

Resilient Communities Project

Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Change in the SECCCA Region

1. Project Objectives

Climate change is significantly increasing risk, such as fires, floods, coastal erosion and heat waves to local communities across Australia. Preparing communities for current and future changes to the climate is a critical task and requires protection of life, property and wellbeing. Proactively preparing communities to act prior, during and after disasters builds community resilience to future impacts and minimises risks and consequences.

The **Resilient Communities Project** will help prepare communities in the SECCCA region for current and future changes to the climate, by improving community preparedness through practical actions, tools, and resources. Project participants will be empowered with information and access to new or improved services enabling them to make individual decisions to prepare for climate change.

Leveraging the outputs of the SECCCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project, the project will also assess the vulnerability of the SECCCA region's community to climate change.

Working with SECCCA council members and climate science experts, the project will identify and visualise the community services, demographics, locations, and communities that are exposed to the impacts of climate change. Councils' community planners will be integral in understanding vulnerability across communities, including cohorts such as aged care, disability, Culturally and Linguistical Diverse (CALD) and youth.

Working with expert community development practitioners, councils, emergency services, and communities, interventions will be developed, delivered, and evaluated to build community resilience to climate risk.

The project outcomes and approach will be converted into a practical Toolkit for Councils and Communities that can be applied in other regions across Australia to build community resilience to climate change in these areas. This Toolkit will be developed using a parallel evaluation and collation of lessons learned throughout the project.

2. Project Sponsor



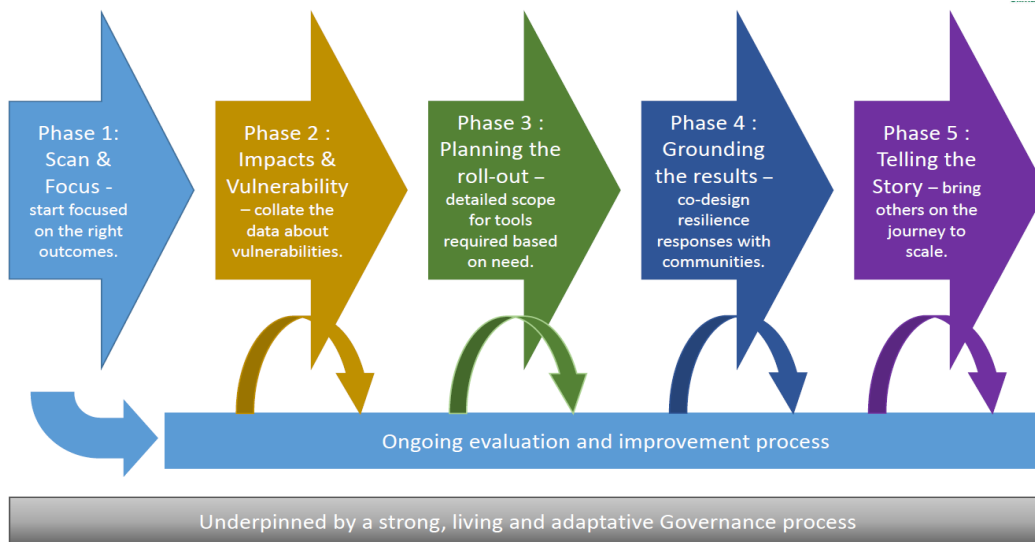
The project is being funded by the [Minderoo Foundation](#). Established by Andrew and Nicola Forrest in 2001, Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation seeking to break down barriers, innovate and drive positive, lasting change. Minderoo Foundation is proudly Australian, with key initiatives spanning from ocean research and ending slavery, to collaboration in cancer and community projects.

In September 2020, Minderoo Foundation along with [more than 50 partners](#) launched the Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative, to reduce the harm caused by fires and floods and pivot Australia to become the global leader in fire and flood resilience by 2025. The Missions include Fire Shield, Resilient Communities and Healthy Landscapes, all underpinned by a Resilience Data Collective.

3. Key tasks

- 1) Undertake research to identify the community groups within the SECCCA region that are vulnerable to climate change, and the assets and services that support them.
- 2) Undertake research nationally and globally to identify best practice projects and programs that have enhanced community resilience to climate change.
- 3) Develop and adopt a methodology that enables councils to assess the community impacts of climate change and develop appropriate responses.
- 4) Create a platform (using ClimateViewer and QGIS software) to enable up-to-date climate modelling to be applied across the SECCCA region and ongoing assessment of climate impact on community assets and services.
- 5) Establish a spatial representation of how climate change will impact communities and council assets and services that provide services to the community.
- 6) Demonstrate how community resilience to climate change can be strengthened.
- 7) Develop and implement a community engagement strategy, that informs and enables the community to understand, plan and act to build resilience to climate change.
- 8) Undertake research and develop recommendations for possible visualisation tools that can be used in scenario and response planning and adaptation option analysis
- 9) Co-design and undertake workshops and other activities with the community to trial and deliver place-based priority case studies to improve community resilience.

4. Project Phases



5. Project Administration and Governance

SECCCA will lead and manage the project, including coordination of member councils and stakeholders.

Several project consultations will support the delivery of the project including Spatial Vision, Science into Action and Scientell and Authentic Co-design.

Project Sponsor Group, Project Working Group and technical Reference Group will be established to provide advice and support delivery of the project.

6. Project Budget

The Minderoo Foundation is providing \$965K in direct financial assistance to undertake the project.

SECCCA member councils will be making in-kind contributions of approximately \$360K.

7. Project Duration

The project will commence in 2022 and is expected to be completed by December 2023