

A CLIMATE JOURNEY *newsletter*

Issue 2
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Welcome to our newsletter

This newsletter provides updates to the wider community about the DELWP Grampians Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy currently being developed by Community and Partnership Programs team in the Grampians Region.



The Grampians Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy (GRCAS) is being developed as part of the 'Supporting our Regions to Adapt' program to encourage collaborative action between Government and regional communities.

Under this program, each DELWP region developed a Climate Change Adaptation Gap Analysis which captured measures already in place and to identify critical gaps remaining. For more information visit Engage Victoria [here](#).

Climate Front Line

With more frequent and extreme weather events, damaging bushfires and drought, there is no question that the climate is changing, and the impacts are being felt by humans and nature alike.

The *Climate Front Line* seeks to stimulate conversation around, and provide alternative perspectives on climate change through challenging values, views and beliefs.

See how global warming has changed the world since your childhood

An interactive way to view what has occurred during your life. Global warming is already changing the world. See how your childhood compares to a child growing up now in relation to climate change.

[Read more >](#)

This was the decade climate change slapped us in the face

'Climate change isn't just something to worry about in the future...it's here now.'
The year 2019 marks the close of the hottest decade ever recorded around the world. Seven of the 10 hottest years since records began have occurred since 2010.

[Read more >](#)

The Adaptive Age

'No institution or individual can stand on the sidelines in the fight against climate change...Ready or not, we are entering an age of adaptation. And we need to be smart about it.'

This article discusses that adapting isn't a defeat, rather a defense against what is already happening.

[Read more >](#)

Climate change is hurting farmers - even seeds are under threat

Climate change is already affecting the amount of food farmers grow. This article discusses the impact increasing heat has on germination and seed growth, and what it means for the world.

[Read more >](#)

The effects of drought and climate variability on Australia farms

The current drought across much of eastern Australia has demonstrated the dramatic effects that climate variability can have on farm businesses and households. The drought has also renewed longstanding discussions around the emerging effects of climate change on agriculture, and how governments can best help manage climate risk.

This article provides some insight into these issues by examining the effects of recent climate variability on Australian farms.

[Read more >](#)

The 10 biggest environmental wins of 2019

In a decade from now, 2019 may be regarded at a turning point: the year when countries began to wake up to the climate crisis. Mass movements are generating seemingly irreversible momentum toward sustainability.

Here are 10 of the most promising environmental developments of 2019.

[Read more >](#)

A Climate Journey series

A Climate Journey series was held in Horsham and Ballarat between May and September this year for local government and the community. Each forum had a theme - Past, Present and Future. Bureau of Meteorology discussed the passed climate data, and CSIRO looked at climate projections for the future. Farmers for Climate Action discussed in the final forum the actions that farmers and the agricultural industry are taking to adapt to the current changes in reduced rainfall and increased temperature.



Each of the forums were recorded and are now available to watch online.

May - Bureau of Meteorology | July - CSIRO | September - Farmers for Climate Action



Grampians Regional Climate Adaptation Group

Each edition we will introduce two of the group members, one from Wimmera and one from Central Highlands groups

Wimmera - Steven Hobbs

Steven has a family farm NW of Kaniva in the West Wimmera region of Victoria. The property is a mixed farm enterprise, producing a variety of crops and running both Merino sheep and Prime lambs.



Since 1999, Steven has had an interest in the production of renewable fuels, and in 2003 he was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship to study Decentralised Energy production. He has established a small scale, oilseed crushing plant on his farm, incorporating the presscake and vegetable oil into the livestock production.

Having experienced significant changes in weather patterns, Steven has changed the farm enterprise mix to 25% cropping and 75% livestock in an attempt to minimise the impact of climate change. There is now focus on cover crops, re-establishing perennial pastures and maintaining greater ground cover.

Central Highlands - Dominic Murphy

Dominic Murphy is the Sustainability Officer with Hepburn Shire Council. His role includes delivering a goal of Council carbon neutrality by 2021.



As part of his role, Dom works with the community on a range of climate change mitigation activities, including to support community aspirations of zero net emissions by 2030, through the Z-NET project. As part of this local emissions reduction transition, there is also a need to consider and adapt to current and future climate change impacts.

Prior to Council, he worked as a consulting Mechanical Engineer.

Steven collects and uses data to record genetic information to breed and select higher profit ewes, allowing an increase in flexibility with stock numbers.

Steven has committed to a Soil Carbon project under the Emissions Reduction Fund and is ultimately hoping to achieve a carbon neutral farming operation.



Climate Adaptation Public Workshops - February

There will be two community workshops running in February for those who would like to help shape the future of climate adaptation in the Grampians Region.

The day will consist of presentations in the morning from field experts, as well as looking at how local governments are tackling climate adaptation. Breakout sessions in the afternoon will be based on different themes (i.e. biodiversity, agriculture, water, health) to discuss adaptation needs in these areas.

Ballarat workshop - 11th February 10am - 3pm

Horsham workshop - 14th February 10am - 3pm

To book your place for the workshop, please contact us

