive City

The City of Adelaide is on its way to transitioning towards being a Water Sensitive City guided by the principles of the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities. To develop a plan that engaged all relevant staff, a collaborative approach was used in the form of a survey that reached over 120 staff members, as well as running a workshop that kicked-off the project, which was attended by 40 staff members and highlighted key themes, issues and gaps of knowledge. Additionally, eight educational and training workshops increased capacity and understanding of how to maintain WSUD treatments, how to plan for various rainfall scenarios using online tools, and showcased WSUD case studies. This type of collaboration is key and is a great example of highlighting the complexities of a changing climate to our water supply and management.



Examples of WSUD in Resilient East – a bioretention system, wetland, permeable paving and a Treenet inlet

3.3. COMMUNITY & CAPACITY BUILDING

Increasing community awareness and education regarding climate hazards

This year's engagement with the community built on our previous success from the 2019 *Feeling Hot Hot Hot!* event and joint launch of the DEW's Urban Heat Mapping Viewer (hosted on the Enviro Data SA website). Additionally, our efforts continued to build our brand, communications and presence.

Communications Working Group – Branding, Website, Presence

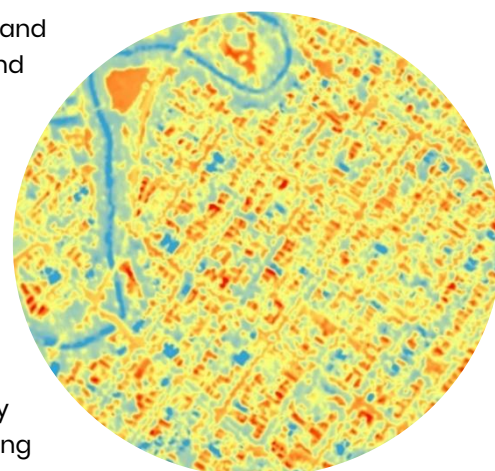
A Communications Working Group was initiated to progress development of a Communications Strategy to ensure we have consistent messaging and approaches to build our reach and to better communicate our achievements. This work will continue into 2020/21 and beyond.

The website has been used to have an online presence, promote events, showcase initiatives the public can get involved in, and promote the work of Resilient East and councils (i.e. [Water Sensitive Urban Design for a Resilient East report](#)). The website had 2,527 unique views in 2019, and 1,400 between January-June 2020.

Online outreach activity will increase over the coming months and will include:

- finalising factsheets and activity guides for the Urban Heat Mapping Viewer,
- more actions community members can take to be climate ready,
- a e-newsletter for our subscribers, and,
- creating a professional LinkedIn account to communicate and encourage a broader audience of practitioners and business.

DEW's [Urban Heat Mapping Viewer](#) had over 14,000 unique hits as of May 2020 since it launched in February 2019, averaging between 50-100 weekly views.



Climate Ready Champions

Resilient East partnered with the Australian Red Cross to deliver [Climate Ready Champions](#) training sessions for community members residing in our region. Climate Ready Communities training empowers people to understand the risks they currently face, the way these are changing, and what they can do to build their resilience personally, and within their communities.

Forty residents attended a full-day training at either the:

- City of Adelaide (22 November 2019),
- City of Tea Tree Gully (6 February 2020), and
- City of Burnside (21 February 2020).

Despite the training locations, residents from across the region were encouraged to attend any of the three sessions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Red Cross and councils continued engagement with participants using surveys, online catch-ups, and webinars to continue momentum and upskilling amongst champions.



Quotes from the participants captured in the post-evaluation survey are positive:

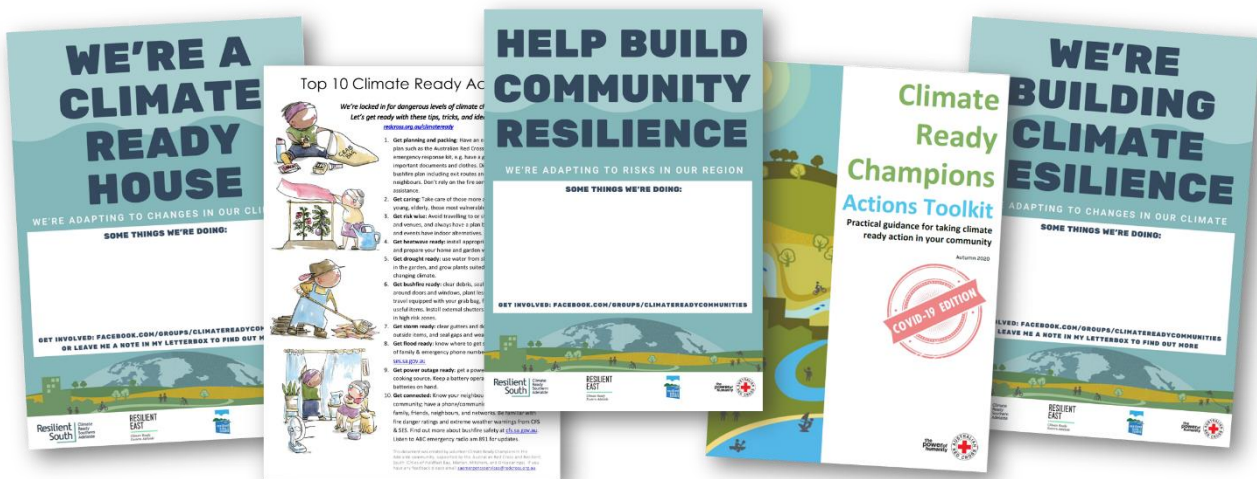
"Staying connected is important, being prepared in advance is important, being climate ready isn't always expensive"

"Caring for the local community is the basis of effective communication; people are more likely to change if they can see concrete examples of what others are doing, start with small changes because everything helps"



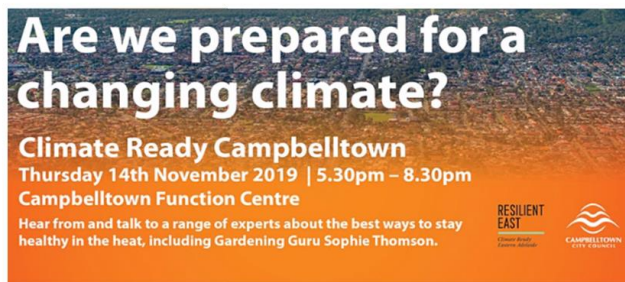
There is demand for more training and regular engagement for both new and existing participants. Champions are keen to foster positive relationships with councils to enable the champions to take meaningful action within their communities. The Australian Red Cross are currently exploring funding opportunities to continue implementing the Climate Ready Communities program for more training, resources, ongoing engagement and to build the capacity of Champions to influence and empower their networks and communities.

Resources developed as part of this program are available to the Champions to use and share, including **Top 10 Climate Ready Actions** handout, **posters Champions use on their front fence or door to invite conversations**, **Actions Toolkit** to support Champions in their community (see below).



Increased Awareness and Education on Heatwaves

Following on from the success of the [Feeling Hot Hot Hot!](#) event and associated community engagement, Resilient East councils initiated campaigns and events to prepare their communities for this year's summer heatwaves. These activities incorporated messaging with the advice of the Emergency Lead Agencies (such as the State Emergency Services and SA Health) to provide consistent advice across our region and state.



Some examples include:

'Beat the Heat' included community preparedness messaging, conversations in libraries and a heat mapping workshop in the City of Adelaide (November – December 2019).

'Climate Ready Campbelltown Forum' brought together speakers, displays and inspiration to help people prepare for extreme heat events and build networks of resilience (November 2019, see images above).

'Get Set for Summer – be prepared for the summer heat' was part of the City of Unley Town Hall Talk series, this free event had panellists focusing on issues that affect individuals aged 50+ (November 2019).

'Climate Medicine', a talk on 'The health impacts of climate change and its treatment' was initiated by the City of Tea Tree Gully library and Doctors for the Environment and was well attended. The presenter later became a Climate Ready Champion and has since delivered this talk online for the other Champions (October 2019).

Sustainable Garden Awards

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters bi-annual Sustainable Garden Awards recognise and celebrate the importance of sustainable gardens and landscapes in the City's urban environment. This year, 2020, will be the third year the program will be run. It is open to all residents, business owners, schools and community groups who have a 'sustainable story' to share. The judging criteria encourages greening, biodiversity, habitat, water sensitive urban design and more. Series of workshops, tours and webinars focused on sustainable garden topics are run in conjunction with the program to encourage, educate and inspire citizens to create sustainable gardens.

Burnside Urban Foresters

The City of Burnside provides opportunities for residents to learn about and participate in urban forestry activities. The Burnside Urban Foresters program allows council volunteers to participate in workshops to learn about the urban forest. Urban Foresters can also participate monitoring activities, through this citizen science initiative.

Partnering with Universities: Heat & Habitat in Cities Symposium

The City of Adelaide was asked to present on climate readiness from a practitioner and operational level at the [University of Adelaide's Heat & Habitat in Cities Symposium](#) (December 2020). Many staff attended this forum where there was exposure to development of a range of new technologies for urban cooling by experts around the world. City of Adelaide also collaborated with the University's School of Architecture and Built Environment Masters class who designed [climate refuge structures](#) – temporary cooling stations to be used on hot days in public spaces.

Climate Change Impacts on the Useful Life of Infrastructure

City of Adelaide partnered with South Australia IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia) to host a presentation with Dr. Jaqueline Balston for Resilient East and other council's infrastructure staff on the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) Practice Note 12.1: "Impact of Climate Change on the Useful Life of Infrastructure". This Practice Note provides clear guidance for asset managers on how to integrate these changes into asset management plans and budgets. The event was booked out with over 80 practitioners attending.

3.4. CLIMATE RISKS

Managing legal and financial risks of climate change

The cost of the physical, legal and transitional impacts of climate change are large, but not yet fully understood or quantified. There is value in Resilient East investigating, quantifying and mitigating the different forms of these risks.

Assessment of Lost Workforce Productivity from Inclement Weather

During 2019/20, a graduate student completed a preliminary assessment of outdoor workforce productivity lost due to heatwaves over summer 2018/2019 at the City of Unley. The impact of heat to date has focused on staff safety and wellbeing importantly, but little on business impacts, for example continuity, cost and scheduling.

Findings across the City of Unley during the 2018/19 summer period showed:

- 18 days impacted by heatwaves
- 1,530 hours lost total
- 51 hours loss per staff member
- These numbers are predicted to triple by 2050
- These numbers are conservative as they do not factor in other qualitative drops in productivity during hot weather.

This approach can be replicated across the other member councils, for example a brief look at Walkerville indicates a significantly increasing trend of lost days due to heatwaves since 2012.



Climate Change Risk Assessment – Learnings from City of Adelaide

It was decided early in 2019 that as the City of Adelaide was undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment (starting in 2020), Resilient East could learn from this process.

The primary objective of the CoA project is to review and assess climate change risks to assets, operations and services, covering the following key aspects:

- Identification (and review) of climate risks related to governance, physical risks to services and assets and transition risks related to a shift to a low carbon economy;
- Analysis of climate risks (existing and residual) and identification of existing/potential control measures;
- Risk management opportunities for climate risks (including prioritisation of risks);
- Disclosure (and controls measures) of climate risks.

Reviewing the Council's corporate exposure and associated risk controls to climate change will assist decision making and position the organisation to appropriately prioritise risk mitigation and adaptation actions. The process has included thus far:

- Staff survey (200+ responses),
- 10 climate risk governance group interviews, including the Executive Leadership Team, conducted by Donavon Burton,
- Physical risk assessment workshops,
- Transition risk assessment workshop,
- Audit Committee presentation of final report (August 2020), followed by Council.

The project was partly funded by the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme on the basis that guidance material would be developed to share with other councils. Once this material is completed and the Climate Risk Assessment Report has been provided to Council (planned for September 2020) there will be an opportunity for Resilient East to adopt the learnings.

City of Adelaide has joined 430 organisations across many jurisdictions that have used the *Informed.City* platform to undertake the climate adaptation governance assessments, including:

- **Resilient South:** Cities of Onkaparinga, Marion, and Mitcham
- **Resilient Hills and Coast:** Adelaide Hills Council, Mt Barker District Council, Alexandrina Council, Kangaroo Island Council, Victor Harbour Council
- **Adapt West:** Cities of Port Adelaide Enfield, West Torrens, and Charles Sturt (began in June, using an online approach).

3.5. PLANNING REFORMS

Continue to engage on State Government Planning Reform and Landscape Reform with the LGA and State Government

It is vital that the State Planning Policies and Planning and Design Code support greater canopy cover and WSUD features, to arrest the decline of canopy cover and increase green cover, particularly on private land. Planning reforms include tangible requirements that will drive and promote retention and re-establishment of canopy and green cover on private land to progress towards 2045 targets outlined in the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

Community Engagement on Planning Reforms - Cooler Greener Adelaide

Resilient East partnered with WSSA to host a [Cooler Greener Adelaide Community forum](#) on the draft Phase 3 of the Planning and Design Code (the draft Code) in Prospect's Payinthe building. This was one of four workshops designed to help demonstrate development scenarios that meet the draft planning policies in terms of greening and stormwater management and how this compares to current practices. Over 50 people attended this session, including MP Rachel Sanderson.

These forums:

- Provided practical expert assistance on how to navigate and prepare effective responses to influence the draft Code

- Gathered community feedback from the workshop and prepared a summary for submission to State Government.

Submission into the Draft Phase 3 of the Planning and Design Code

A submission was made on behalf of the Resilient East Steering Group that provides feedback on the draft Code to support the objectives of improving climate resilience and climate adaptation, including the outcomes relating to canopy cover, WSUD and biodiversity.

This submission builds upon a number of previous submissions made by the Resilient East Steering Group on various aspects of the Planning Reforms. As with all Resilient East submissions, it does not reflect formal Council consideration by any of the constituent Councils. However, this input is intended to complement the specific planning feedback from participating Councils and provide a perspective from regional climate change adaptation practitioners.

One of the regular critiques is conflicting policies: the State Government’s 30-Year Plan calling for an a 20% increase in green cover (including canopy cover) by 2045 is often at odds with aspects of the draft Code that: facilitate and ease the removal of trees on both private and public land, demonstrate an increased emphasis on urban infill, increase subdivision opportunities and intensify development.

Contribution to a DPTI study on the Impact of Urban Infill on Trees – Campbelltown, Unley

During 2020 there has been growing public concerns around the impacts of urban infill on trees on private land, for example, feedback to the draft Code, Conservation SA’s June report ["What's Happening to Adelaide's Trees?"](#), and media attention on this issue.

The (former) Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) commissioned a report which analysed the relationship between urban infill and tree canopy cover changes, from Campbelltown, Unley and Marion. Once released, the report will help councils understand which methods of canopy data collection and interpretation are easier to scale and use comparatively in the future as a monitoring and evaluation tool. DPTI will release this report as part of the consultation later in 2020 in an effort to balance the planning policy outcomes of increasing urban infill and increasing urban green cover.



Participants at the Cooler Greener Adelaide forum described what they wanted their region to be like

Letter to Planning Commission and LGA - Response to the 'What have we heard report' June 2020

The Project Coordinator and Steering Group (Council representatives) prepared a response to the 'What we have heard report' that came out mid-June 2020, to reiterate key points and demonstrate support for green infrastructure and WSUD provisions included in the draft Code.

Resilient East Steering Group therefore strongly encourage the State Planning Commission to at least retain, but ideally build upon, the draft Code policy in relation to:

- Requiring minimum one tree per dwelling,
- Maintaining existing 7% deep soil area,
- Minimum 15-25% soft landscaping space (and defining this as 'living green landscaping'),
- Increased provision of landscaping within common driveways and public realm,
- Onsite rainwater tanks,
- Quantification of the protection of street trees,
- Provision of site permeability,
- Retention and protection of Regulated and Significant Trees.

To this last point, there is a **gap in the draft Code around protecting Significant Trees**. Protection of both Significant and Regulated Trees must be enshrined in the Planning and Design Code for statutory protections to take effect. For example, the nominal \$94 fee for removing a Significant or Regulated tree on private land falls well short of covering the costs of planting and maintaining a replacement tree – not to mention the lost benefits to the community, which have been estimated in a City of Burnside study to be in the range of a few thousand dollars for small mature trees, through to tens of thousands or more for large mature trees. This gross under-valuing of mature trees causes significant economic barriers in ensuring adequate urban green space.



Writing this letter has provided a base for a report to Greater Adelaide Region Organisation of Councils for September which will include advice from metropolitan councils on the 'issues with trees'.

Key Partner to Green Adelaide

Resilient East has been engaged in the consultation around the Green Adelaide Board's priorities and potential projects since the process of landscape reform commenced. Green Adelaide (formerly, Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM Board) staff continued engaging with the challenges and successes of Resilient East by attending Steering Group meetings, action planning sessions, WSUD and Canopy group meetings, and generally being available to provide support and advice. Green Adelaide's capacity to offer in-kind support was limited pending the announcement of the Green Adelaide Board.

There has been strong support for continuation of funding regional climate adaptation coordinators, supporting on-ground greening, biodiversity and WSUD projects, capacity building and research initiatives, and community grassroots action. Resilient East is seen as a key partner to support Green Adelaide and to promote constructive ways to increase canopy and green cover and WSUD.

4. Governance

Climate Change Sector Agreement

The implementation of Resilient East is managed in accordance with the governance and reporting arrangements set out in the Climate Change Sector Agreement between the participating councils and the Government of South Australia. The Sector Agreement was established under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act, 2007*. The Steering Group meets quarterly to review progress of annually updated priority options and to maximise collaboration across the region.

The Sector Agreement was reviewed in its entirety before 30 January 2020 as per the Agreement. The Agreement was renegotiated and sent around for CEO sign-off digitally due to COVID-19 preventing gatherings. This slowed the process and the Minister signed officially on the 27 July 2020.

The Steering Group updated their Terms of Reference in line with this new document in April 2020.

Project Coordinator Role

The Project Coordinator is pivotal in enabling and driving action towards our Sector Agreement, which is aimed at delivering on the Climate Change Regional Adaptation Plan (2016). Linking the many different programs and priorities of eight councils and State Government is no mean feat, and there is much more work to be done. The role has strategic oversight beyond the Resilient East region and helps to develop and link partnerships and opportunities with other South Australian Regional Climate Partnerships, research Institutions, government and non-government organisations, wider networks and the community.

Each council invested \$6,000 towards funding a 0.8 FTE Coordinator for Resilient East. For the second year in a row the Steering Group was successful in securing matched funding of \$48,000 through the (former) Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board (now Green Adelaide Board) Water Sustainability Grants program.

In mid-November 2019 the Coordinator role became vacant. With only four months until the current Sector Agreement sunset clause, a temporary backfill of the role at 0.6 FTE was commenced in early March 2020 and extended to September 2020. The role has been supplemented by consultants specifically to support delivery of the Action Plan and to improve our communications and presence. With the renewal of the Sector Agreement and 2020/21 budget allocation, a minimum 12 month 1 FTE Coordinator role is anticipated to be advertised.

Along with the Central Coordinator of the Regional Climate Partnerships, Resilient East has been advocating for longer-term financial support from the State Government to enable greater success in delivery of our longer-term Adaptation Plan. In 2020-21, Green Adelaide is pursuing opportunities to support Regional Climate Partnership coordination activities across the 17 metropolitan Council areas, with the intention to have longer-term support available in line with the 5-year Green Adelaide Landscape Plan (to be prepared during 2020/21).

Steering Group

This financial year the Steering Group met four times, engaged in two action planning workshops, one of which included council CEOs, and provided three updates to the CEOs. The Current Steering Group membership includes:

Council/ Department	Project Steering Group Member
City of Prospect - Chair	Simon Bradley Director - Infrastructure and Environment
City of Adelaide	Maria Zotti Manager - Sustainability Policy
City of Burnside	Philip Roetman Coordinator Environmental Assets (Acting)
City of Campbelltown	Andrian Wiguna General Manager Infrastructure Services
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	Eleanor Walters Manager, Urban Planning & Sustainability
City of Tea Tree Gully	Jon Herd Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
City of Unley	Kat Ryan Coordinator Environmental Projects & Strategy
Town of Walkerville	Ben Clark Group Manager Assets and Infrastructure
State Government Department of Environment and Water; Climate Change	Diane Favier Manager, Climate Change Policy and Strategy
Green Adelaide (former Natural Resources AMLR)	Louisa Halliday Manager Planning & Evaluation
Resilient East Project Coordinator	Bec Taylor

5. Annual Financial Statement

The Resilient East funding availability for 2019-20 was comprised of the following components:

2019/2020 Budget	Amount \$ (ex. GST)
Carry over funds from 18/19	65,281
ERA contribution to Coordinator Role (equivalent of \$6k each)	36,000
Partnership contributions to Coordinator Role from the City of Adelaide and City of Tea Tree Gully (\$6k each)	12,000
Additional contribution from 8 councils for project incidentals, general communications and engagement	8,000
Matched contribution to Coordinator Role from State Government via NRM/Green Adelaide Water Sustainability Grants Program	48,000
Total	\$169,281

Resilient East's expenditure and activities were lower than anticipated due to the vacancy of coordinator for several months and the project delays caused by COVID-19.

2019/20 Expenditure Budget	Amount \$	YTD June \$	Unspent\$
Coordinator Role to 7 November 2019 Coordinator Role 1 March to 30 June 2020 (4-month vacancy)	96,000	61,984	34,017
Resilient East Action Plan project budgets	62,281	16,220	46,061
State Government Grant Funding - Mainstreaming WSUD - Monetised Benefits tool	11,000	11,000	0
Total	\$ 169,281	\$ 89,204	\$ 80,077

Unspent funds will be carried over for continued collaboration work to deliver our long-term goals for a climate ready eastern region.

6. Future work

Action Planning

The Action Plan describes the priorities for Resilient East over the next four years to progress the implementation of the Adaptation Plan and governance arrangements of the Sector Agreement. It includes actions that will be undertaken at a regional scale (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.

The Action Plan identifies a plan for the next four years within the expected available budget from Council contributions. Actions have been grouped into five programs of work:

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

The action plan will be finalised and presented by October. Below are five of the key projects that will be delivered 2020/21. Many of the desired actions of Resilient East will only be achievable with financial contributions from grants or other sources as identified.

It is acknowledged that there is a significant amount of work undertaken by individual councils. The sum output of this work plays 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.

Five key projects for 2020-21

1. Work with Green Adelaide to develop greening programs for private land.
2. Scope a large-scale regional council planting projects for coming years.
3. Prepare and implement capacity building and a Communications Strategy to develop consistent and increased messaging across our region.
4. Engage councils in understanding the climate risks to local governments.
5. Prepare a regional monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan to understand what we have and how we can calculate progress.



RESILIENT EAST

Climate Ready Eastern Adelaide

