



SUPPORTING ● PEOPLE ● SECTORS ● PLACES

Program Overview

A regional approach
to climate change adaptation



Background

The 2017–20 Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan recognised climate change is affecting social, cultural, environmental and economic systems in Victoria's regions in unique ways.

While it is important that Victoria works towards meeting its emissions targets to mitigate against future climate changes, we also need to reduce our vulnerability to current and future climate change impacts. The *Supporting the Regions to Adapt Program* enables a regional approach to adaptation and requires each Victorian region to develop a *Regional Adaptation Strategy*.

The Strategy will capture climate change challenges unique to each region and what adaptation approaches are required to support the most vulnerable people, sectors and places in the short, medium and long term future.

The Loddon Mallee Strategy will be informed by learnings gathered through the ADAPT Loddon Mallee (LM) program. ADAPT LM will deliver a suite of initiatives that will identify priority adaptation actions while building leadership capacity, climate literacy, knowledge and supporting networks and partnerships across the region.



The Loddon Mallee stretches from the Murray River to Mount Macedon. Included in the region are ten local government areas. They are: Mildura, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Buloke, Campaspe, Loddon, Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Macedon Ranges.

Why adapt?

Climate change adaptation helps individuals, communities, organisations and natural systems to deal with the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided.

Even if emissions are dramatically decreased in the next decade, adaptation will still be needed to deal with the global changes that have already been set in motion. Adaptation involves taking practical actions to manage risks of those impacts so that social, cultural and economic systems are more resilient. This includes harnessing new opportunities, managing the transition to renewable energies and a circular economy, and changing the way we do other things to reduce our carbon emissions.

Adaptation is a shared responsibility. Governments at all levels, businesses, communities and individuals all have a role to play.

Individuals, communities and businesses are often best placed to take adaptation action that benefits their differing needs.

ADAPT LM will support local government, businesses, communities and individuals across the region to become climate ready!

Guiding principles

Inclusiveness

Engage a diverse range of regional people, including people from different cultural, social, economic, environmental and political perspectives.

Localised

Take participatory approaches that are informed by regional perspectives, needs and priorities.

Equity

Identify adaptation challenges where the most vulnerable people, places and sectors have the least capacity to act.

Our focus

ADAPT LM will focus on the following areas under three categories identified in the 2018 Loddon Mallee Regional Gap Analysis study.

People

Traditional Owners, youth, elderly, and volunteers.

Sectors

Agriculture, biodiversity (flora and fauna), manufacturing, tourism, and health and human services.

Places

Small townships, rural cities, places of natural and cultural significance.

Adaptation Strategy

The Regional Adaptation Strategy is intended to be a practical strategy to address climate change adaptation issues identified by regional stakeholders.

The strategy will be developed through an experiential adaptation planning process, which aims to provide regional stakeholders with a framework to identify, prioritise and deliver adaptation action within their region.

With input from key stakeholders, the process is expected to identify a range of adaptation needs and priorities including actions that are entirely within the region's sphere of influence as well as actions that will require engagement with others to effectively address.

This may include state or federal government agencies, statutory bodies, private sector or other responsible organisations. The final strategy will be both a plan of action for the region and a document to support strategic engagement with other stakeholders on adaptation issues within their region.

...the Regional Adaptation Strategy will identify and prioritise actions that support the most vulnerable people, sectors and places in the Loddon Mallee.



Regional Climate Summit

The ADAPT Regional Climate Summit will be a unique opportunity for participants from ADAPT initiatives, along with experts, decision makers and investors, to come together to create the Regional Adaption Strategy.

The two-day summit will provide a platform for organisations, local adaptation grant recipients, community groups and individuals to present on their learnings, identify adaptation actions that are regionally specific and agree on the priorities that will inform the strategy.

The summit will be held in August 2020.

For more information visit
www.adaptloddonmallee.com.au

The strategy is intended to be a shared regional voice that identifies the path to transformative adaptation.

Timeline

- Program and Network website launch
October 2019
- Regional Climate Leadership program
Nov 2019–Jul 2020
- Youth Climate Network, includes Youth Climate Retreat and other youth engagement activities
Jan–Aug 2020
- Climate Ready Communities
Sep 2019–Aug 2020
- Partnering 4 Resilience
Jan–Aug 2020
- Regional Climate Summit
Aug 2020
- Regional Adaptation Strategy draft
Aug–Oct 2020
- Regional Adaptation Strategy draft
Public Exhibition
Sept–Oct 2020
- Regional Adaptation Strategy
Late 2020
- The future
2021–2023



What we will do

Learn by doing

Understand community priorities which will inform the strategy through four pilot initiatives: Partnering 4 Resilience, Climate Ready Communities Regional Climate Leadership Program and Youth Climate Network.

Build shared capacity

Build awareness, knowledge, skills, tools, networks and partnerships to enable adaption planning and action.

Build resilience

Support communities to have effective conversations and engagement so they can work together to build resilience.

Leadership

Build local leadership skills and opportunities to enable grassroots adaptation action.

Build collaborative partnerships

Identify and support strategic partnerships and access to networks, decision making bodies to build social inclusion.

Create a shared regional voice

Invite pilot participants to identify regional priorities and actions to create the Regional Adaptation Strategy.

...the only way we can effectively adapt to climate change in our unique communities is to work together, be bold and see what works.



Partnering 4 Resilience

Partnerships are critical if we want to be a region that is responsive and resilient to climate change.

Adaptation is well-suited to a collaborative approach because of the wide range of expertise required, the varying geographical challenges of the region and the long time frames involved.

Collaborative partnerships provide an opportunity for stakeholders to find out what other adaptation planning and projects are going on in the region and to share expertise and learnings with each other.

Partnerships also support access to funding options and achieving economies of scale.

What it is

Partnering 4 Resilience will draw together government agencies, peak bodies, Traditional Owners and other relevant organisations to work as a collective practitioners group to share knowledge and provide advice to each other.

This initiative aims to broker the supply and demand around relationships needed to drive adaptation actions in simple and easy to access ways.

The partnerships created will help to better understand the climate change impacts in each of the focus areas and where potential solutions are required to help with building more climate resilient communities.

What it will do

Share

Work as a collective practitioners group to share knowledge and provide advice to each other.

Link

- Organisations with tools, information and expertise.
- Organisations with financial and in-kind support.
- Influencers and/or authorising bodies.

Inform

Showcase your organisation's solutions.

Establish

Funding agreements for activities that highlight key strategies and actions to inform the Regional Adaptation Strategy.

Adaptation is well-suited to a collaborative approach because of the wide range of expertise required, the varying geographical challenges of the region and the long time frames involved.

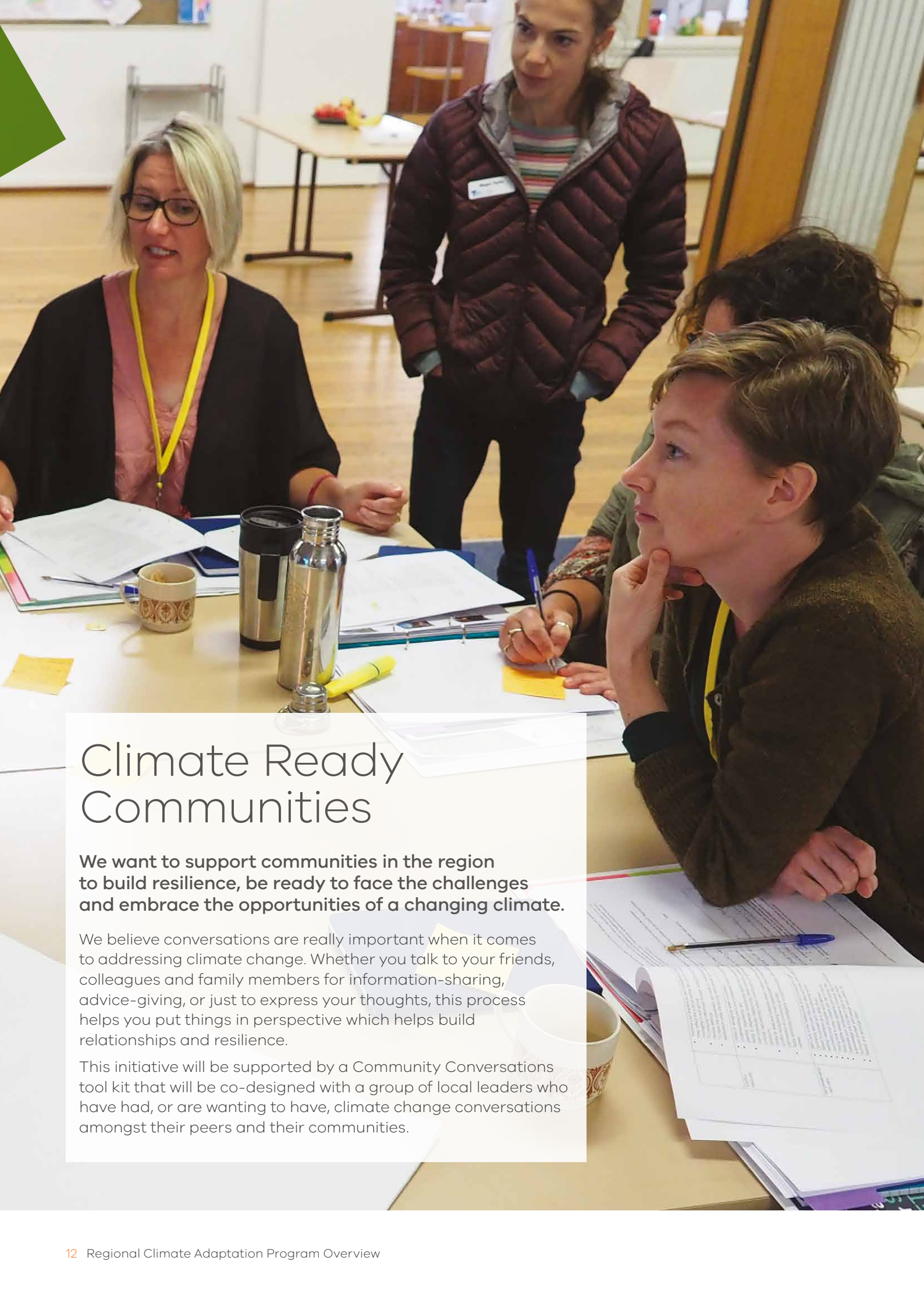
To register your organisation head to www.adaptloddonmallee.com.au



ADAPT LM recognises we need to acknowledge traditional ways of seeing and doing, and build agency and partnerships with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal groups in the region to collectively address current and future climate impact on both country and people.



ADAPT LM will also support the capacity of existing and new Local Government partnerships in the region to consider climate change impacts in local decision making and project implementation to develop their adaptive capacity.



Climate Ready Communities

We want to support communities in the region to build resilience, be ready to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities of a changing climate.

We believe conversations are really important when it comes to addressing climate change. Whether you talk to your friends, colleagues and family members for information-sharing, advice-giving, or just to express your thoughts, this process helps you put things in perspective which helps build relationships and resilience.

This initiative will be supported by a Community Conversations tool kit that will be co-designed with a group of local leaders who have had, or are wanting to have, climate change conversations amongst their peers and their communities.

Principles

Value lived experience

Local leaders understand their communities' values and concerns and are best placed to lead climate action through creating a shared sense of community pride, identity and participation.

Peer-to-peer learning

Conversations between community members can build local climate awareness and knowledge, create community connections, and identify direct actions to help respond to the climate crisis locally.

What we want to achieve

Resources

Climate change community conversation tool kit to support people in local communities to lead conversations around climate resilience and adaption action.

Children's climate change activity book to support kids and families to learn about local climate change impacts.

Ownership

Local leaders will participate in the co-design of tool kits and have ownership over local conversations and community engagement activities.

Build capacity

A range of local leaders are able to demonstrate strong climate leadership across the region.

Build understanding

- Community conversations identify local values, issues and concerns.
- Local climate risks are identified.
- Adaptation actions and the supports required are captured.

Do you want to host an event in your community?

ADAPT LM will be supporting 100 communities across the region to host a climate change conversation by providing conversation resources and event funding.

Head to www.adaptloddonmallee/climatereadycommunities to book your event.

Whether you talk to your friends, colleagues and family members for information-sharing, advice-giving, or just to express your thoughts, this process helps you put things in perspective which helps build relationships and resilience.

Regional Climate Leadership

Community leaders and volunteers have a crucial role to play, by informing and supporting local business and community groups to adapt to changes in our climate.

This initiative aims to build and strengthen climate change adaptation leadership across the region. The program will bring a diverse range of emerging community leaders together to workshop projects aimed at building local adaptive capacity or delivering local adaptation action.

Workshops will allow participants to collaborate, pool resources, develop skills and build networks to maximise immediate adaptation impact and build future adaptive capacity.



What it is

Participation

ADAPT LM will support 25 people, from all walks of life from across the region, to develop their leadership practice in building the capacity of their community to be climate ready.

Focus

Participants will work on a climate change issue that is impacting their local community, providing the opportunity to connect local knowledge with the latest research.

Workshops/residential

The initiative is being delivered across the region to strengthen skills in collaboration, team work and community engagement in shared effort towards change.

Build strong peer networks

In our experience, people leading change in their local community benefit from strong connections with others who share their sense of purpose and desire to influence change.

Peer networks allow leaders to reflect on different needs and strengths in their local community, different styles of leadership and processes to influence and engage community members.

Contribute to the regional strategy

Priority adaptation actions that inform the strategy and annual action plans will be identified. Participants will have the opportunity to present on their findings at the Regional Climate Summit.

What we want to achieve

On completion of the program the participants will have:

- an understanding of the strengths, assets and values of their community or sector
- a deeper understanding of a focused climate change issue and its local impacts
- improved local climate literacy and communication skills
- an understanding of the most effective way to communicate climate change and adaption principles to communities
- the knowledge and skills to lead grassroots behaviour change
- an understanding of relevant policy and politics that inform local decision-making and how, as leaders, they might influence change
- access to climate/policy/funding and communication experts
- created professional and peer networks
- an adaptation project that is fully researched, planned and ready to be funded/delivered.

Partnership

LEAD Loddon Murray

With extensive local networks and 22 years' experience in delivering leadership training in the region, LEAD Loddon Murray is a social enterprise investing in rural and regional community leadership.

LEAD graduates grow into drivers who engage and unite community members in a shared vision and who strengthen their capacity to achieve it together.

LEAD is also the provider of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program, Leading Excellence Maryborough, Power to the People and LOUD Leadership.

ADAPT Regional Climate Leadership is about leading for community adaptation to a changing climate.



Youth Climate Network

Our youth have a high awareness of social challenges and understand that our systems need to change in order to better prepare young people to navigate an increasingly complex future.

In recent times, young people across the globe, country, and region have been vocal in their concerns around climate change due to its potential to significantly impact their future employment, health and wellbeing and access to the natural environment.

While some youth in the region have been vocal in their advocacy to mitigate against future climate effects, they are yet to enter the conversation on how they will adapt to current and future changes that are predicted, regardless of even the most stringent mitigative actions. Other young people in the region are yet to be included in the broader climate change conversation.

Given that young people are less likely to use traditional forms of engagement, ADAPT LM will be inviting a diverse range of youth from across the region to participate in a co-design process that will shape the way that we engage them on the topic of climate change adaptation. The co-design process will ensure that the youth of Loddon Mallee are active partners in decisions around adapting to a changing climate that will directly impact their future.

Principles

Diversity

Engage a diverse range of regional youth, including representatives from different cultural, social, economic, environmental and political perspectives.

Equity

Provide a supportive environment for all participants to have their views, attributes and contributions recognised.

Trust

Confidence that young people have an understanding of their own communities and peers and are best placed to develop an appropriate engagement approach.

What will we do

Youth Climate Retreat and other co-designed youth engagement and capacity building activities.

What we want to achieve

Engagement

Regional youth participate in co-design activities, programs and/or projects on how to engage a diverse audience of young people in their local communities to be involved in the conversation around climate resilience and adaptation action.

Ownership

Participants have ownership of the engagement activities for the annual action plans and are willing to take responsibility for some of those actions.

Build capacity

Young people are supported to develop new skills, climate literacy and confidence, enabling them to engage and communicate climate change information to their peers and in their communities.

Inclusive leadership

A diverse range of young people are given opportunities to demonstrate strong climate leadership across the region.

Partnership

We have partnered with YLab, a social enterprise of the Foundation for Young Australians.

YLab have experience in putting young people's time and talent at the centre of collaborations with government, business, and community organisations to rethink future systems and influence issues that relate directly to them, recognising that they are experts in their own lives.

The co-design process will ensure that the youth of Loddon Mallee are active partners in decisions around adapting to a changing climate that will directly impact their future.



ADAPT LM Network website

Accessing climate change and adaptation information can be overwhelming, it is hard to know what is relevant to the region.

The ADAPT LM Network website aims to provide a sharing platform that ensures equitable access to local knowledge, stories and networks.



What we want to achieve

Build

Partnerships and connections that support a climate ready region.

Share

Knowledge and resources that enable climate action.

Tell

Local stories that will inspire others to take action.

Showcase

Local events – register your event and learn about other's happening in the region.

Sign up

And get information about our initiatives.

Join

The Network to stay updated on all the latest news and information.

Lodge

A climate statement – text, video or voice recording – to have your voice heard.

For more information visit
www.adaptloddonmallee.com.au

...provide users with an opportunity learn and inform what is required to address local issues, and take advantage of opportunities, that a changing climate brings to our communities.



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We acknowledge the First Peoples of the Loddon Mallee and their/our longstanding, rich and resilient cultures, rights and responsibilities to Country, and genuinely pay respect to their/our knowledge holders, leaders, Elders past, present and future.

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