

Final Report Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026

Friday, 27 September 2024
Audit and Risk Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a final report on the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 (the Action Plan). The Action Plan has been replaced with the Integrated Climate Strategy (ICS), adopted by Council on 11 June 2024 ([Link 1](#)), and informed by recommendations and feedback from the Audit and Risk Committee

The City of Adelaide (CoA) committed to implementing 95 actions over the 2021-2026 period. Of the 95 actions in the Action Plan, 60 actions (63%) have been completed by 30 June 2024. Of the remaining 35 actions scheduled for completion by June 2026, 28 (30%) are in progress, 3 (3%) are not due to commence and 4 (4%) have not started.

Key achievements attributed to the Action Plan include:

- Key CoA Buildings and Community Spaces - Completed audits of key sites relating to energy efficiency and building thermal efficiency improvements, including active and passive cooling measures.
- Workforce Safety - Implementation of the Safety and Wellbeing research into workplace heat management to inform a review and update of the current policies regarding operating hours under extreme heat conditions.
- Infrastructure Longevity - Awarded Federal funding to undertake a survey of CoA's stormwater drainage system to determine the current condition of the system and the need for future replacement/upgrade.
- Green Spaces - Completion of a full audit of tree species planted in the public spaces within the City and the Adelaide Park Lands.
- Events - Updated Adelaide Park Lands Event Management Plan/City Event Management Strategy to ensure climate change adaptation options are adequately included.
- Building Development - Implementation of training sessions for the Administration in interpreting the Planning and Design Code and implications for climate change adaptation.
- Homelessness Support - Implementation of a formalised process for communication signs during extreme weather conditions.

An internal audit of the Action Plan was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in February 2024. The Internal Audit made six findings resulting in 19 agreed management actions. Of the agreed management actions, 16 actions have been actioned and are closed and the remaining three are on track to be completed on schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the progress of the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 as contained in Item 8.7 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 27 September 2024.
 2. Notes that the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 replaces the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026.
 3. Notes that the management of climate risk is transitioned to the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and the associated reporting and governance framework.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment Outcome: A sustainable City where climate resilience is embedded in all that we do
Policy	The Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 replaces the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026. The Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 includes actions to integrate climate risk into governance documents, processes, facility planning and management, and service provisions so that risk can be managed.
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The City of Adelaide's exposure to corporate climate change governance, physical and transition risks were identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment Report (2020) and actioned through the Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan (Plan) 2021-2026. The management of climate risk is transitioned to the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and the associated reporting and governance framework.
Opportunities	The Integrated Climate Strategy and associated risk and reporting framework has considered the current and rapidly evolving standards for public disclosure reporting in Australia.
24/25 Budget Allocation	The 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget includes climate initiatives totalling \$6.175M and comprised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating activities of \$444,000 excluding salaries. • \$1.7M for greening in 2024/25 consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.0M green infrastructure • \$0.5M parklets • \$0.2M cycling infrastructure.
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan is replaced by the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. In 2020, the City of Adelaide completed a comprehensive corporate Climate Change Risk Assessment and in December 2021, the Council adopted a Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026 (the Action Plan) ([Link 2](#)).
2. At its meeting on 10 May 2023 ([Link 3](#)), the Audit and Risk Committee requested that the mid-point review of the Action Plan be brought forward to October 2023.
3. On 4 August 2023 ([Link 4](#)), the Committee commended the intention to integrate the Action Plan and other climate-related strategies and action plans into one Integrated Climate Strategy.
4. An internal audit of the Action Plan was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in February 2024 ([Link 5](#)). The Internal Audit made six findings resulting in 19 agreed management actions.
 - 4.1. Of the agreed management actions, 16 actions have been actioned and are closed and the remaining three actions are on track to be completed on schedule, as follows:

Finding	Action	Due date
Finding 2(1)	Council endorsed a draft Integrated Climate Strategy on 12 December 2023 for public consultation. The final strategy will include a costed Implementation Plan for delivery from 2024/25, and implementation over the Council term.	30 September 2024
Finding 2(3)	The Climate Implementation Plan will be integrated into the CoA's 2024/25 Long Term Financial Plan.	30 September 2024
Finding 2(4)	Timeframes for delivery of the Integrated Climate Strategy from 2024/25 will include an agreed implementation plan with updated timeframes for delivery.	30 September 2024

5. At its meeting on 11 June 2024 ([Link 1](#)), the Council endorsed the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 (ICS) and noted a risk and reporting framework for the delivery and monitoring of the ICS would be delivered in the first quarter of 2024/25 and reported through the Audit and Risk Committee in September 2024.
 - 5.1. The risk and reporting framework is the subject of a separate report in the Committee's agenda for 27 September 2024.

Final report on Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026

6. The Action Plan included 95 actions to integrate climate risk management into governance documents and processes, facility planning and management and service provision.
7. Of the 95 actions, 60 actions (63%) are complete, 28 (30%) are in progress, 3 (3%) are not due to commence and 4 (4%) have not started.
8. A summary of progress is detailed below:

	Financial Year				TOTAL
	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	
Actions Due	28	32	14	21	95
Complete	24 (86%)	20 (63%)	12 (85%)	9* (43%)	60 (63%)
In progress	3 (11%)	10 (31%)	1 (7%)	9* (43%)	28 (30%)
Not due to commence; or not started	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	1 (7%)	3 (14%)	7 (7%)

*To be completed in 24/25

9. A review of the seven actions that are 'not due to commence' or 'have not been started' was undertaken:
 - 9.1. Two actions (G2, G3) will be reconsidered through Policy reviews in 2024/25 as well as the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
 - 9.2. Two actions (2.6, 4.4) are awaiting the outcomes of other actions before commencing and will now be implemented through the ICS.
 - 9.3. Three actions (7.4, 7.7, 7.9) are recommended to be closed and more appropriate mitigation action be delivered through the ICS.
10. A summary table of all actions and their status to date is provided in [Link 6](#).
11. Key achievements attributed to the Action Plan 2021-2026 include:
 - 11.1. Key CoA Buildings and Community Spaces - Completed audits of key sites relating to energy efficiency and building thermal efficiency improvements, including active and passive cooling measures.
 - 11.2. Workforce Safety - Implementation of the Safety and Wellbeing research into workplace heat management to inform a review and update of the current policies regarding operating hours under extreme heat conditions.
 - 11.3. Infrastructure Longevity - Awarded Federal funding to undertake a survey of CoA's stormwater drainage system to determine the current condition of the system and the need for future replacement/upgrade.
 - 11.4. Green Spaces - Completion of a full audit of tree species planted in the public spaces within the City and the Adelaide Park Lands.
 - 11.5. Events - Updated Adelaide Park Lands Event Management Plan/City Event Management Strategy to ensure climate change adaptation options are adequately included.
 - 11.6. Building Development - Implementation of training sessions for the Administration in interpreting the Planning and Design Code and implications for climate change adaptation.
 - 11.7. Homelessness Support - Implementation of a formalised process for communication signs during extreme weather conditions.

Next Steps

12. From 1 July 2024, the ICS and associated risk and reporting framework replaced the Action Plan to support the delivery of the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028. The Audit and Risk Committee's role in climate risk assurance will continue under this structure.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Integrated Climate Strategy 2030](#)

Link 2 – [Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 2021-2026](#)

Link 3 – [Audit and Risk Committee, 10 May 2023, Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan \(Item 5.1\)](#)

Link 4 – [Audit and Risk Committee Report – Climate Change Risk Adaptation Action Plan 4 August 2023 \(Item 5.3\)](#)

Link 5 – [Audit and Risk Committee, 16 February 2024, Internal audit of Climate Change Action Plan](#)

Link 6 – [Summary Table of Climate Change Risk Assessment Actions Plan Implementation](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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