



SECTION 1.

SCOPING

1 WHAT ARE MY ORGANISATION'S OBJECTIVES? (SCOPING)

The first stage in developing an adaptation strategy is to prepare for the adaptation process and define your organisation's objectives. This will vary depending on which stage of adaptation planning your organisation is currently at.

Once the objectives are set and background information collated, the target audience for stakeholder engagement should be determined. This can focus on differentiating between internal and external stakeholders and the requirement for expert (e.g. academic, consultant), operational (e.g. council) and local knowledge (e.g. community representatives). The approach to engagement should be covered in a separate stakeholder engagement strategy.

Key rule: Engage early and develop an internal and external partnership approach to adaptation

Once the adaptation process has commenced, there is likely to be strong interaction between monitoring and evaluation in one level of adaptation, and scoping in the next.

Even if practitioners believe they are ready to move direct to a step such as risk assessment or options appraisal, it will be important to revisit the Scoping step to ensure there is agreement on the purpose of the adaptation activity.

Your organisation will have conducted Scoping as part of other planning processes. What's unique about scoping for adaptation action planning is the need to consider objectives over a longer period of time in the knowledge that climate and other factors will change.

Has your organisation already completed the Scoping stage? Be sure to check the climate change adaptation plan for your region, industry adaptation plans and see if your organisation already has its own adaptation plan.

See Step 1 of the LGA SA's Climate Adaptation Planning Guidelines for further general information on Scoping.

1.1 Scan

At the **Scan** level the emphasis is on setting the broad objective for adaptation, identifying stakeholders and engaging them in developing and implementing the plan. Understanding the scale and sectors involved are important. There can also be consideration given to how you might start to raise awareness about the need to act on climate change (see **Box 3** for some possible strategies).

The **Scan** level could apply at a regional scale and across multiple sectors, or just for your organisation. Once adaptation starts to focus on work areas within your organisation, it is more likely to fall under the **Plan** level.

For adaptation processes that will involve substantial stakeholder engagement, the **Scan** level can be aided by approaches that establish the values of a community (i.e. what the community believes is important), which in turn forms the basis of what they seek to protect, maintain or enhance. This can be undertaken through methods such as values mapping, visioning, and regional profiling. For an example of a regional climate change plan that adopted these approaches refer to the Resilient South Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan ³.

Part of the objective of this level of adaptation will be to identify **key areas of decision making** that will be emphasised in subsequent levels.

Box 3. Raising awareness about the need to act on climate change

During the **Scan** level the following strategies may be helpful to encourage decision makers to act on climate change.

- Identify the right time to approach council to get agreement to act on climate change;
- Develop a plan led by executive to determine how best to engage with elected members;
- Present adaptation as part of a broad approach to risk management;
- Use a project to demonstrate what adaptation means in practice;
- Consider insurance and legal risk as a possible motivations for action; and
- Establish an adaptation decision making framework for use by elected members. For example, this could be structured to ensure that annual work plans address climate risks assessed as 'very high' (at a minimum) or ensure that new assets consider decision lifetimes.

1.2 Plan

At the **Plan** level the broad objective should be refined into a single or series of more distinct local objectives based on key areas of decision making.

Consideration should be given to whether the stakeholders involved with previous adaptation processes are still appropriate, or whether additional stakeholders are required so that adaptation can progress. If several years has passed since previous adaptation work, it could prove important to reconsider the values of your community using methods such as values mapping, visioning, and regional profiling.

³ http://www.onkapingacity.com/onka/living_here/sustainable_onkapinga/climate_change/resilient_south.jsp

An objective of this level should be to determine whether more detailed analysis will be required in a subsequent *Delve Deeper* level adaptation process, or whether this stage will provide sufficient information on which to take action.

It may become apparent at this level that an aspirational objective of “maintaining”, “enhancing” or “protecting” a feature or attribute is not feasible given projected climate change, meaning that the **key area of decision making** should be recast. This could mean, for example, that instead of “protecting” built assets along the coast to withstand the impacts of sea level rise, they need to “retreat” to higher elevations.

1.3 Delve Deeper

If the process proceeds to a *Delve Deeper* level of analysis, it will require detailed framing and preparation, outlining the motivations and the objectives in relation to a specific activity and defining parameters (for example, geographic scale and the sectors involved). It will be important to reassess the team identified to deliver the project, describe the specific role of stakeholders, and the governance approach.