

INNER WEST

Climate Risk Assessment Outcomes Report

MAY 2024



Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Local Government Area is situated.

We celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage, beliefs and their relationship with the land and water. We acknowledge the continuing importance of this relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living today, despite the devastating impacts of European invasion. We express our sorrow for past injustices and support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to self-determination.



LGA Wards

- Balmain Ward – Baludarri (Leather Jacket)
- Leichhardt Ward – Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
- Ashfield Ward – Djarrawunang (Magpie)
- Stanmore Ward – Damun (Port Jackson Fig)
- Marrickville Ward – Midjuburi (Lillypilly)



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1 Understand the context



1.1 Background and purpose

Council's Community Strategic Plan, Our Inner West 2036 includes a commitment to develop and implement a climate adaptation plan to build resilience to the changing climate. Stage 1 of this work is an enterprise level climate risk assessment. An enterprise level climate risk assessment helps organisations understand how climate change could impact organisational objectives. It is an appropriate starting point for climate adaptation planning and can also identify aspects that warrant more detailed assessments (e.g. at a program, asset, or project level).

Council's Community Strategic Plan, Our Inner West 2036 includes a commitment to develop and implement a climate adaptation plan to build resilience to the changing climate.

1.2 Strategic context

The Paris Agreement – a legally binding international treaty on climate change signed in 2016 – incorporates a global adaptation goal for signatories (including Australia) to reduce their vulnerability to climate change, increase their adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience.

The Agreement also requires signatories to give climate adaptation action the same level of priority as climate mitigation. Due to the continuing challenge of meeting the Paris emissions reductions targets and locked-in climate impacts from past emissions, in 2021 the Parties to the Agreement emphasised the urgency of scaling up adaptation action (the Glasgow Climate Pact).

Australian Government climate change policy recognises that climate adaptation requires an all-of-society (governments, businesses, communities, households, individuals) response. Key roles of local governments in climate adaptation include managing risks and impacts to service delivery, public assets, and contributing appropriate resources to prepare, prevent, respond, and recover from detrimental climate impacts.

Councils' responsibility to manage the impacts of climate change on assets and services is also legislated in the Local Government Act 1993 which requires all NSW councils to manage their strategic and operational risks and implement a risk management framework that is consistent with the current Australian risk management standard, and appropriate for the council's risks.

1.3 Inner West Council services

Inner West Council delivers local services, programs and infrastructure and represents the interests of its local community. Inner West Council has four directorates and 39 service areas whose functions deliver a broad range of services to the community.

The main impacts of climate change affecting NSW councils are drought, storms and flooding, heatwaves, sea level rise and bushfires. These have both direct and indirect impacts on Council operations, services and the community.

Inner West Council organisational structure



Figure 1: Inner West Council organisational structure

1.4 Risk assessment process

Inner West Council engaged the consultant, Hip V Hype, to undertake a climate risk assessment for the Council. The process that was followed is summarised in Figure 2, below.



Figure 2: Process followed for the Inner West Council climate risk assessment

The main impacts of climate change affecting NSW councils are drought, storms and flooding, heatwaves, sea level rise and bushfires.

2 Identify and evaluate the risks



2.1 How climate risks are identified

Climate risks are identified through assessment of:

- hazards – climate variables and their projected future changes (e.g. heatwaves, intense storms, flash flooding)
- exposure – the areas most susceptible to these hazards (e.g. hot built-up areas, poor quality homes, flood zones)
- vulnerability – the cohorts most vulnerable to climate-related impacts (e.g. elderly people, people with chronic health conditions and financially vulnerable people)

An impact assessment then considers the ways the risks impact five key systems (environmental, physical, economic, social and human) and whether responses are within Council's area of control, influence, or concern (sphere of influence).

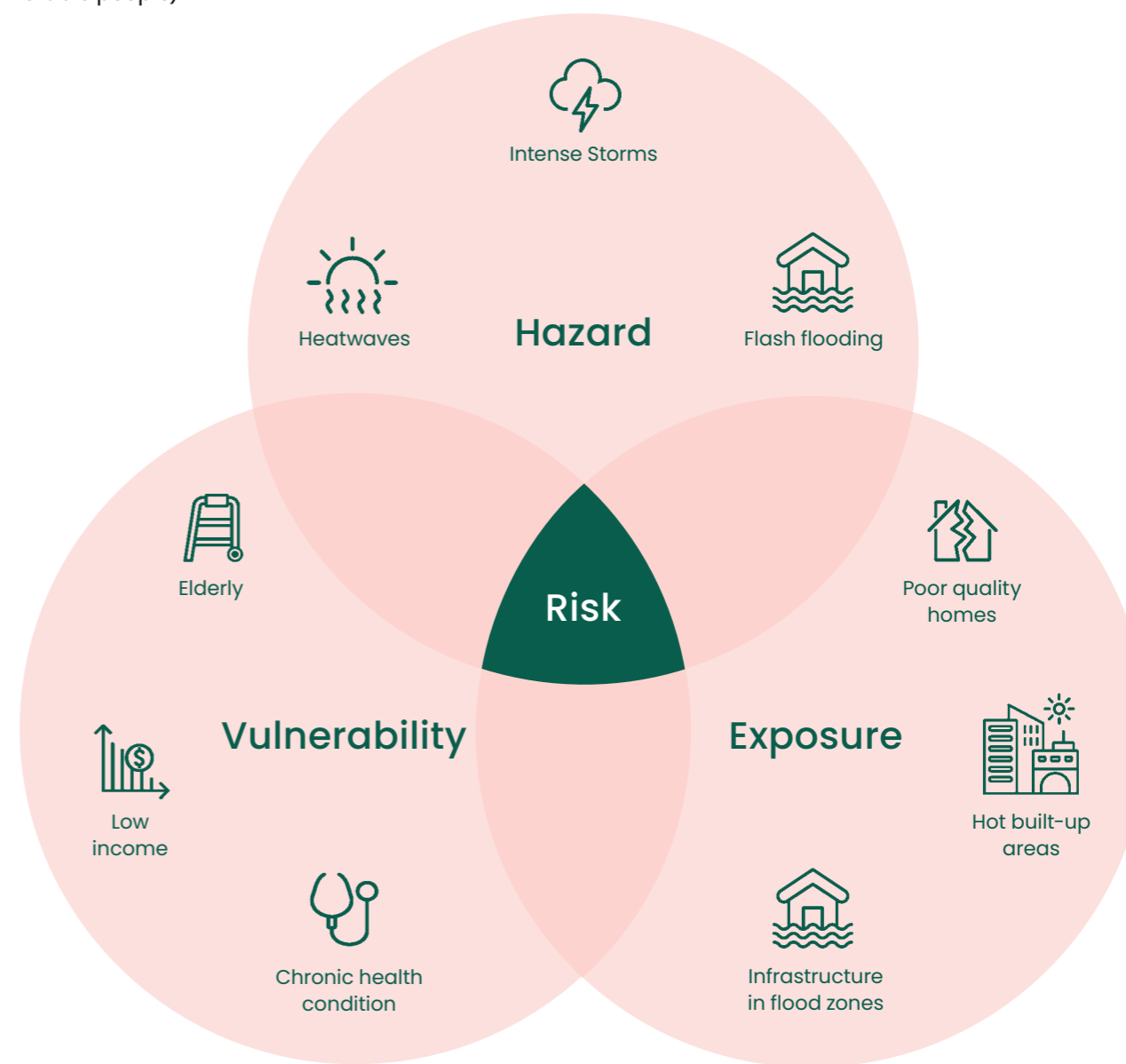


Figure 1 modified with permission from Merri-bek City Council Climate Risk Strategy 2022-2030

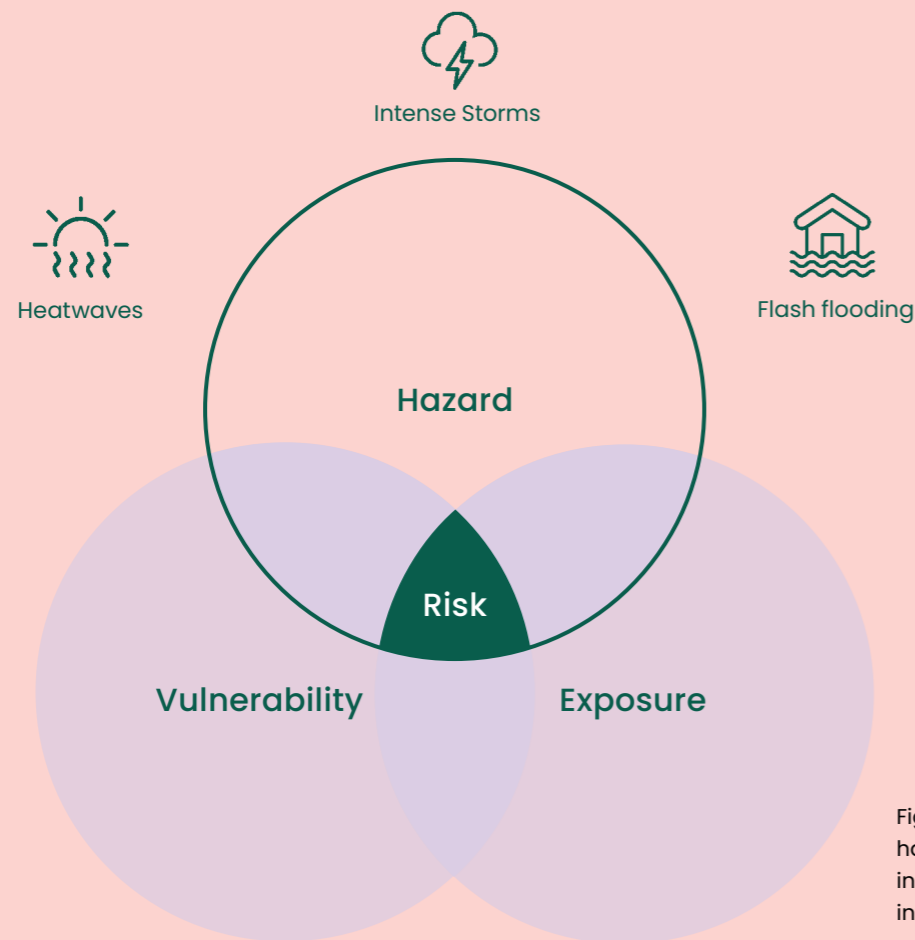


Figure 4 Climate-related hazards are one of the inter-related factors influencing climate risk.

2.2 Hazard assessment

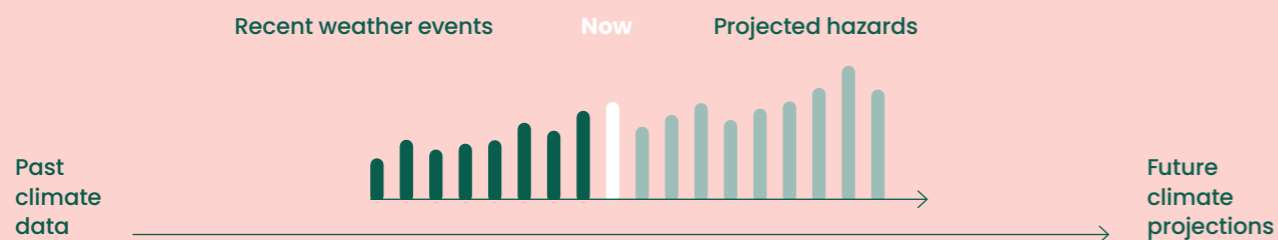
Hazards are natural or human-induced physical events or trends that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources (IPCC AR6).

The Inner West is already impacted by climate hazards, such as flood, drought, heat waves and poor air quality from bush fire smoke and has taken action to respond to these impacts. The challenge climate change presents is that these hazards and their impacts are projected to become more frequent and more intense, and the ways Council and the community have responded in the past

may no longer be sufficient or effective. Council must understand the nature of the changes and assess how best to manage risks into the future.

The primary and secondary hazards most likely to impact the Inner West were identified through an analysis of:

- past climate data – what has the climate been like over the last decades (refer Table 1)
- future climate projections – what will the climate likely be in the future (refer Table 2)
- recent weather events – what weather events are already occurring under current climate conditions (and therefore what weather events could be expected to occur in the future) (refer Table 3)



Past climate data for Metropolitan Sydney

	Climatology period		
	1939 – 1960	1961 – 1990	1991 – 2020
Mean max temp (°C)	21.8	22.2	23
Mean min temp (°C)	12.8	13.1	14.6
Mean # hot days per year ≥ 35°C	4.9	4.8	6.6
Annual mean rainfall (mm)	1066	1177	993

Table 1 Past climate data

Temperature

In Summer, the average temperature in metropolitan Sydney ranges from 21–23°C (with the summer average maximum temperature ranging from 26–28°C). In winter, the average temperature ranges from 12–14°C (with the winter average minimum temperature ranging from 8–10°C).

In metropolitan Sydney, temperatures have been increasing since around 1960, with the most warming occurring in the most recent decades. The number of hot days per year (≥ 35 °C) has also been increasing.

Rainfall

Annual average rainfall has historically ranged from 800 – 1200mm (more in summer and autumn than in spring and winter).



Flooding on Riverside Crescent Marrickville 8 March 2012 – Credit Robert Baker NSW SES Marrickville Unit

Climate projections for Metropolitan Sydney

	Near future (2030)	Far future (2070)
Change in daily average temperature	+0.65 °C	+1.94 °C
Hot days (>35°C) per year	+3.9 days	+10.4 days
Cold nights (<2°C) per year	-4.5 days	-10.9 days
High fire danger days per year	+0.04 days	+0.6 days
Changes in annual rainfall	+1.7 %	+8.9 %
Changes to seasonal rainfall variation	Drier in spring and winter Wetter in summer and autumn	

Table 2 Climate projections for Metropolitan Sydney

Storms are expected to increase in severity and frequency, with a trend towards rainfall being concentrated in high intensity, short duration rainfall events. Rainfall in Sydney is projected to increase during the summer and autumn months and decrease during spring and winter. Sydney's considerable season-to-season and year-to-year rainfall variability is projected to persist. Sea level is projected to rise by 0.84m by 2100.

Average fire weather is projected to increase in Spring by 2070 and severe fire weather days are projected to increase in summer and spring by 2070. Although the Inner West is not expected to be directly impacted by bush fires, the Inner West will experience indirect impacts of bushfire, such as poor air quality from smoke pollution.

Rainfall in Sydney is projected to increase during the summer and autumn months and decrease during spring and winter.

Climate projections and emissions scenarios used

The future climate projections used in the climate risk assessment are based on NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling from 2014 (NARCLIM 1.0).

NARCLIM 2.0 is under development and due for release in late 2024. While the risk assessment looked at projections under both intermediate (comparable to the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5) and high (comparable to RCP 8.5) emissions scenarios, each risk was evaluated under a high emissions scenario because it is the closest approximation of the outcome of past emissions and emissions under current and anticipated future global climate policies.

Recent weather events

Climate variable / event	Date	Event
Drought	2017-2019	The three years from Jan 2017 to Dec 2019 were the driest on record for NSW, resulting in Warragamba Dam falling below 50% capacity, and the enforcement of Level 2 water restrictions in Sydney. The dry landscape caused by the drought contributed to the dangerous fire weather conditions leading up to the Black Summer bushfires
Severe storms	Feb 2019	Intense thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall caused substantial damage, severe road flooding and extensive power outages
Fire weather	Summer 2019-20	Smoke pollution levels across NSW, caused by the Black Summer bushfires, far exceeded the annual standard
Rainfall	2020	Above average rainfall (rainfall exceeded the long-term average by 20%-50% across most locations)
Temperature	Nov 2020	Two consecutive days above 40°C (only the second time on record such extreme heat has been recorded at Observatory Hill)
Rainfall	Feb 2022	Parts of metropolitan Sydney received a month's worth of rain in a few hours. Marrickville received 98mm of rain in just 2 hours.
Temperature	Whole of 2022	Mean daily maximum temperature at Sydney Airport was 23 °C (exceeding the long-term average by 1.4°C)
Rainfall	April 2024	Sydney received its heaviest rainfall in 4 years – with a month's rainfall falling overnight. The Cooks River broke its banks and flooding caused road closures.

Table 3 Recent weather events

Climate variable	Change to climate variable (primary climate hazard)	Secondary climate hazard
Rainfall	Increased annual rainfall	Overland flooding
	Decreased annual rainfall	Drought
Storminess	More extreme storm events	Flash flooding High winds
Temperature	Higher average temperatures Fewer cold nights More hot days (>35°C)	Heat waves High humidity Increased evapotranspiration Longer fire season (poor air quality) Increased fire weather (poor air quality)
	Sea-level rise	Flooding Erosion Saltwater intrusion

Table 4: Key climate hazards projected to intensify



Hakea and other shrub dieback after sudden hot dry conditions.



The number of hot days (>35°C) per year is projected to more than double by 2070.

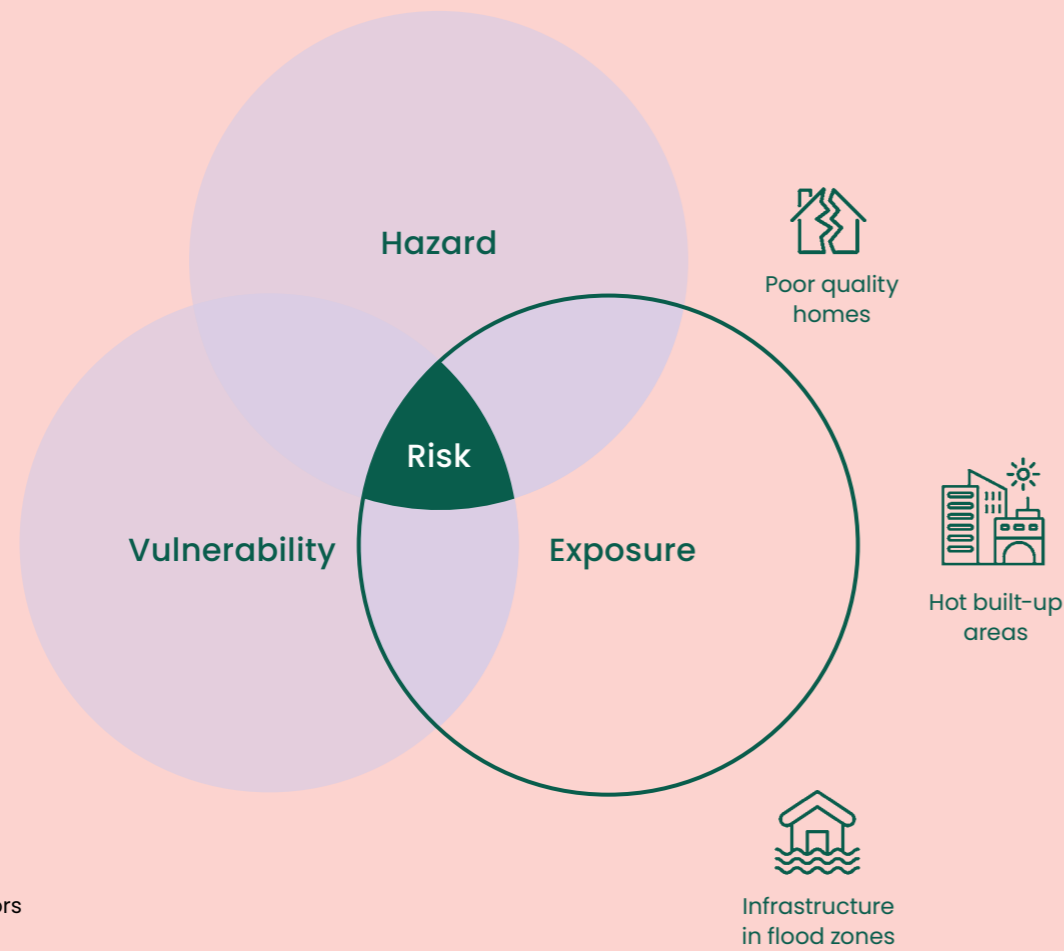


Figure 5: Exposure is one of the inter-related factors influencing climate risk.

2.3 Exposure assessment

Exposure is the presence of people; livelihoods; species or ecosystems; environmental functions, services, and resources; infrastructure; or economic, social, or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected (IPCC AR6).

The next step in the risk assessment was to understand the exposure of Inner West Council to the key hazards (refer to Table 4):

- increased temperatures
- hot days
- rainfall variation
- storm intensity and frequency
- bush fire weather
- sea-level rise

This step involved identifying areas that are most likely to be subject to the impacts from these hazards.

Table 5, below, provides a summary of areas and the types of places more exposed to climate hazards by hazard type.

Hazard	Areas with increased exposure	Examples in Inner West
Flooding or inundation (due to any or a combination of increased annual rainfall, severe storms, sea-level rise, king tides) and related erosion and or saltwater intrusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-lying areas • Areas close to waterways – rivers, creeks, canals • Tide-affected areas • Areas with high cover of hard surfaces • Areas with low vegetation cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along Dobroyd Canal • Along Hawthorn Canal • Along the Cooks River • Along Johnstons and Whites Creeks • Along Alexandra Canal • Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River foreshore • Marrickville • Sydenham • Enmore • St Peters
Higher temperatures, heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built-up areas • Areas with high cover of hard surfaces • Areas with low canopy cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of Tempe • Parts of Sydenham • Parts of South Marrickville • Parts of St Peters • Along Parramatta Rd • Between Airport Drive and Princes Hwy Tempe • Around Sydenham Train Station • Around White Bay Cruise Terminal and Glebe Island Wharf (the Bays Precinct)
Poor air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ubiquitous 	Whole of Inner West
High winds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ubiquitous 	Whole of Inner West
Drought/high evapotranspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with low canopy cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe • Sydenham • St Peters

Floodplain risk management studies consider the impacts of:

- overland flooding
- flash flooding
- elevated tide levels
- projected sea level rise

Flood studies were analysed to understand the extent of flood prone land across the Inner West (refer to Figures 6 and 7, below). Input from staff in the Infrastructure and Planning directorates and representatives from the SES also helped identify areas exposed to flooding.

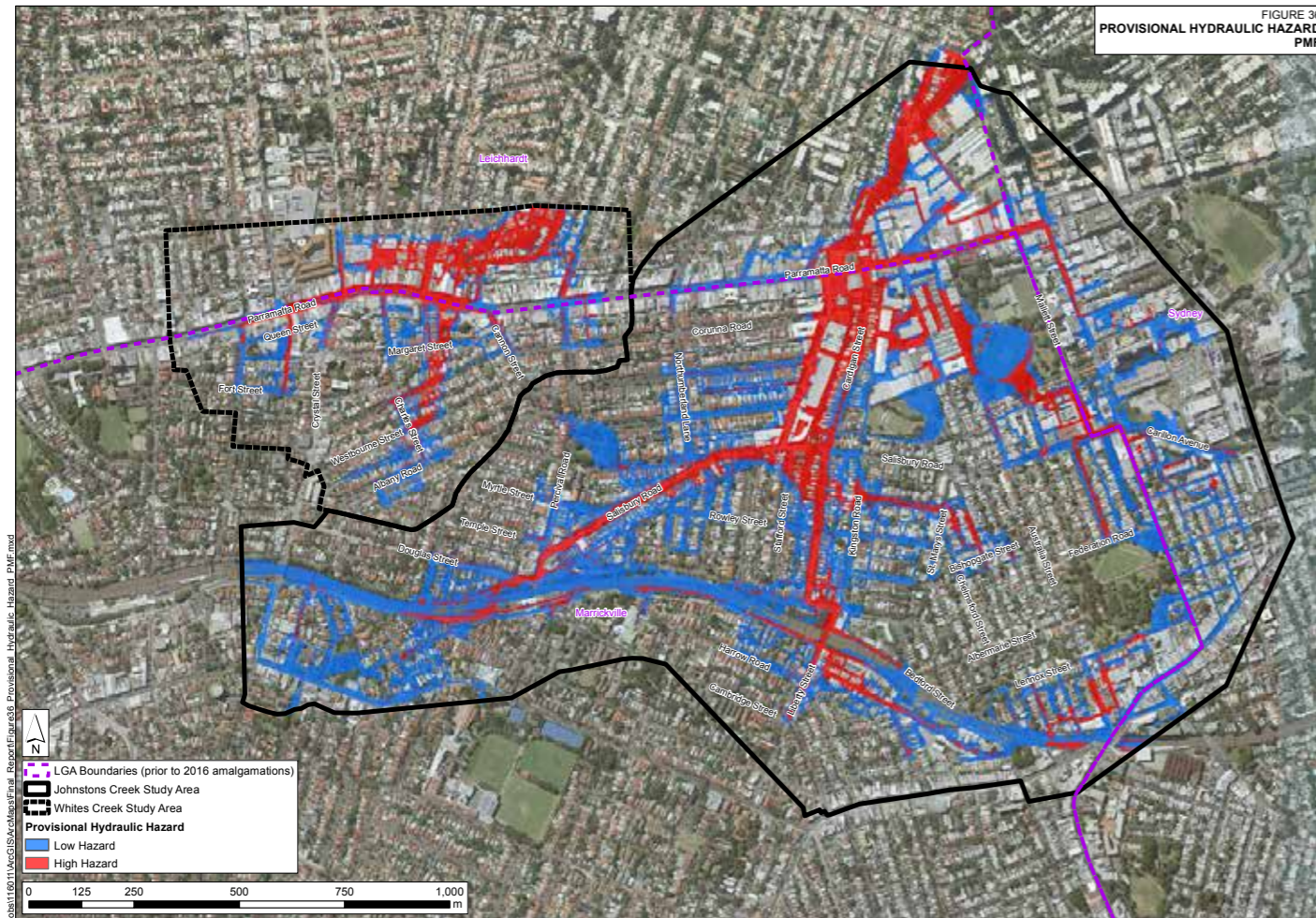


Figure 6: Johnston and Whites Creeks flood study. (source: WMA Water 2017)

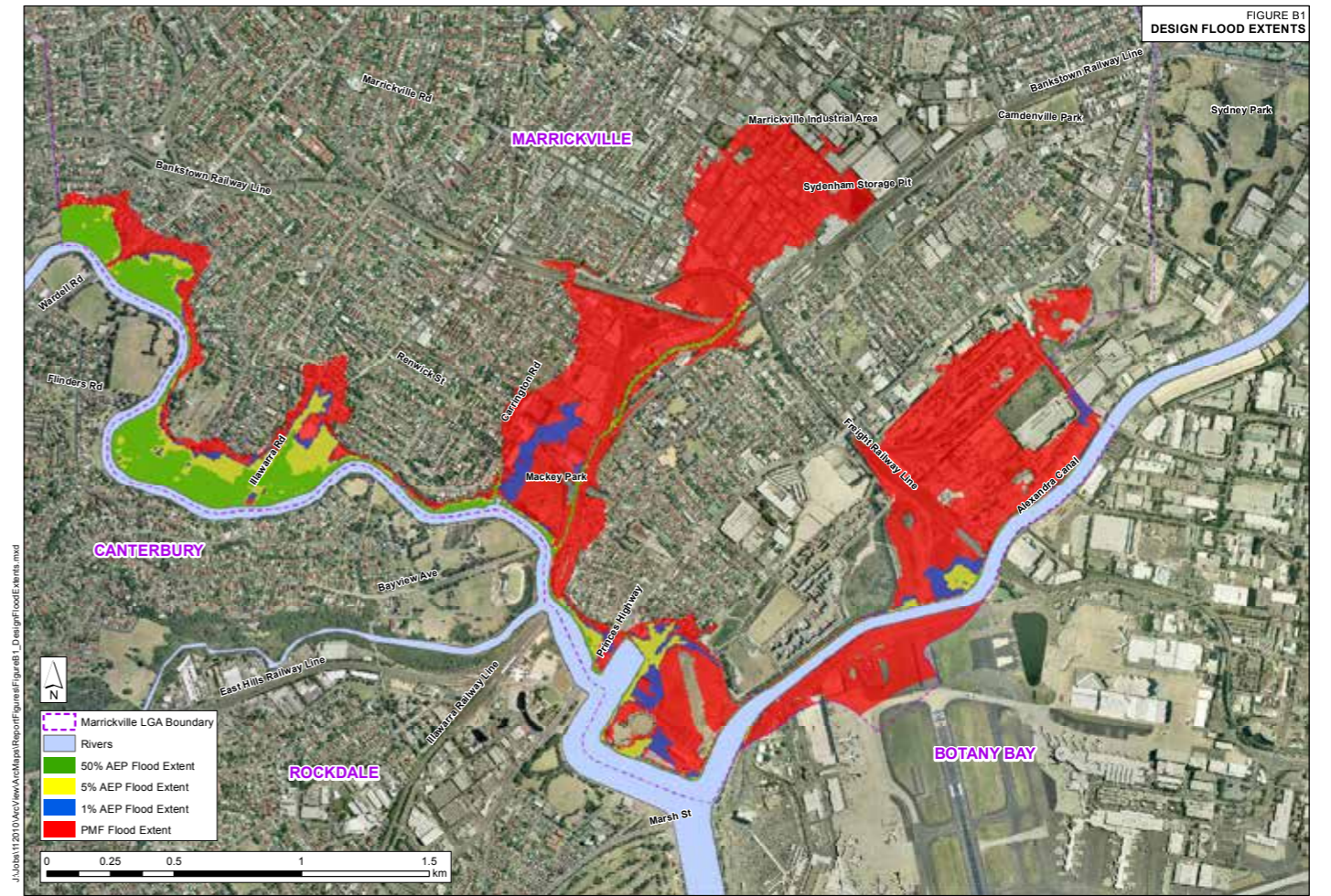


Figure 7: Cooks River flood study (source: WMA Water & Storm Consulting 2015)

Low-lying areas, areas along estuaries (e.g. rivers, creeks and canals), and areas with high percentage cover of hard surfaces are more exposed to flooding from one or a combination of increased annual rainfall, increased storm intensity and frequency and sea-level rise (refer to Figure 8, below).

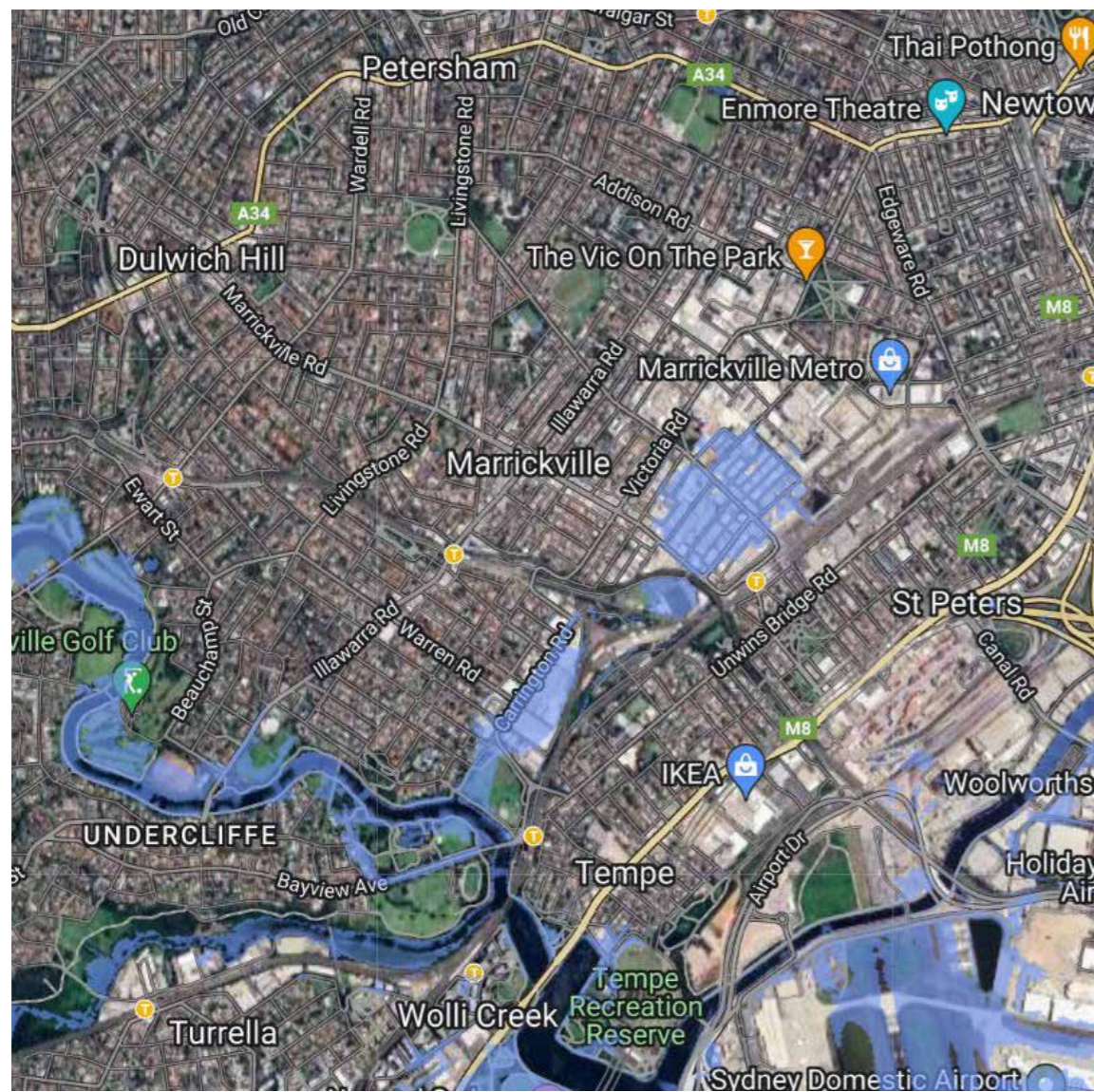


Figure 8. High tide with 2100 predicted sea-level rise +0.84m along the Cooks River (source: Coastal Risk Australia)

Heat maps (see Figure 9 below) were used to locate urban heat hotspots (areas where temperatures exceed the mean land surface temperature). Built up areas with a high percentage cover of hard surfaces and areas with low canopy and vegetation cover are more exposed to higher temperatures.

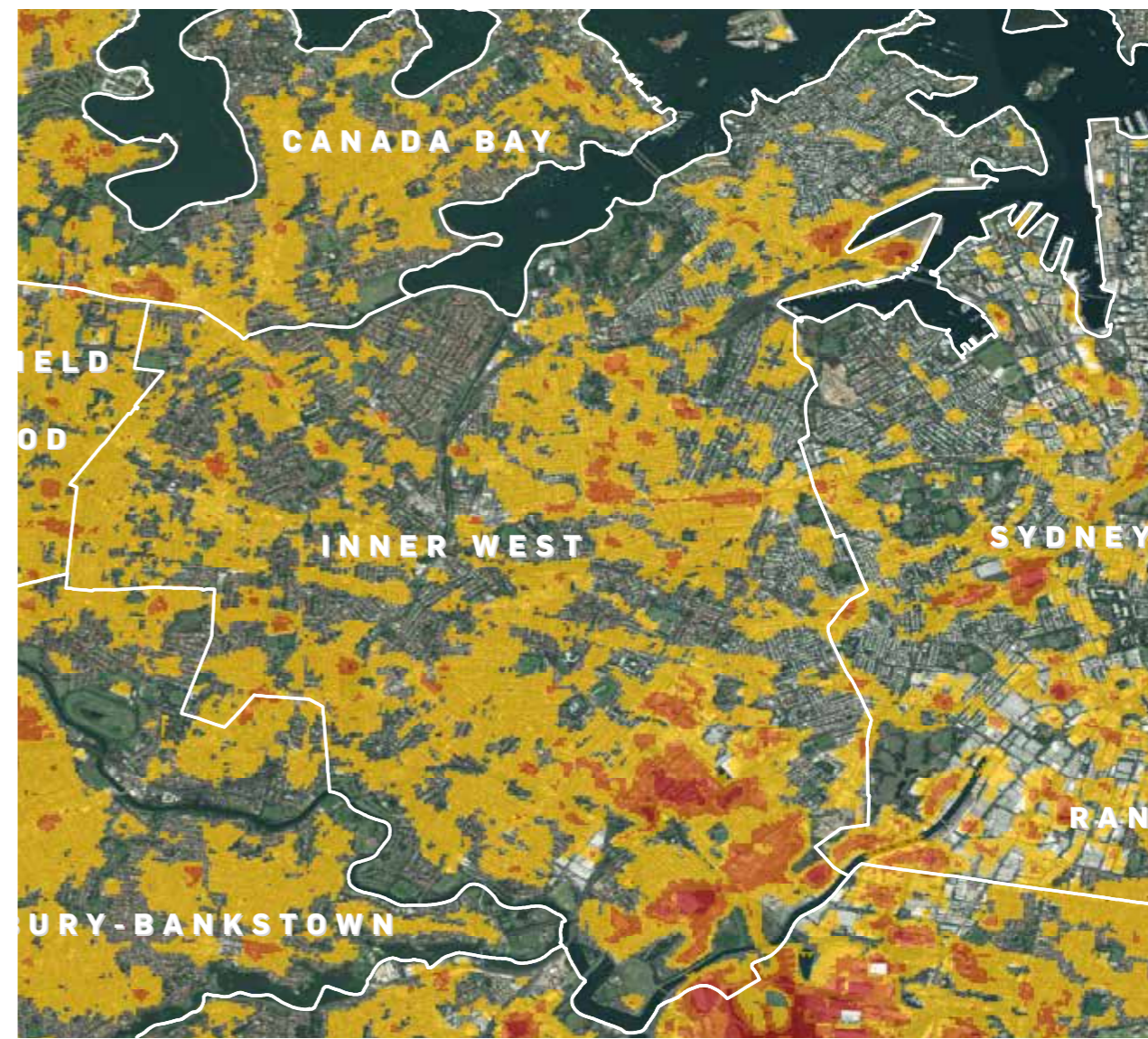
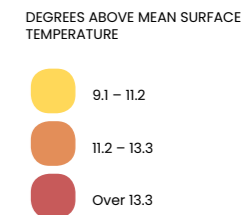


Figure 9 Urban heat hotspots in the Inner West (source: RMIT 2016)



Maps illustrating the percentage tree canopy cover by suburb were used to identify areas where the impacts of flooding, urban heat, storms, and poor air quality might be mitigated by the various ecosystem services provided by trees (refer to Figure 10 below).

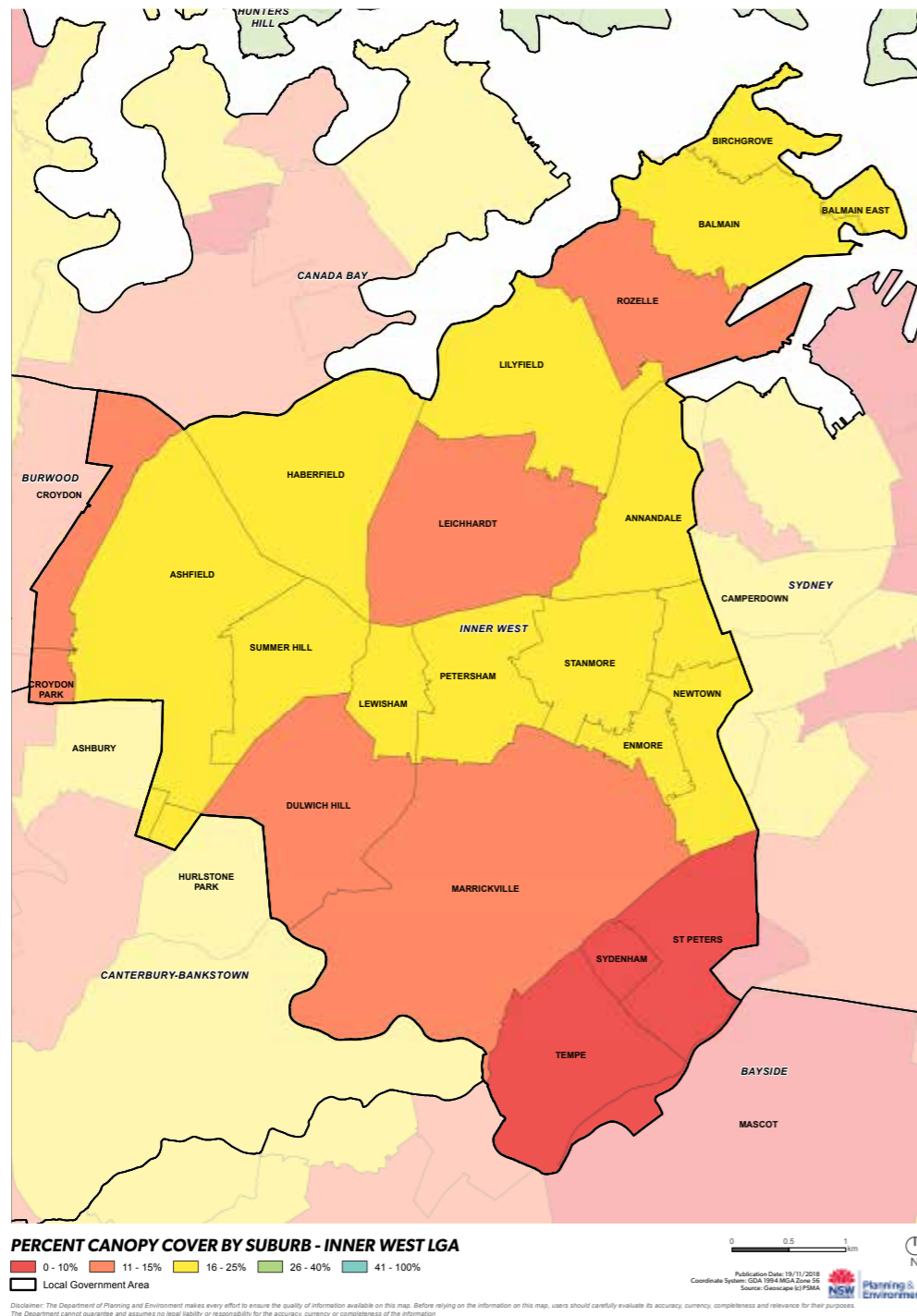


Figure 10. Canopy Cover in 2018 (source: NSW Planning & Environment)

A map showing the extent and severity of the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires in relation to the Sydney Basin was used to illustrate that although the Inner West is not a bushfire-prone area, it is surrounded by areas exposed to bushfires and is therefore exposed to the air quality impacts resulting from bushfires.

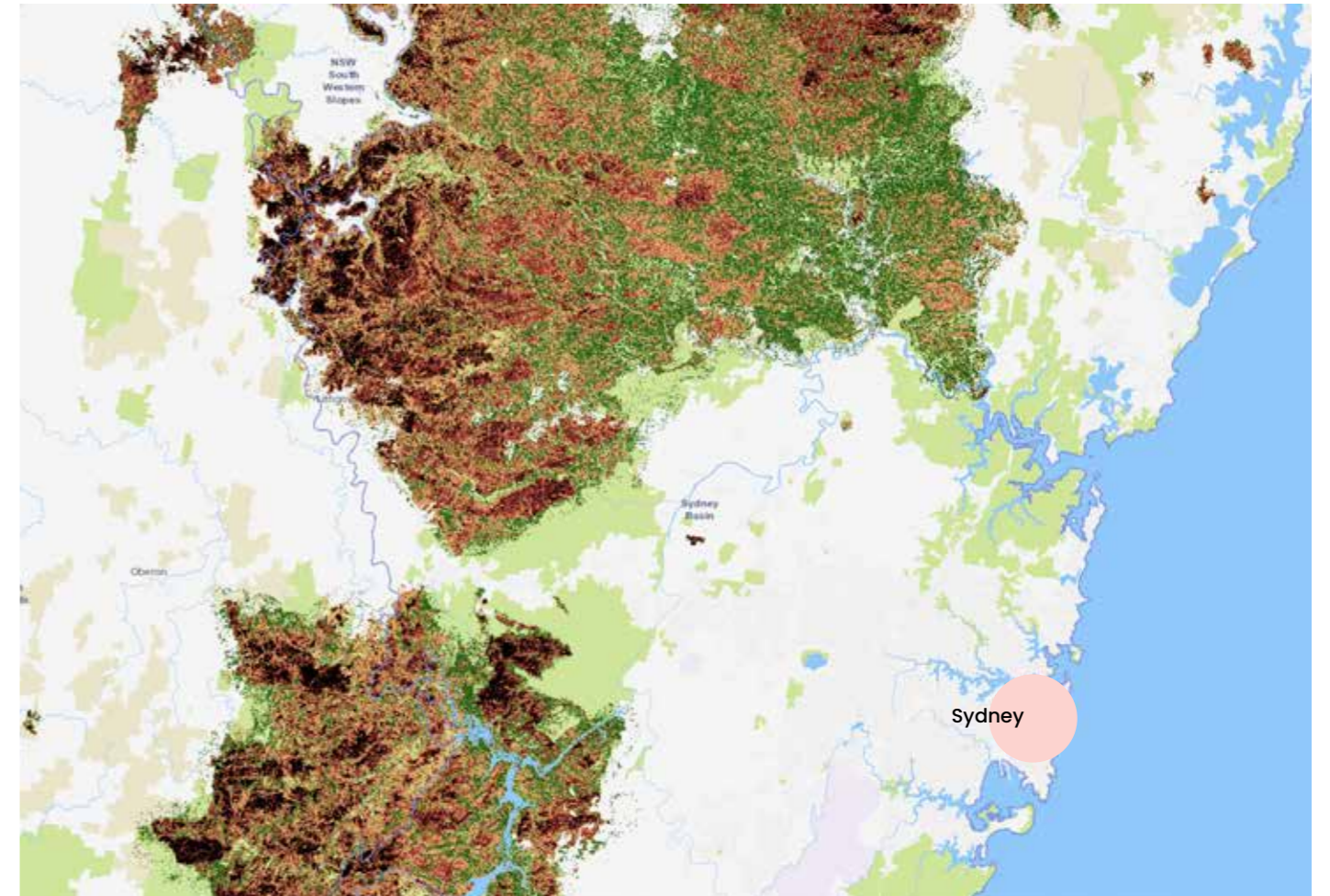


Figure 11 Fire extent and severity map of 2019-20 NSW Black Summer bushfires (source: DPIE data 2021 – FESM 3.0)

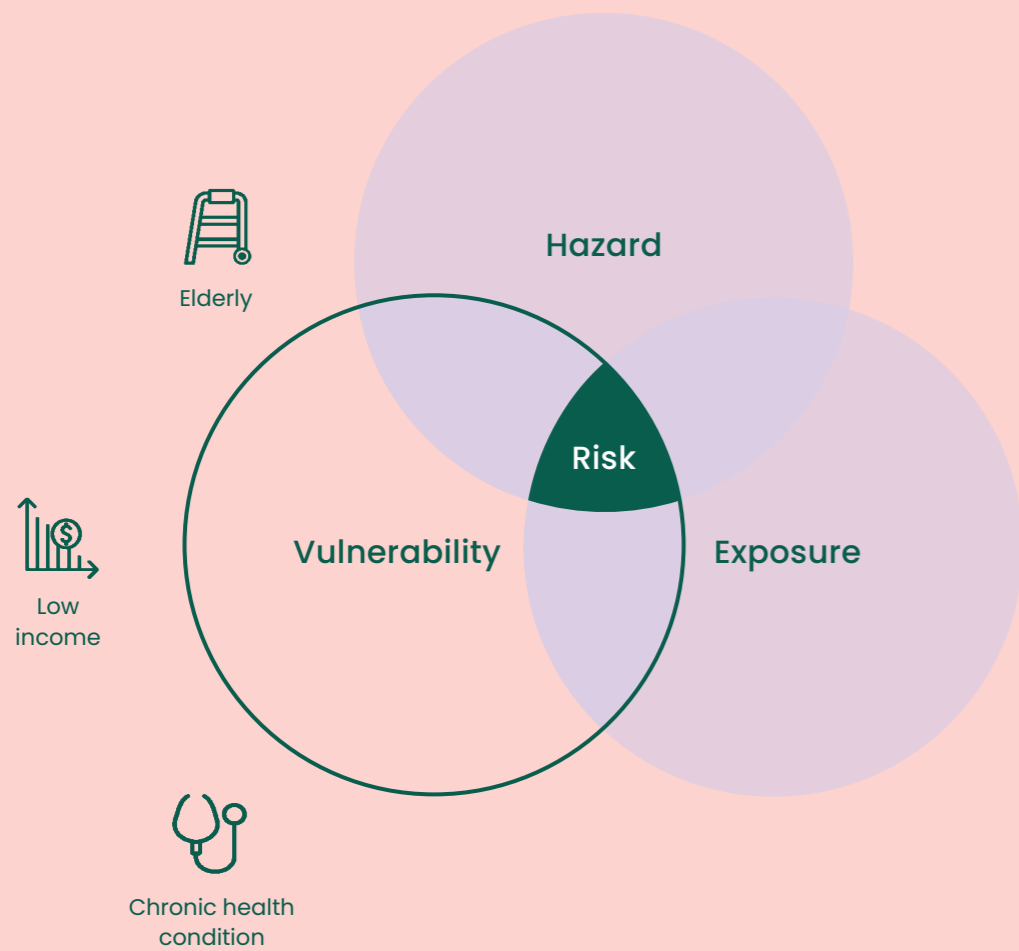


Figure 11: Vulnerability is one of the inter-related factors influencing climate risk.

2.4 Vulnerability assessment

Vulnerability is the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt (IPCC AR6).

Certain community groups can be more vulnerable to climate hazards. Some examples include:

- people over 65 and young children or babies are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses
- renters and apartment dwellers have less control over making their homes more resilient to higher temperatures or more intense storms
- financially vulnerable people might not be able to afford to pay for more electricity to cool their homes
- people reliant on public transport to get around might be stranded if extreme weather disrupts public transport services or if it is not safe to be outdoors walking or waiting at public transport stops

Understanding vulnerability to climate hazards was developed through reviewing research into which community groups were most susceptible to climate impacts and then analysing census data to identify where these populations are located across the Inner West.

Input from staff in the Planning and Community directorates, representatives from Sydney Local Health District as well as representatives of the Access, Social Strategy and Environment Advisory Committees also helped identify sections of the community that would be more susceptible to climate hazards and less able to respond to, recover from and adapt to climate impacts.

Cohorts identified as being more vulnerable to climate change

Older people, people over 65

Children and babies

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Financially vulnerable people

Newly arrived / people with limited English

Homeless people (rough sleepers and people living in their cars)

People with disability (including chronic illnesses)

Carers

People with limited social and community connections

People reliant on public transport or walking for moving about

Response workers (including volunteers)

People who live alone

Renters and people living in apartments

Victims of domestic violence

People living with a mental illness

Table 6: List of the groups identified as more vulnerable to climate change

Some cohorts, such as people with limited English proficiency and homeless people have greater difficulty accessing, interpreting and responding to communication about acute climate impacts – such as severe storms or heatwaves. Therefore, any community-focused actions in Council’s adaptation plan will need to address any significant communication barriers.

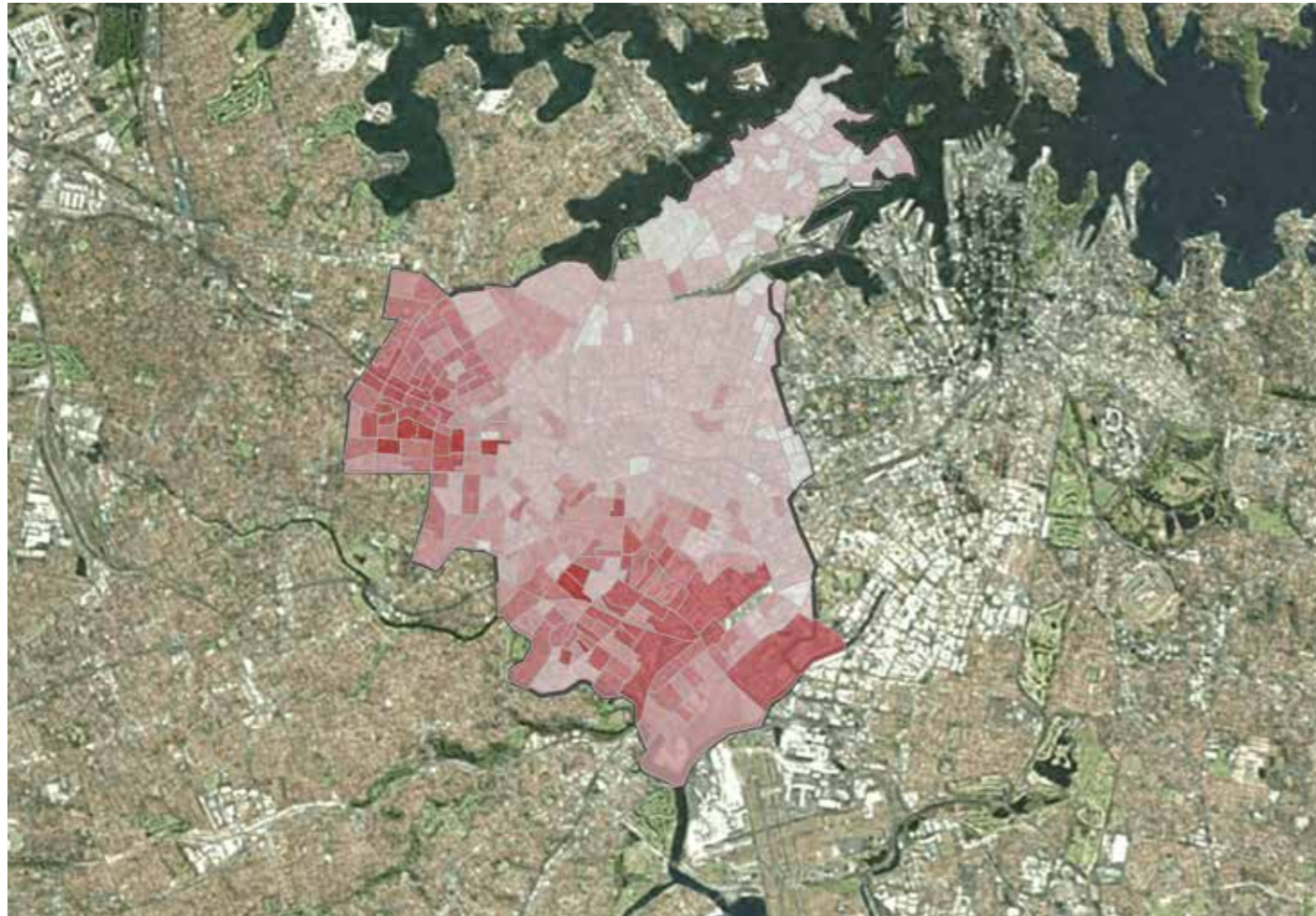
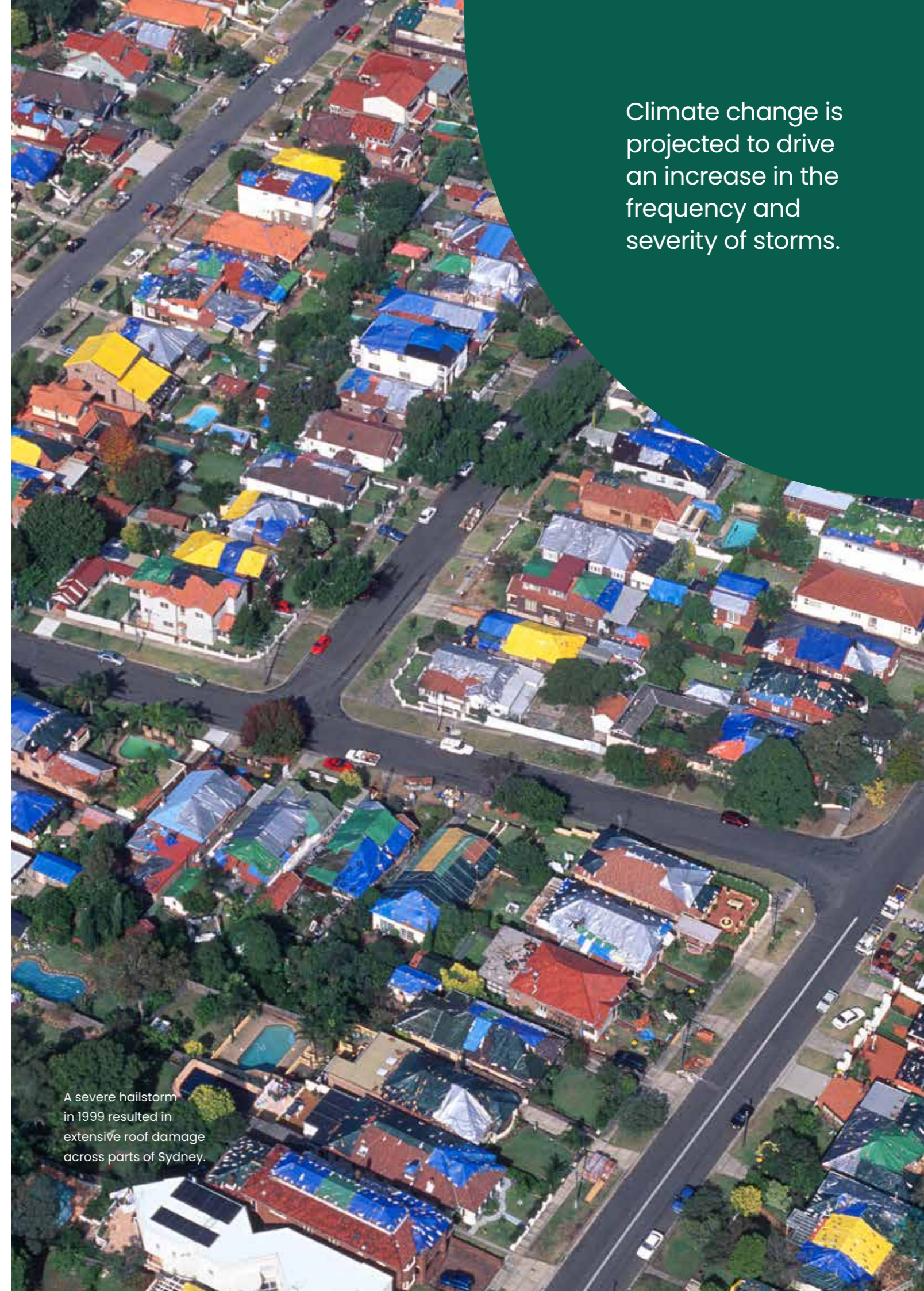
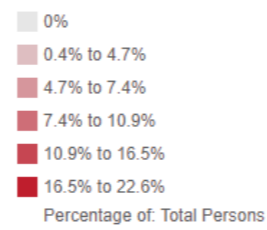


Figure 12: Percentage of population not fluent in English (source Inner West social atlas)



Climate change is projected to drive an increase in the frequency and severity of storms.

A severe hailstorm in 1999 resulted in extensive roof damage across parts of Sydney.

2.5 Impacts on the Inner West

A further assessment was undertaken to understand the impacts from acute shocks (e.g. flood events) and chronic stressors (e.g. higher average temperatures) caused by climate hazards (refer to Table 4).

Risk vs impact – what do these terms mean in the Climate Risk Assessment

Impact is the direct consequence of the combination of Hazard, Vulnerability and Exposure. Risk represents the effect that the potential impact, or impacts, may have on the objectives of the entity – i.e. Council – under consideration. While some impacts may pose a risk to Council, others may not, and an individual risk may arise from multiple impacts.

This assessment looked at the effect of each hazard on five ‘impact areas’ using the 5-capitals framework. It provides a holistic and systematic approach to identify impacts on 5 areas:

- 1** Environmental
Land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services
- 2** Physical
Human made physical assets and infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, buildings, telecommunication and power networks
- 3** Financial & economic
Savings, future earnings, financial risk, expenditure, liquidity during climate events to purchase supplies
- 4** Human (health and safety)
Health, skills, knowledge, motivation and education
- 5** Social
Business networks, community connectedness, trust

Following the 5-capitals framework also helped build an understanding of the adaptive capacity of the Inner West to climate impacts.

The strength of human and social systems can significantly influence how quickly and easily communities can adapt to chronic climate change and recover from acute climate shocks. If human or social systems are badly affected by climate change, the overall impacts on that community can be exacerbated because the community may find it more difficult to recover.

The impact assessment identified 99 impacts caused by climate change. These impacts were categorised according to where they sat within Council’s ‘spheres of influence’.

‘Spheres of influence’ was considered because although Council is the custodian of this risk assessment and any subsequent adaptation plan, climate adaptation is a challenge that no single entity can address alone. Different parties will have complementary and differentiated roles, and an all-of-society response is required to effectively adapt to a changing climate.

With reference to the ‘spheres of influence’ as described in Fig. 13 below:

- 24 of the impacts (or the response to them) are within Council’s control,
- 44 are within Council’s area of influence,
- 31 are of Council’s concern.

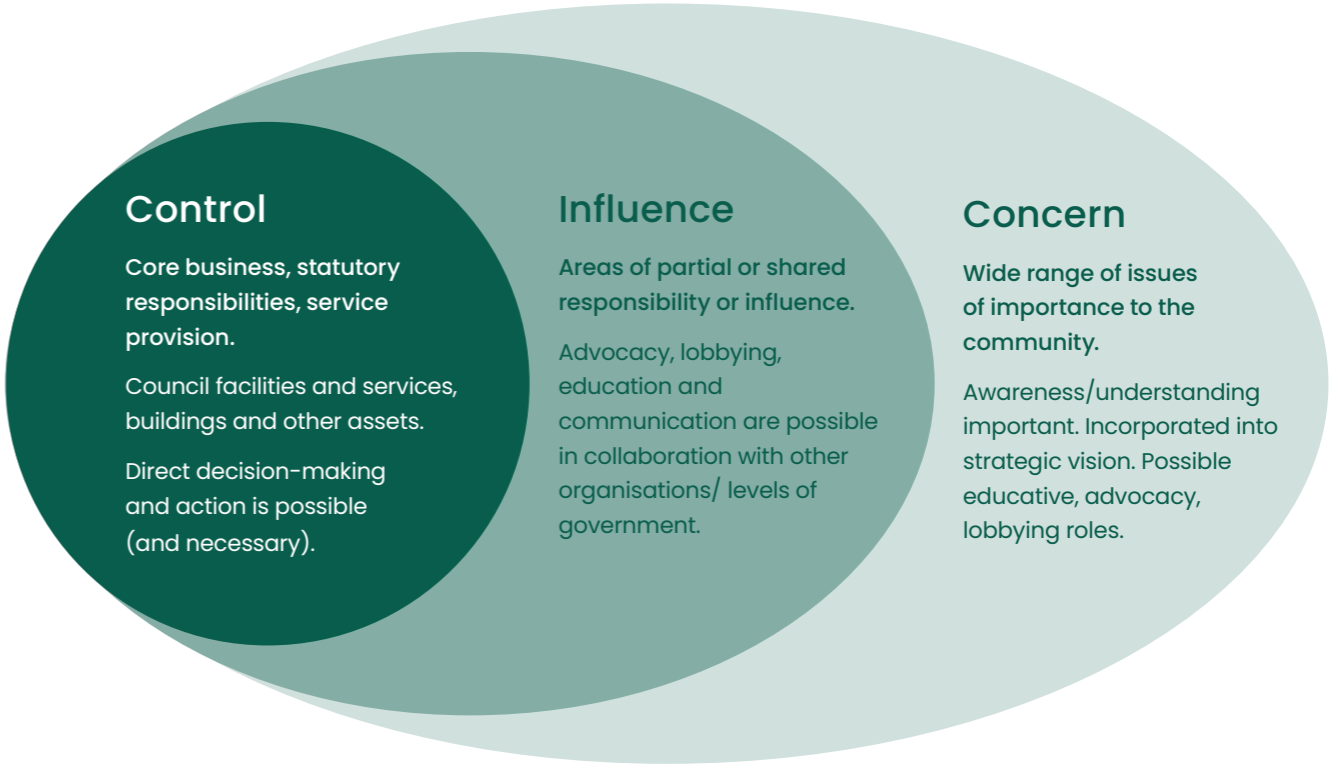


Figure 13: Spheres of influence in a local government context. (source: Adapting for Climate Change: A long term strategy for the City of Sydney)

2.6 Risk identification and evaluation

An analysis of how the identified impacts would affect Inner West Council was undertaken according to the adopted Inner West Risk Management Framework and risk rating schema. This analysis resulted in the identification of 28 climate risks to Council services. Some risks are a result of a single impact, whereas other risks are a result of multiple impacts.

The 28 climate risks:

- were rated according to the likelihood and consequence of their occurrence across two timeframes: near future (2030) and far future (2070).
- categorised according to whether management (risk treatment) is within Council's area of control, influence, or concern (see Figure 13 for a description of each of these categories).

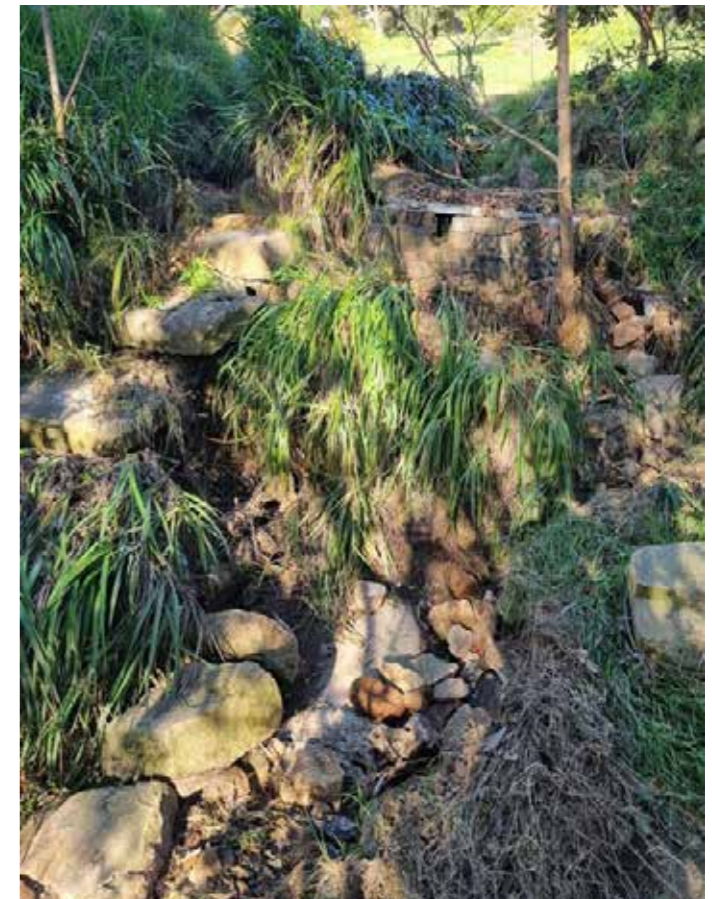
Thirteen were prioritised due to being rated as High or Extreme in the far future (2070) climate scenario and within Council's control or influence.

Table 7: The 13 priority risks to Inner West Council services

Risk to Council services	Impact category
Increased operational costs for physical assets (e.g. for maintenance, repair, replacement, space conditioning, insurance) impacts Council's ability to provide and maintain essential services, infrastructure and assets.	Financial & economic Physical Social
Increased operational costs for natural assets, including streetscapes and public green space (e.g. for maintenance, replacement, pest control, irrigation) impacts Council's ability to provide and maintain these community assets.	Environmental Financial & economic Physical Social
Temporary disruption to transport movement due to infrastructure failure, flooding, erosion, environmental damage, etc. impacts the efficiency of service delivery and emergency response within the Council area.	Environmental Financial & economic Health & safety Physical Social
Temporary or permanent closure of Council's offices and community venues, as well as reductions in service delivery, impacts Council's ability to provide community services from physical locations.	Financial & economic Health & safety Physical Social
Acute infrastructure failure and damage impact Council's resources and its ability to maintain essential services.	Environmental Physical
Disruptions to arts, events, and recreational activities, including community sports, outdoor events, and social gatherings, as well as unhealthy outdoor conditions, impact community members' ability to engage in outdoor activities, utilise public spaces safely, and participate in social events.	Health & safety Social

Decrease in service levels, e.g. resulting from health and safety risks to outdoor workers, water scarcity, or diminished water quality, impacting community utilisation of Council-managed open spaces.	Health & safety Social
Unhealthy or unsafe outdoor conditions and failure of indoor cooling infrastructure compromise workforce safety, impact the well-being of employees and the ability to maintain effective service provision.	Health & safety
Major land use implications such as the loss of habitable land due to flooding and/or sea level rise impact the availability and distribution of resources for Council to provide and maintain its other services, infrastructure and assets.	Environmental Physical
Accelerated renewal or upgrade timeframes impact capital costs, imposing additional financial burdens on capital works programs.	Financial & economic
Permanent loss or closure of community assets imposing financial burdens impact the range of services that can be provided to the community.	Financial & economic
Road and transportation disruptions, including loss of escape routes, impact emergency responses, Council support for evacuation procedures and community satisfaction and safety.	Health & safety
Volunteer fatigue and a decline in community group participation increase the demand on Council resources to sustain effective community engagement, emergency assistance, and ongoing community resilience efforts.	Social

It is important for Council to understand and manage climate risks in order to continue to deliver services, assets and infrastructure to the standard that the community expects.



Excessive erosion of natural areas within Marrickville Golf Course

3 Identify and plan risk treatments



3.1 Identifying risk treatments

Actions (or treatments) aim to reduce either, or both, the likelihood or consequence of a risk occurring.

The climate risk assessment identified potential risk treatments (or adaptation actions) for consideration under the following categories:



Foundational

The climate risk assessment identified 'foundational' actions that are considered a priority in the short to medium term. Foundational actions are risk treatments that do not directly address specific risks but are systemic and set the foundation for iterative, well-planned, and integrated climate risk management. These are actions that will increase Council's climate risk maturity.



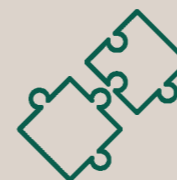
Corporate

The climate risk assessment identified potential 'corporate' (i.e. Council) risk treatments which will require further engagement and consultation as part of the next steps to develop the climate adaptation plan. These risk treatments directly address a specific risk or risks and are Council's responsibility to lead.



Community

The climate risk assessment identified potential 'community' risk treatments which will require further engagement and consultation as part of the next steps to develop the climate adaptation plan. These are treatments focussed on building community resilience and could be either led by Council or by community groups, not-for-profit groups, non-government organisations, other government agencies with support from Council.



Partnerships

The climate risk assessment identified potential 'partnership' risk treatments which will require further investigation, engagement and prioritisation as part of the next steps to develop the climate adaptation plan. These are actions aimed at establishing or strengthening Council's partnerships with key stakeholders also responsible for managing climate risks affecting the Inner West. The purpose of these actions is to maximise resource efficiency by complementing rather than duplicating adaptation actions.

Based on the recommendations from the consultants, Hip V Hype, 11 ‘foundational’ actions have been developed (refer Table 8). Inner West Council will commence implementing these actions starting from FY 2024/25 over a two-year timeframe to set the groundwork for iterative, well-planned, and integrated climate risk management.

At the same time staff will review the suite of recommended risk treatment options to develop a comprehensive climate adaptation plan.

Objective	Foundational actions	Implementation lead
F1: Council has up-to-date, locally relevant climate change scenarios and asset registers to inform planning and decision-making	F1.1: Collate locally relevant climate-related data for inclusion in Council’s GIS	Urban Sustainability with ICT
	F1.2: Ensure Council’s GIS is using the most up-to-date data available and establish processes to ensure systems can be easily updated as new data is made available.	ICT
	F1.3: Promote access and how to use climate-related data and map layers in GIS to all Council staff	ICT
	F1.4: Establish processes for climate data to inform decision-making, asset designs and upgrades, service delivery, environmental management, risk and vulnerability assessments and monitoring	Urban Sustainability with Service Improvement
	F1.5: Undertake a staged condition and vulnerability assessment of Council assets using up-to-date climate data	Urban Sustainability with Infrastructure and Property
F2: Council staff understand the possible future climate change impacts on the Inner West, and know how to apply this understanding to inform decision making	F2.1: Undertake a skills audit in relation to climate knowledge across areas of the organisation responsible for managing climate risk and investigate and provide professional development to address key gaps and opportunities identified in the audit.	Urban Sustainability with People & Culture
	F2.2: Subject to the outcomes of the skills audit offer targeted training to build organisational capacity on climate risk, its impact on Council, and climate-smart decisions.	Urban Sustainability with People & Culture
F3: Climate risk management and adaptation is embedded in Council planning, reporting, workplans and performance reviews	F3.1: Establish a working group to plan and monitor the implementation of these foundational responses as well as oversee the development of the climate adaptation plan.	Urban Sustainability (with Service Improvement)
	F3.2: Incorporate climate-related risk management and adaptation actions into Council’s cyclical and long-term planning and reporting processes (IP&R).	Corporate Strategy & Engagement
	F3.3: Incorporate a climate-related risk lens into development and review processes for policy, procedure, plan, and strategy.	Urban Sustainability
F4: The community knows where to access information on planning for, responding to and recovering from climate hazards.	F4.1: Conduct community-wide awareness campaigns for residents and property owners on where to access information and support, who to contact during a climate event, and how to best prepare places of residence or business for different types of climate events.	Strategic & Corporate Communications with Infrastructure and Urban Sustainability and Community

Table 8: Foundational actions do not directly address specific risks but set the foundation for iterative, well-planned, and integrated climate risk management.



4 Next steps



Implementation of the foundational actions outlined above will begin at the start of 2024/25, starting with the establishment of a working group to oversee climate-related risk management at Council (Foundational Response 3.1). These actions will set the groundwork for ongoing coordinated, integrated risk management and adaptation planning across Council. There is a 2-year timeframe for completing the foundational actions.

At the same time as the 'foundational' actions are implemented, work will commence on developing a comprehensive climate adaptation plan for Inner West Council which will include the most effective 'corporate', 'community' and 'partnership' responses.



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