

ADAPTWEST
REPORT FOR WACRA GENERAL MEETING: 25 MARCH 2015

AdaptWest is an initiative of the Cities of Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield and West Torrens with support from the State and Federal Governments. It is one of twelve designated regions across the South Australia set up to ensure that businesses, communities and environments can respond positively to the challenges of our changing environment.

Climate Change action falls into two broad areas, **mitigation** and **adaptability**. As its name suggests, AdaptWest is looking at the adaptability side of the equation across the Western Adelaide Region. Last year WACRA members participated in one of a number of workshops designed to identify key areas in the Western Region which might potentially be affected by climate change. These workshops resulted in a 320 page Stage One Report which can be found online at <http://www.portenf.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=2164> for those interested.

The project has now moved onto its second stage which is to identify and assess the **vulnerability** of the Western Adelaide Region to the affects of Climate Change. The degree of vulnerability of any area or system is determined by its **exposure** and **sensitivity** to climate change along with its **adaptive capacity**. AdaptWest has prepared research papers for the following five themes:

1. *Planning and Development*
2. *Environment and Open Space*
3. *Coastal Management*
4. *Social and Community Resilience and Health*
5. *Assets, Infrastructure and Economy.*

Copies of these papers can also be found at the above website. To assist in assessing and measuring vulnerability a sophisticated, qualitative modeling tool has been developed to integrate the multitude of vulnerabilities identified.

As part of this process, one of these Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Workshops was held recently at Torrensville Community Centre. The purpose of this particular workshop was to look at Environment and Natural Resources aspects. WACRA was invited to participate and Peter Schultz and David Schofield attended as our representatives. Participants were asked to consider the impact on such things as beaches and dunes, native vegetation and water quality from the expected influence of higher sea levels, higher temperatures, more frequent heat waves, more frequent and intense storm events, and overall lower rainfall. All of these have been identified as expected climate change events and the group looked at mid-range predictions for the Adelaide region by 2070. Not surprisingly, the group believes that the most catastrophic changes are likely to be those caused by a sea level rise estimated at 0.5 metres by 2070.

The next stage of the AdaptWest project will be to identify those things most in need of doing something about and to propose adaptation suggestions so that the region can be best prepared for what is to come.

Peter Schultz and David Schofield