

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Media Release****28 July 2026****IPWEA releases landmark Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline**

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) and project partners are pleased to announce the release of the new **Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline**. The Guideline arrives at a time when Australian communities are experiencing increased infrastructure damage and service disruptions as a result of extreme weather events. It provides practical steps for councils, utilities and infrastructure owners to identify climate risks, prioritise adaptation investments, and improve long-term service reliability.

Climate change has already increased the frequency and severity of a range of hazards. The Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework states that since 2013, 496 (92%) Local Government Areas have been impacted by disasters at an average annual cost to the economy of \$38 billion.

By 2100 temperatures are projected to increase by as much as 4°C above pre-industrial levels. And a sea level rise of up to 2.3 m, as a result of ice sheet collapse, cannot be ruled out. As a result, there will be more extreme heat events and heatwaves, bushfires, rainfall events and flooding, droughts, coastal inundation and erosion, extreme winds, storms and cyclonic events.

“Climate change is already affecting our infrastructure assets, levels of service and budget bottom line. Without rapid reductions in greenhouse gases and adaptation action we face an un-insurable world. Immediate action is imperative.” Jacqueline Balston, Climate and Environment Scientist, Director of Sustainability, IPWEA

To reduce these impacts, and ensure the provision of essential community services, it is critical that infrastructure assets are planned, constructed and managed to be climate resilient. According to a 2022 Insurance Council of Australia report, every \$1 invested in resilience initiatives can deliver an estimated \$9.60 return on investment.

The release of the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline provides nationally relevant, collaboratively developed, industry best practice guidance on the integration of climate risk and resilience into asset and financial management planning.

The Guideline details a range of climate hazards including higher temperatures, heatwave, frost, hail, changes in rainfall, increased storm and cyclonic intensity flooding, coastal and riverine erosion, drought, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and bushfire weather.

Detailed climate impacts and resilience options are provided for buildings, bridges, roads, footpaths, green infrastructure, water and waste water assets, storm water assets, and coastal infrastructure. In addition, details are given for the most common infrastructure materials including concrete, steel, PVC, wood, bitumen, glass and fibre reinforced polymers (FRP).

The Guideline outlines organisational change processes and provides guidance for building a business case for climate change adaptation. It explains how climate considerations can be integrated throughout the asset lifecycle including strategic planning, asset management and financial planning and reporting.

“The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline provides practical and actionable guidance for all infrastructure stewards including engineers, asset and financial managers, hydrologists, urban planners, and green infrastructure specialists. Implementing the climate resilient adaptation options and asset management planning improvements will ensure organisations can strengthen resilience and support the continued delivery of essential community services”. Steve Verity, Civil Engineer and Principal Advisor Asset Management, IPWEA.

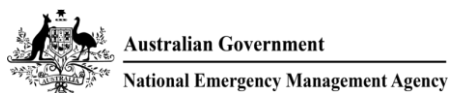
The e-book Guideline is supported by extensive resources, an accredited online course, and supporting resources including global and Australian case studies, examples, drawings, images, templates, a risk and resilience decision tree, templates, tools, references and active links for further information.

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline and supporting resources have been integrated into IPWEA’s existing suite of globally recognised asset and financial management publications and tools to ensure the latest information on climate change impacts, risk, adaptation and resilience is available to all subscribers.

“IPWEA has been proud to collaborate with our project partners to deliver practical guidance, tools, templates and training to guide infrastructure asset stewards in their climate change journey. Uptake of the Guideline and supporting resources will enable the integration of climate change risk, and resilient adaptation options, into mainstream asset and financial management – and ultimately support better investment decisions and the allocation of necessary resources and funding.” David Jenkins, CEO, IPWEA

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guideline (CRIG) and online training course are available via the IPWEA Bookshop at: <https://www.ipwea.org/ipweacommunities/assetmanagement/am-resilient-infrastructure>.

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure project is a collaboration between the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA), SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SA Department of Environment and Water, South Australian Coastal Councils Alliance (SACCA), Alexandrina Council, Wattle Range Council, Yorke Peninsula Council, and the Adelaide Coastal Councils Network (ACCN). The project received funding from the Australian Government, IPWEA and project partners.



For further information please contact Project Manager, Dr. Jacqueline Balston, IPWEA Director of Sustainability. Email: sustainability@ipwea.org

For additional information about IPWEA Australasia, please contact IPWEA CEO David Jenkins. Email: david.jenkins@ipwea.org or Sarah DiMento. Email: sarah.dimento@ipwea.org

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