Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

National Adaptation Plan

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National Adaptation Policy Office
Friday 8 November 2024

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

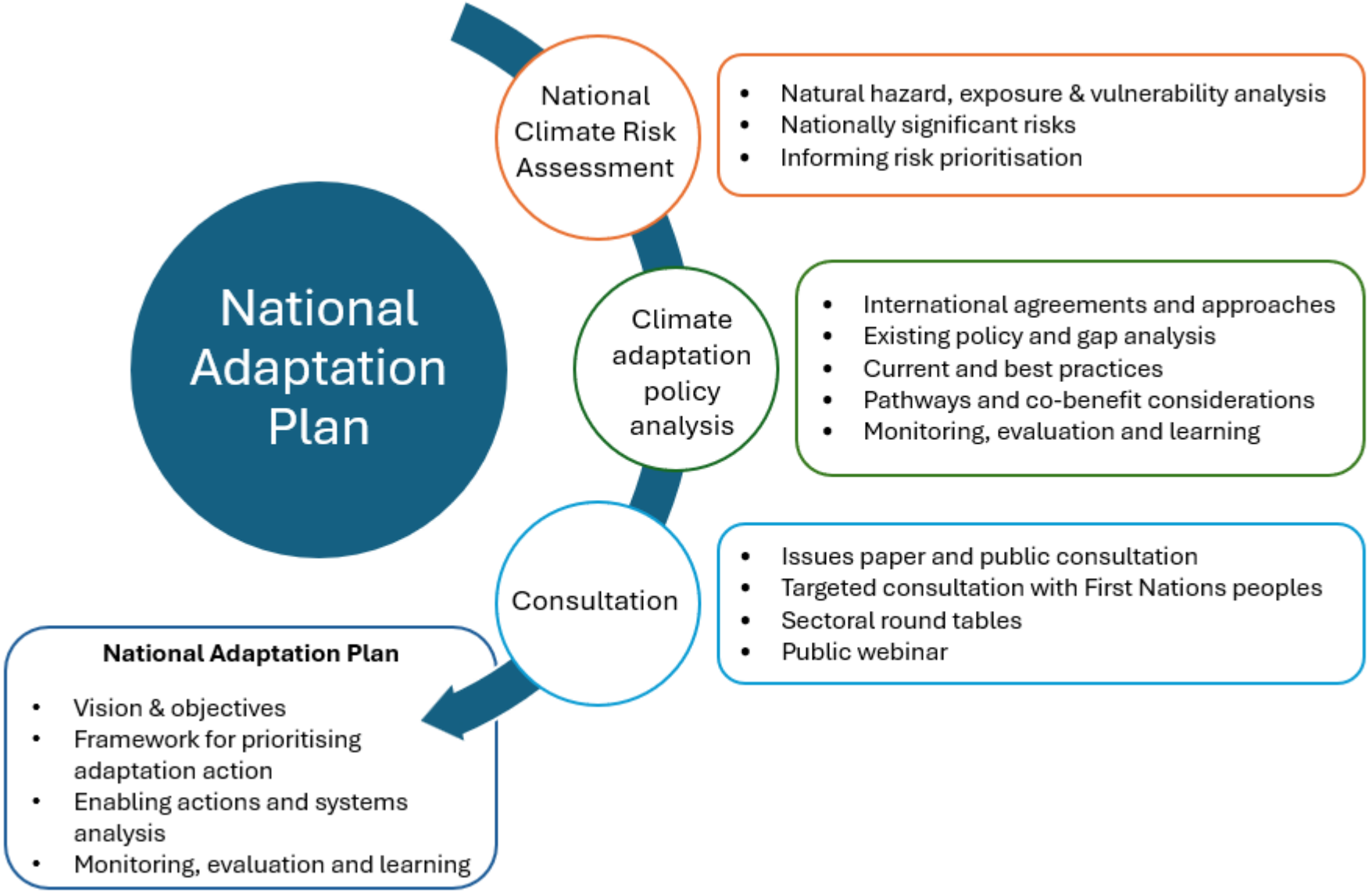
Contents

Climate Adaptation & Risk Framework

- Climate change is already creating serious risks.
- The National Adaptation Plan will establish a framework for adapting to the nationally significant, physical climate risks identified in the risk assessment.
- The framework will help Australia 'mainstream' adaptation action, drive private sector investment and support people and communities in disproportionately vulnerable situations, and manage climate risks as part of our business-as-usual work in government, organisations, communities and by individuals across Australia.
- This will inform the National Adaptation Plan through which the Commonwealth will consider what specific actions it needs to take in order to play its role in pursuing considered, long-term, nationally-coordinated and trackable adaptation.

How did we get here?

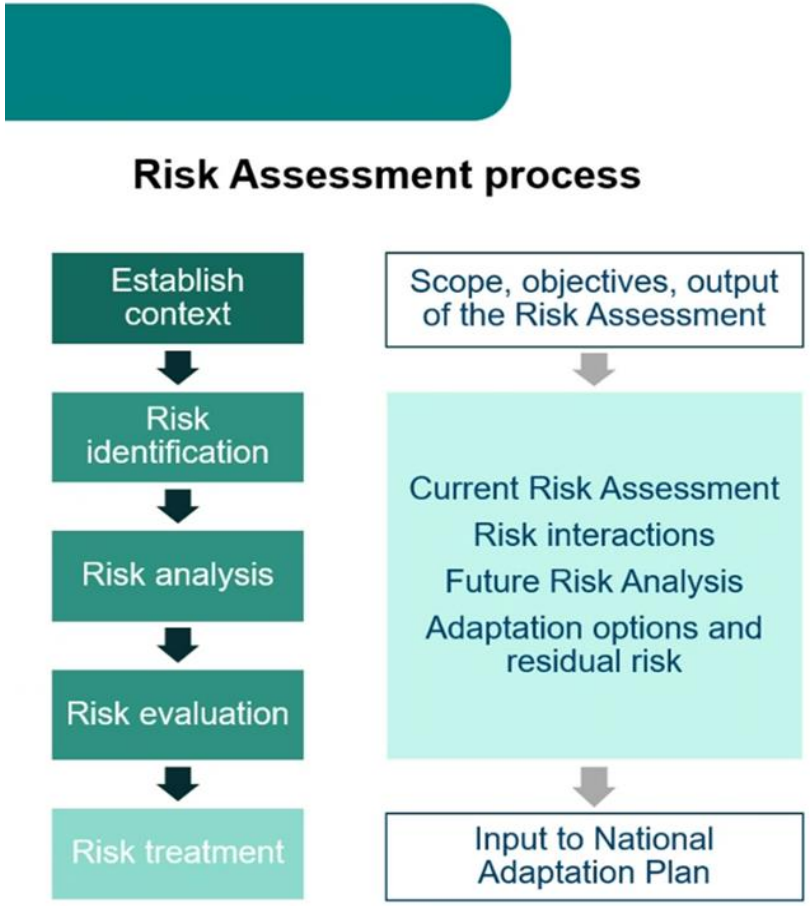
- 11 sectoral roundtables were held throughout October-November 2023 to inform the development of the National Adaptation Plan Issues Paper.
- The Issues Paper was released for consultation in March.
- Over 180 submissions were received with 94 from organisations working in the health and social, built, economic and natural domains, 24 by academics and 30 by individuals in the community.
- A public webinar was held on 26 March 2024, with over 330 attendees.
- Feedback from the issues paper is being incorporated into the National Adaptation Plan.
- Revised material including the vision and objectives for the National Adaptation Plan, framework for prioritising adaptation action, and the approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning were then tested with Commonwealth agencies, State and Territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association.
  - This workshop is part of further external consultation on draft materials



Inputs into the National Adaptation Plan

Risk Assessment: update and integration into adaptation planning

National Climate Risk Assessment



8 Systems of Analysis

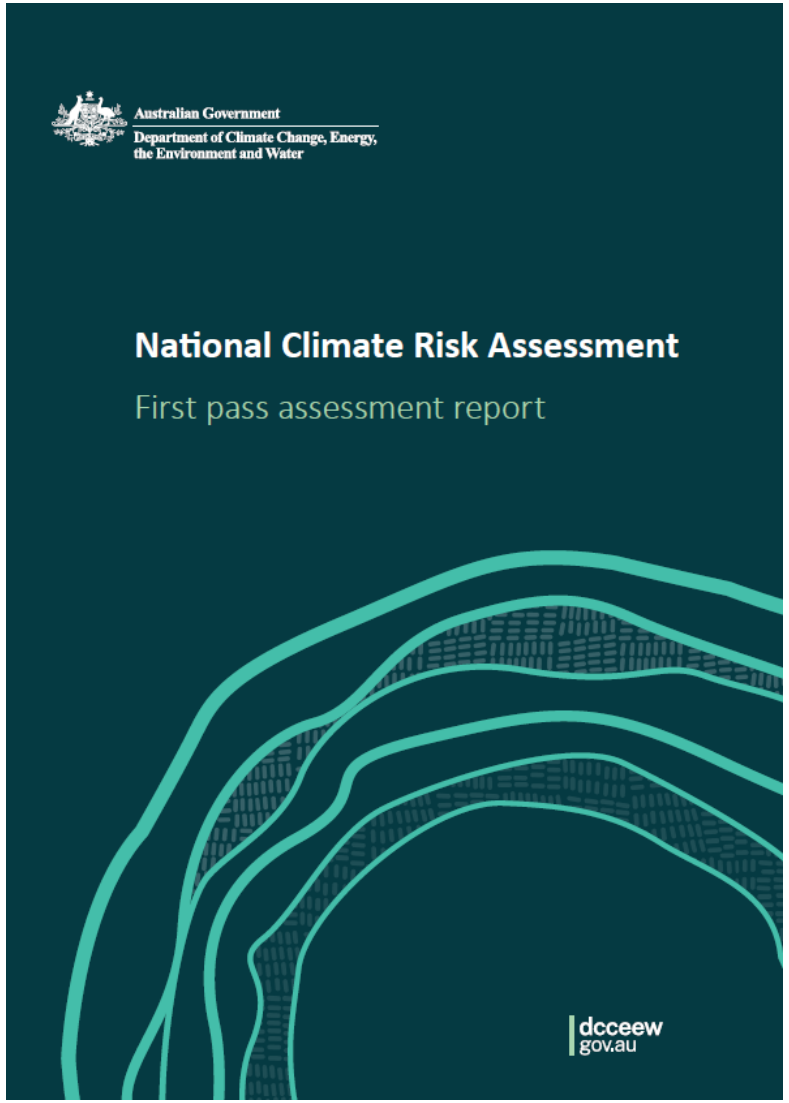
1. Economy, trade and finance
2. First Nations values and knowledges
3. Health and social support
4. Infrastructure and built environment
5. National defence and security
6. Natural environment
7. Primary industries and food
8. Regional and remote communities

First pass assessment

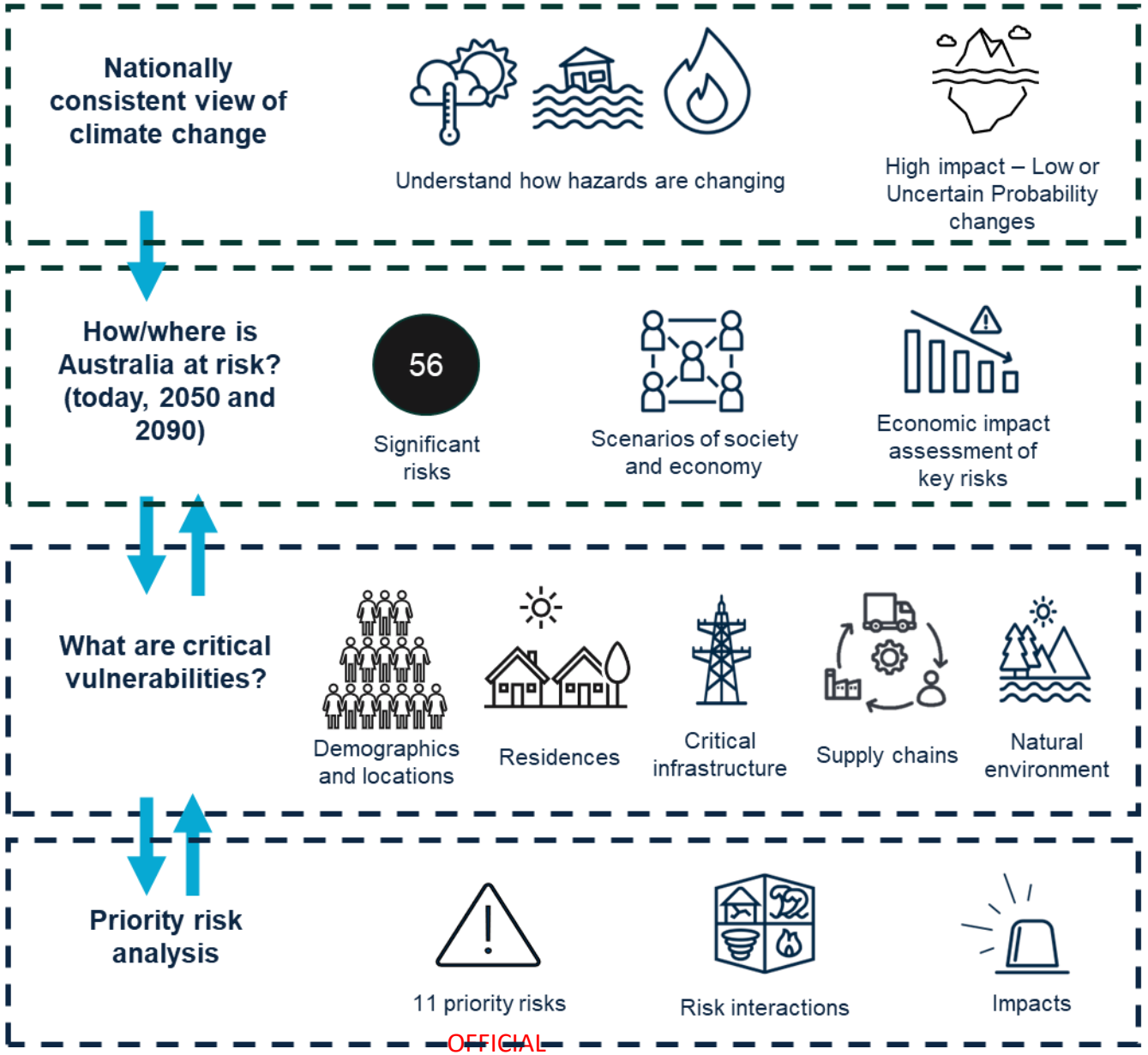
- The first pass report was released on 12 March 2024:

  https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/ncra-first-pass-risk-assessment

- This sets out the outcomes of the first pass assessment, including:
  - **56 nationally significant climate risks** across seven of the eight systems.
  - **11 priority risks** for progression to the second pass assessment.
- Second pass is providing in-depth, quantitative analysis of the highest priority risks.



What the Risk Assessment is delivering



Outcome

Regional understanding of climate change and High risk watchpoints

Outcome

Market activation

Outcome

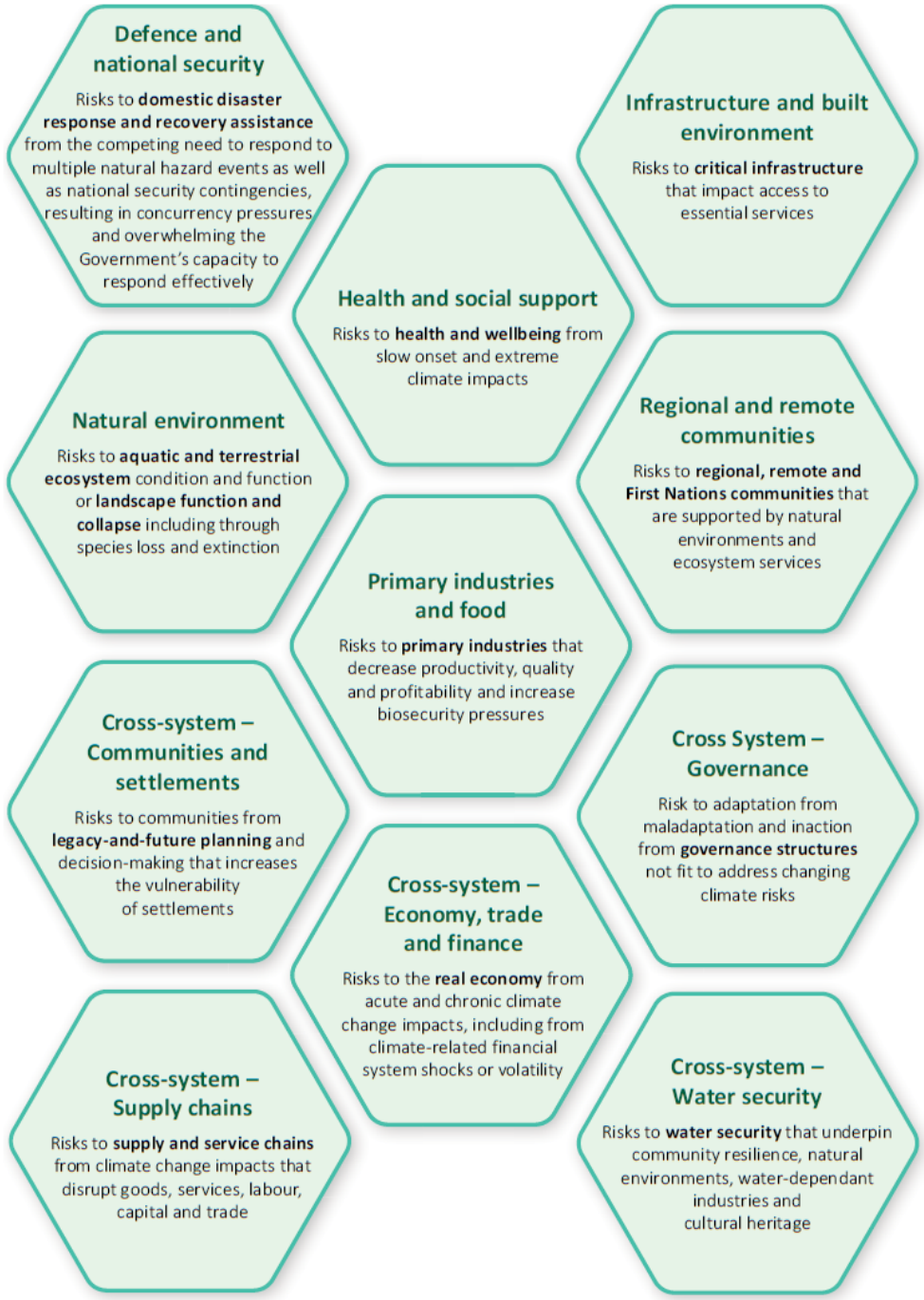
Key areas of focus for adaptation and monitoring

Outcome

Prioritised risks for National Adaptation Plan

Second pass assessment

- 11 risks have been assessed as **priority risks** and will be examined in the second pass.
- In-depth, quantitative analysis of the highest priority risks.
- This will inform the National Adaptation Plan, which will respond to the priority risks.



Second pass assessment

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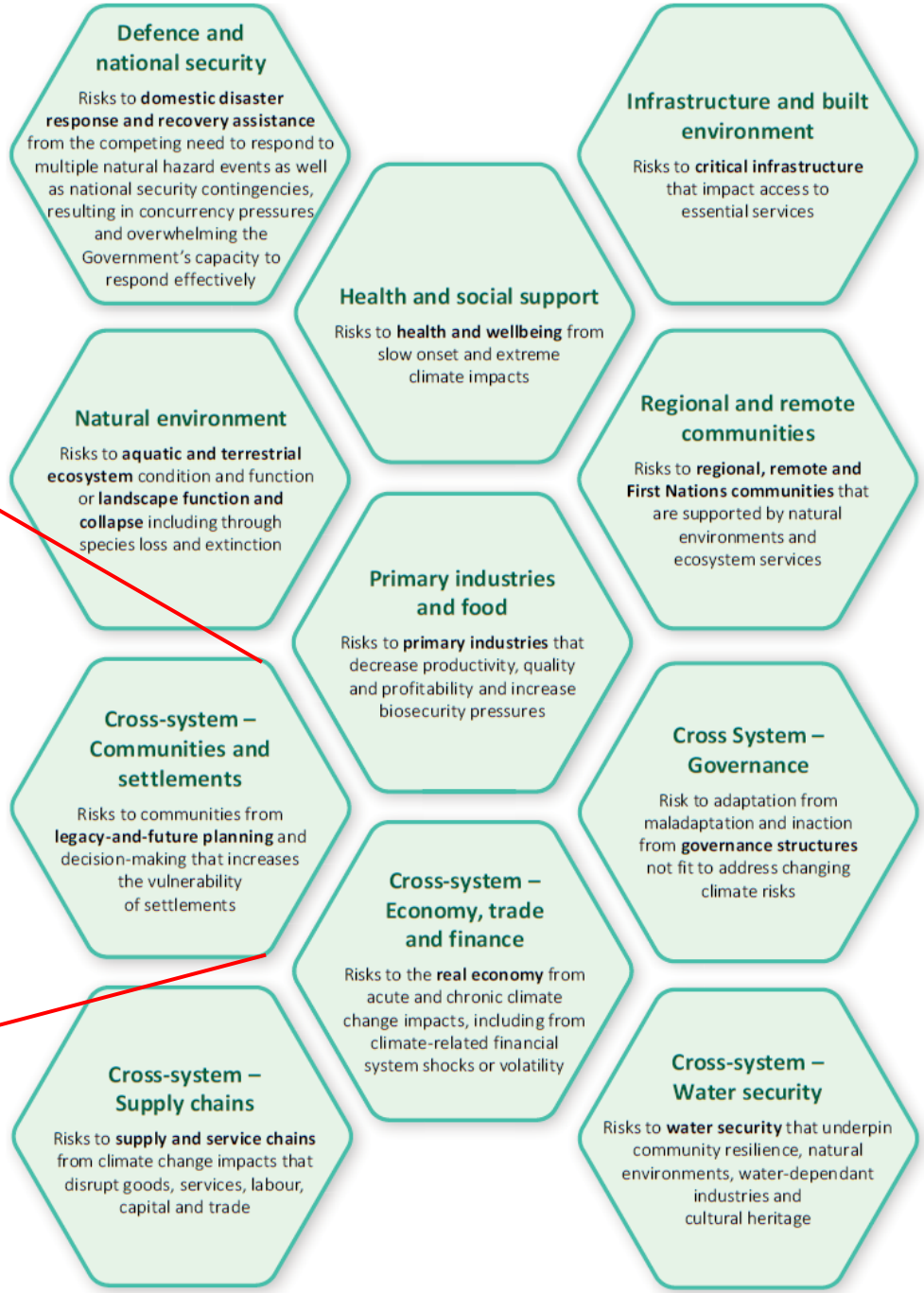


Outcomes and Dependencies

Expected Outcomes:

- **The project's outcomes, including identification of high-risk locations, understanding of vulnerabilities, and evaluation of adaptation effectiveness, will feed directly into the broader delivery of Stage 2 of the National Climate Risk Assessment.**
- **Contributes to developing a comprehensive national understanding of climate risks and informs policy initiatives to enhance resilience to climate change impacts.**

Deliverables and outputs

- Analysis of coastal locations most susceptible to climate change impacts.
- Analysis of implications to future land-use planning, adaptation efforts and resource allocation.
- Identification of challenges faced by coastal settlements.

Risks and dependencies

- Data limitations in remote/rural locations relating to land use and planning may leave gaps and provide a limited national picture.
- Land-use and planning codes are largely the responsibility of local or state governments and therefore risk assessment to assess the impact of land-use and panning decisions will be limited.
- Multiple hazard risk analysis is complex and failure to incorporate this may result in an unrealistic picture of hazard impacts on high vulnerability areas in the future.

NCRA - Climate Risk Overview

10 NCRA hazard categories for current, 2050 and 2090 at GWL 1.5, 2 and 3 over 11 NCRA regions.

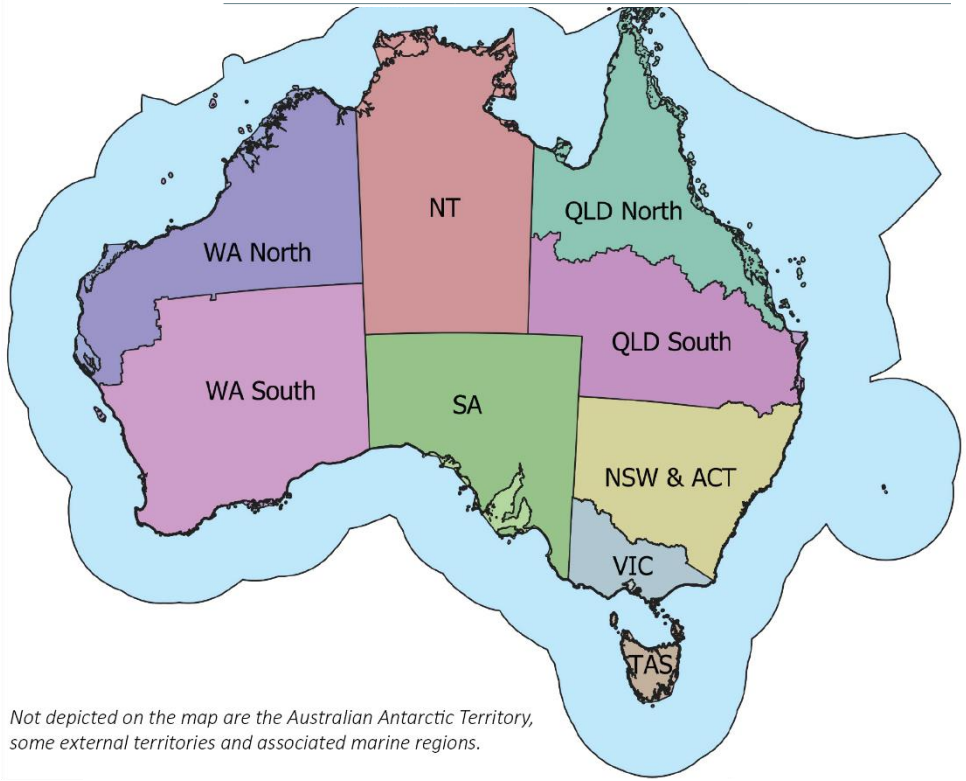
Continuum of impacts:

- Central values (50th percentile) of projections
- Extremes
- Low likelihood, high impact (Black Swan) events
- Tipping points
    - AMOC and Southern Ocean circulation slowdown/collapse
    - Ice sheets and sea level rise
    - Sea ice changes
- Complex hazards

- Exposure and vulnerability mapping (current, 2050, 2090)
- Likelihood and confidence
- Complex risks
- Existing and planned adaptation

Table 1 *Time horizons used in the Risk Assessment*

Period	Time horizon	Year range
Historical baseline	–	1850-1900
Current climate	2020	2011-2030
Medium term	2050	2041-2060
Long term	2090	2081-2100



Not depicted on the map are the Australian Antarctic Territory, some external territories and associated marine regions.

Priority hazards

The methodology stage identified 10 priority hazards for the Risk Assessment to determine key impacts and climate risks for Australia over the next century. These include:

- bushfires, grassfires and air pollution
- changes in temperatures including extremes
- coastal and estuarine flooding
- coastal erosion and shoreline change
- convective storms including hail
- drought and changes in aridity
- extratropical storms
- ocean warming and acidification
- riverine and flash flooding
- tropical cyclones

Vision and objectives

Vision (Issues Paper)

Australia's economy, society, and natural and built environments are being managed and invested in, to reduce climate impacts and harness any opportunities now and into the future – by all levels of government, business and community.

Vision (Revised)

Australia's economy, society, and natural and built environments are resilient in the face of accelerating climate change. Greater adaptation action is taken by all governments, households, businesses and community organisations to reduce climate impacts and harness any opportunities inclusively across the diversity of our society.

Objectives (Issues Paper)

The key objectives of the National Adaptation Plan are to 'mainstream' adaptation action, drive a substantial uplift in private sector investment and establish support for people and communities in disproportionately vulnerable situations. Considering and managing climate risk will be part of business-as-usual for governments, organisations and communities across Australia.

Objectives (Revised)

The key objectives of the National Adaptation Plan are to ***accelerate and mainstream*** *adaptation action, drive a substantial uplift in private investment,* ***provide clarity on implementing roles and responsibilities for adaptation action****, and establish support for people and communities in disproportionately vulnerable situations. Considering and managing climate risk will become an* ***instinctive and embedded practice*** *for governments, organisations and communities across Australia.*

Framework for adaptation

A framework for prioritising adaptation action

- The National Adaptation Plan issues paper outlined that the National Adaptation Plan will establish a framework for adapting to the nationally significant, physical climate risks identified in Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment.

- The purpose of the framework for prioritising adaptation action is to:

  - Indicate who is expected to take action to manage the nationally significant climate risks identified in the Risk Assessment and guide what actions that Australian Government will take.

  - inform the scale of action needed, and the kinds of action that should be taken and where.

  - create a clear but not mechanically prescriptive guide for adaptation action in Australia. It will be anchored in the COAG 2012 *Roles and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia*, and it will help to clarify those in today's context. (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/policy/adaptation#toc_5)

A framework for prioritising adaptation action

- The framework has 2 parts:
  - Part 1 of the framework considers who should act.
  - Part 2 considers how much, what kinds of actions and when and will collect some useful principles and conceptual frameworks.
- Action on adaptation action is determined by 3 elements: *responsibility*, *significance* and *priority*.
- Responsibility is determined by the COAG 2012 roles and responsibilities for adaptation.
- Significance and priority will be determined by the National Climate Risk Assessment and the principles for prioritising action that we consulted on in the adaptation plan issues paper.

Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Draft National Adaptation Plan Framework

Background

Australia's response to the impacts of climate change will require action by all levels of government, businesses and the community – aligning action across these different actors will be a force multiplier

The Australian Government is delivering a National Adaptation Plan, underpinned by a National Climate Risk Assessment, to clearly articulate how the Commonwealth will act on climate adaptation, consistent with agreed roles

Purpose

The Adaptation Framework will guide action on nationally significant risks – including how, when, what and why the Australian Government will take adaptation actions

The Adaptation Framework is not a deterministic formula – but provides consistency for assessments across the government

Questions

Would the Adaptation Framework help you to take action to address the impacts of climate change?

Do you have any other comments on the adaptation framework?

When we will take action

Responsibility

Who is responsible for the element at risk?

- Asset owners are responsible for managing risks to their own assets
- The Australian Government will manage the climate risks to its own assets, and the risks to the programs and services it delivers, in addition to and the assets it stewards on behalf of Australians (including natural and cultural heritage assets)

Is action consistent with agreed roles and responsibilities?

- The Australian Government will prepare national risk assessments, adaptation plans and governance, and has a role in convening and developing information, policies and plans that help others adapt.
- The Australian Government has the responsibility to provide high quality, robust, useable national climate science and information.
- All levels of government have responsibility to support people and communities in vulnerable situations, in collaboration and within their current areas of responsibility.

Significance

Is the risk to the element of value nationally significant?

- Nationally significant risks are determined by the National Climate Risk Assessment as risks that are prolonged and pervasive, requiring coordinated action.
- The Commonwealth would be unlikely to act where risks are not nationally significant.
- For nationally significant risks, the Commonwealth will act where responsible, and support action consistent with the roles and responsibilities for adaptation.

Priority

Is action required now due to priority?

- Priority ratings for risks to be informed by the risk assessment.
- In many cases, some planning or framework-setting may be desirable now to facilitate better action later.
- For some risks, there may not be enough information to determine priority. In this case, further information can be prioritised and/or some actions taken with the information available.

How we will take action

Effective Adaptation

Evidence-based

- Draws upon the best-available scientific evidence that is updated over time (e.g. National Climate Risk Assessment)

Avoids maladaptation

- Considers the unintended consequences of the action that may cause situations to become more vulnerable to climate risks or otherwise have severe negative outcomes.

First Nations perspective

- Respects and includes First Nations perspectives through co-design and works to aid closing the gap

Co-Benefits

- Considers other benefits from an action, including to employment, health and wellbeing, and so on, and examines dependencies or linkages with other climate

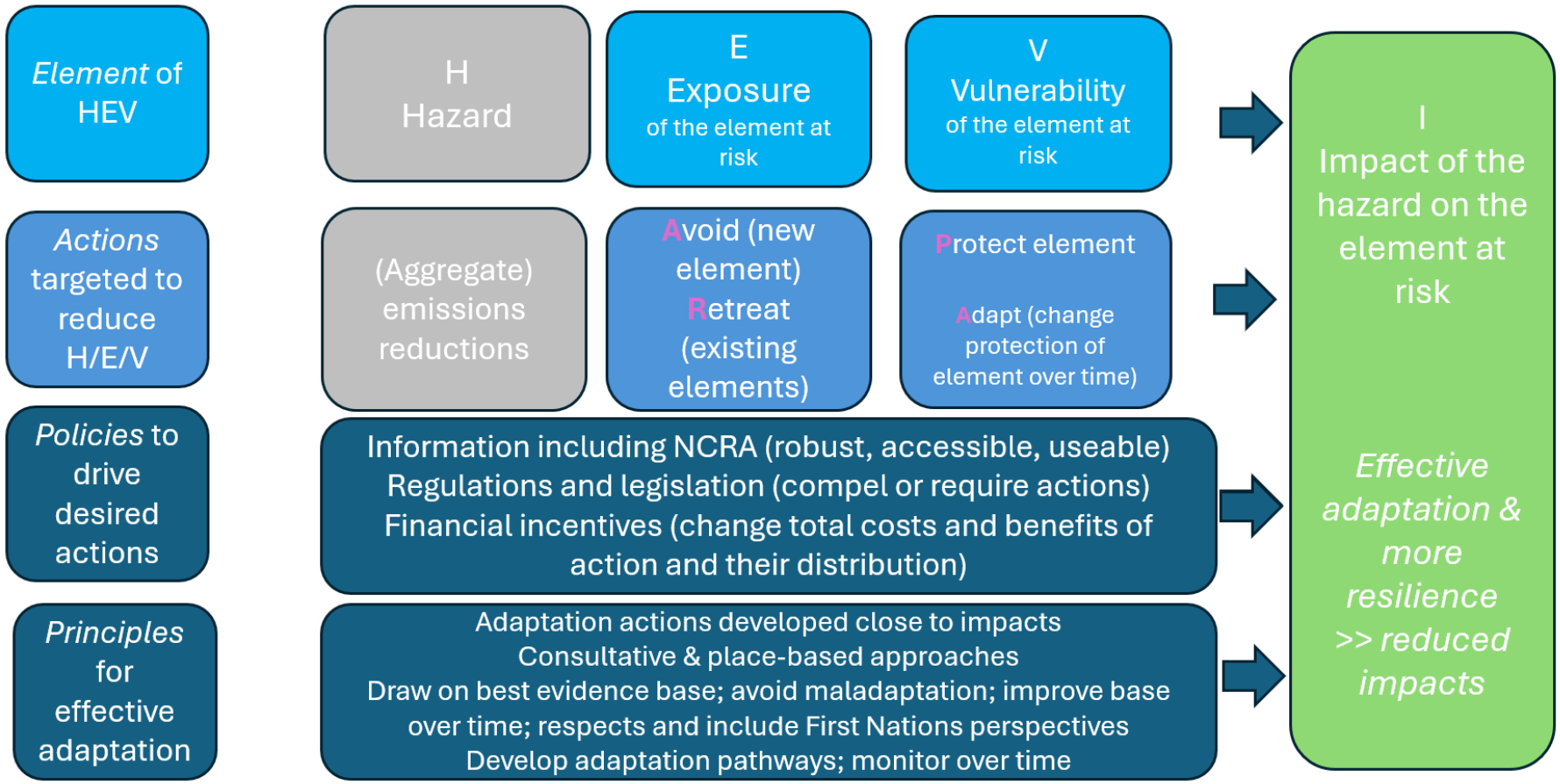
Adaptive Pathways

- Learns from early actions and makes improvements over time.

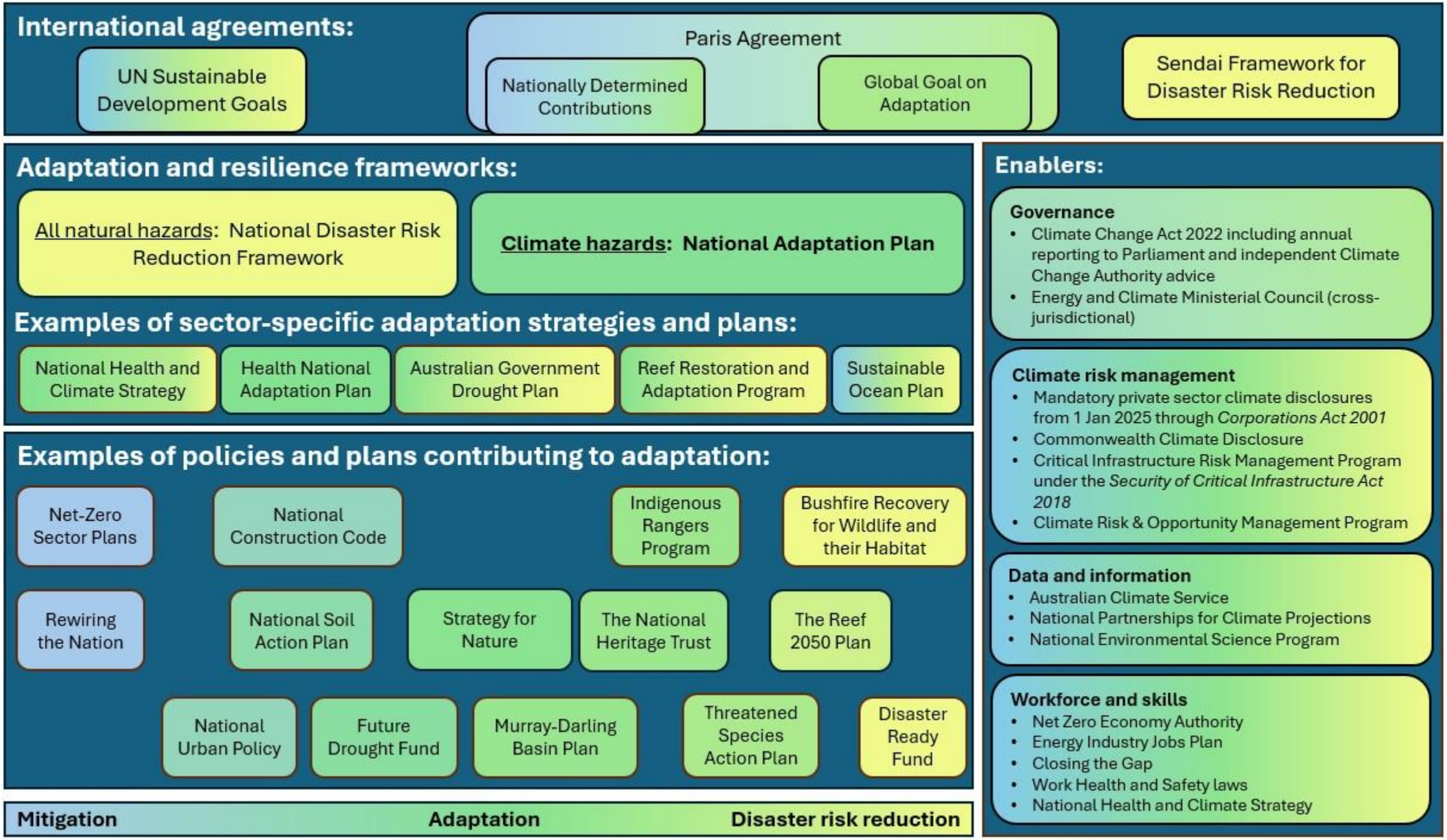
Place-Based Engagement

- Occurs by consulting the communities affected by the particular impacts of climate change the action is trying to address to develop effective and enduring responses.

Adaptation actions, policies & principles



Current & Future Actions


International agreements:
UN Sustainable Development Goals
Paris Agreement
Nationally Determined Contributions
Global Goal on Adaptation
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
Adaptation and resilience frameworks:
All natural hazards: National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
Climate hazards: National Adaptation Plan
Examples of sector-specific adaptation strategies and plans:
National Health and Climate Strategy
Health National Adaptation Plan
Australian Government Drought Plan
Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program
Sustainable Ocean Plan
Examples of policies and plans contributing to adaptation:
Net-Zero Sector Plans
National Construction Code
Indigenous Rangers Program
Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and their Habitat
Rewiring the Nation
National Soil Action Plan
Strategy for Nature
The National Heritage Trust
The Reef 2050 Plan
National Urban Policy
Future Drought Fund
Murray-Darling Basin Plan
Threatened Species Action Plan
Disaster Ready Fund
Mitigation
Adaptation
Disaster risk reduction
Enablers:
Governance
Climate Change Act 2022 including annual reporting to Parliament and independent Climate Change Authority advice
Energy and Climate Ministerial Council (cross-jurisdictional)
Climate risk management
Mandatory private sector climate disclosures from 1 Jan 2025 through Corporations Act 2001
Commonwealth Climate Disclosure
Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program under the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018
Climate Risk & Opportunity Management Program
Data and information
Australian Climate Service
National Partnerships for Climate Projections
National Environmental Science Program
Workforce and skills
Net Zero Economy Authority
Energy Industry Jobs Plan
Closing the Gap
Work Health and Safety laws
National Health and Climate Strategy

Four observations on the Commonwealth's adaptation policy framework

1. Even an efficient adaptation policy landscape will be an expansive one

2. Many policies that are important for effective adaptation are not called 'adaptation' policies.

3. Mitigation and adaptation are often treated separately, but it is increasingly important to consider them together

    > Many opportunities to both reduce emissions and enhance resilience AND need for the net zero transition to be resilient.

4. Adaptation and disaster risk reduction are related and complementary

    > Not all climate impacts are natural hazard events, and not all natural hazard events are exacerbated by climate change, but the overlap between the two sets is significant. It is important that efforts to rebuild after disasters strengthen resilience to future climate changes.

Strengthening adaptation in Australia

Major elements of national adaptation policy:

- **assess** national risks in nationally consistent way

First National Climate Risk Assessment

- **plan** to respond to national risks

National Adaptation Plan

- **manage** risks to own assets

Commonwealth Climate Disclosure; Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program

- facilitate adaptation of others with
  - **requirements** to identify, manage and disclose climate risk through Corporations Act
  - **Provision** nationally consistent, robust, useable **climate information**
    Govt response to Australian Climate Service review

Potential Actions & Enablers

- Consultation on the issues paper provided hundreds of potential adaptation actions for systems and suggestions for governance.
- The department has collected these and (for potential Commonwealth actions) discussed and prioritized with relevant portfolios and risk owners.
- Given the scale of adaptation action needed across all governments and sectors, the Australian Government's focus will be on putting in place the governance, information base, guidance and other support needed to enable wider action and investment across systems.
- There is also work underway across the Australian Government through the Insurance Affordability and Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Taskforce, and the responses to the Colvin and Glasser reviews, that will support adaptation action.

Proposed approach to Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning

Overview

By 2030, all Parties to the Paris Agreement will have 'designed, established and operationalized a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning for their national adaptation efforts'.

Domestically, Australian states and territories have developed, or committed to developing, adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems some are already in place or well underway.

The National Adaptation Plan MEL system will not duplicate these existing reporting processes.

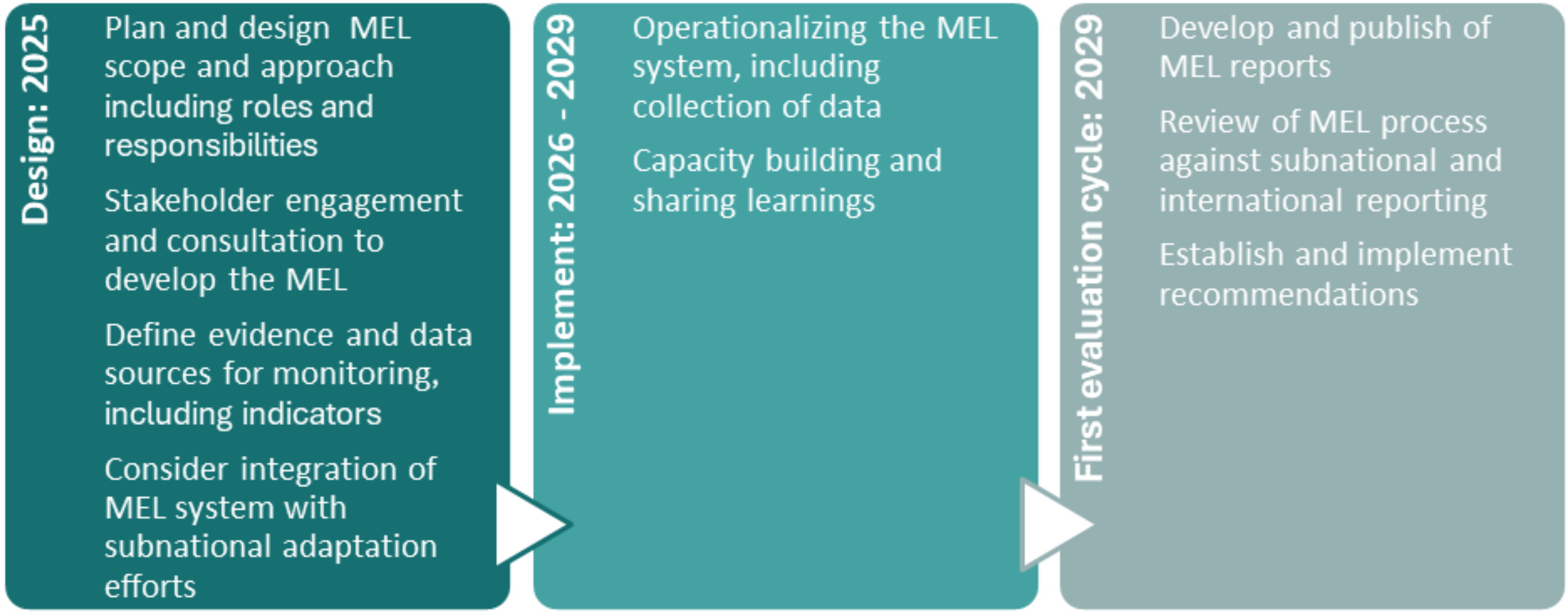
The MEL system will monitor, evaluate, learn from and report on 2 distinct areas:

- Progress on Australian Government actions under the National Adaptation Plan
- progress towards achieving the objectives of the National Adaptation Plan, for which all levels of government, the private sector and community have responsibility.

The MEL will be developed collaboratively with other jurisdictions to be informed by, and aligned with, state, territory and local government adaptation MEL and make use of existing data sources, where available.

Overview (continued)

- **A monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system will be developed and implemented by 2026.**
- The MEL will:
  - Monitor adaptation progress, to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and accountability
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of the National Adaptation Plan program, including roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
  - Establish processes for deliberate learning and integration of new information and learnings into any future National Adaptation Plan cycles.
  - Focus on Australian Government progress and action, but develop a method in consultation with states, territories and local government
- **The MEL system will be implemented and run across the lifecycle of the National Adaptation Plan and will be designed to be able to be improved, built upon and repeated for any future similar processes.**



Roadmap for the development and implementation of the National Adaptation Plan monitoring, evaluation, and learning system.

Contact us

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