

# BUILDING BUSINESS RESILIENCE: OVERVIEW



## BACKGROUND

Small to medium businesses, like all segments of the community, are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in many ways. These could be direct, such as from fire or flood or indirect through the impact on supply chains. Businesses have varying levels of preparedness in relation to climate change, with little prioritising climate change impacts.

Conversations with economic development officers across multiple local government areas in Greater Melbourne indicate that climate change impacts have not yet registered as a priority for most businesses. In addition to business groups requiring support and skills building around the transition to clean energy and energy efficiency, support is needed to increase their resilience to and manage risks from climate change.

SECCCA has recently undertaken a climate change impact assessment of its entire region ([AVA project](#)). Building on this work, SECCCA is able to provide information to businesses that demonstrate their exposure to climate extremes and how they can respond to improve resilience.

This is a 9-month project, scheduled for completion by December 2022.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective is to help small-medium businesses conduct climate risk assessment, mitigation and planning. The project hopes to:

- Increase awareness among business owners of the climate vulnerability of their businesses, and potential adaptation pathways
- Create documentation for use by other small businesses in the SECCCA region (or elsewhere) to guide how to build their own adaptation options
- Increase understanding of the next steps in building small business climate resilience in the SECCCA region

## SUPPORTED BY

The project is being funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) as part of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Greater Melbourne.

## PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

SECCCA is managing the project, with consultant Science into Action engaged to undertake the project.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

From working with 4-5 business owners from differing industries, the project will produce a final report intended to be an easy-to-understand adaptation implementation guide for use by other businesses more broadly. It will also produce 4-5 'one-pager' case studies with climate change risk assessment and adaptation plans for each business involved.

## KEY PROJECT DELIVERY STEPS

The project has 12 key steps:

1. Complete desktop literature review
2. Do vulnerability assessment (climate mapping)
3. Identify broad business sectors
4. Identify candidate businesses for case studies
5. Contact businesses for involvement
6. Set up interviews (4-5)
7. Interview and develop adaptation pathways with SMEs
8. Collate and synthesis findings
9. Create a generic adaptation story for the business sector
10. Do reports and one-pager case studies
11. Review: Check in with businesses & SECCCA
12. Finalise and submit