We are pleased to present you with an overview of Resilient Melbourne. This is Melbourne’s first resilience strategy and the first produced by an Australian city.

The strategy is a joint project of 32 metropolitan Melbourne councils, Melbourne’s academic, business and community sectors, and the Victorian Government, all supported by 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (100RC).

Resilient Melbourne is the culmination of work by over 1,000 people, from 230 organisations across sectors, council boundaries and community groups coming together to consider a shared challenge: what can we do to protect and improve the lives of Melburnians, now and in the future?

We encourage you to read on, download the full strategy and find out more about what all this means in practice, and share with your networks. We hope you enjoy the overview and strategy, and we welcome your responses. You can contact the Resilient Melbourne team on resilience@melbourne.com.au

The full version of the strategy is available for download on the Resilient Melbourne website; see resilientmelbourne.com.au

100RC helps cities around the world prepare to meet the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. Melbourne was selected from 372 applicant cities around the world to be among the first wave of 32 cities to join the 100RC network.

100RC offers each member city:
• funding for a Chief Resilience Officer, to coordinate resilience-building efforts
• expert support to develop a resilience strategy
• membership in a global network of peer cities to share ideas and solutions
• use of the 100RC Platform – a group of leading service providers who offer in-kind support to member cities.

For more information about 100RC visit 100resilientcities.org

Resilient Melbourne marks an important point in Melbourne’s development. It presents the first of our city’s resilience strategies: a starting point that brings together individuals and organisations critical to the resilience of Melbourne and its diverse communities. It offers a new way to deal with the chronic stresses and acute shocks we are likely to experience, and to achieve our vision of a city that is viable, sustainable, liveable and prosperous, today and long into the future.

In developing the strategy, we have followed three guiding principles, agreed at the outset of our work: build on Melbourne’s existing structures and institutions; avoid duplication of effort and investment, and; deliver tangible benefits to our communities.

Although achieving our long-term objectives will require work over generations – thirty years or more – the actions in the strategy will bring real results starting today.

People are at the heart of all cities. A resilient Melbourne will draw on the strengths of our diverse communities and geographies, to pursue our shared interests, embrace our differences and be stronger together. We will help communities prepare for change and whatever the future may hold. We will work today, tomorrow and together, towards a viable, sustainable, liveable and prosperous Melbourne.

These actions are affordable, scalable, replicable and measurable. They will support our communities’ efforts to adapt to the accelerating changes we face, to survive no matter what shocks occur, and to confidently thrive, building a Melbourne that offers a higher quality of life to all of its citizens, now and for future generations.
Melbourne is a vibrant and proudly multicultural city of 4.3 million residents, originating from more than 180 different countries. A ‘city of cities’, Melbourne is made up of 32 local government authorities (councils) spread over 10,000 square kilometres around Port Phillip Bay, comprising hundreds of diverse local neighbourhoods, each with its own character, cultural mix and set of advantages and problems.

Today, the scale and pace of demographic change in Melbourne are unprecedented. Projections suggest that by 2051 Melbourne will be home to approximately 7.7 million people, and is likely to be Australia’s largest city. Globalisation continues to disrupt our economy and society, while climate change is increasing the risk of extreme events and undermining many of the assumptions used to plan and develop our city.

To cope with this increasing complexity and uncertainty, we need a new approach. This must be centred on our communities, supporting and enabling them to adapt to these accelerating changes and the associated stresses, to survive no matter what shocks occur, and to confidently thrive. This approach will link new resilience-building actions with existing efforts – this way we can build a Melbourne that is a better place for future generations to live in, and whose services and advantages can be enjoyed by all of its citizens.

**CHRONIC STRESSES**

Challenges that weaken the fabric of a city on a day-to-day or cyclical basis. Examples include sea level rise, increasing pressures on healthcare services, unemployment, and deeper social inequality.

**EXAMPLES OF MELBOURNE’S CHRONIC STRESSES**

- Rapid population growth
- Increasing social inequality
- Increasing pressures on our natural assets
- Unemployment, particularly among young people
- Climate change
- Increasing rates of alcoholism and family violence

**ACUTE SHOCKS**

Sudden events that threaten a city. In Melbourne, examples of acute shocks include heatwaves, bushfires, floods, influenza pandemics, and extremist acts, including cyber-crime.

**EXAMPLES OF MELBOURNE’S ACUTE SHOCKS**

- Bushfires
- Floods
- Heatwaves
- Disease pandemics
- Infrastructure-related emergencies
- Extremist acts, including cyber-crime

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STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

In a resilient Melbourne, our diverse communities are viable, sustainable, liveable and prosperous.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Our shared places

A dynamic economy

A healthier environment

Empower communities to take active responsibility for their own and each other’s wellbeing, safety and health.

Provide diverse local employment opportunities that support an adaptable workforce that is ready for the jobs of the future.

Enable strong natural assets and ecosystems alongside a growing population.

Create and sustain buildings, infrastructure and activities that promote social cohesion, equality of opportunity and health.

Objectives

Action Areas

Today, tomorrow and together, we will take action to:

ADAPT
Reduce our exposure to future shocks and stresses

SURVIVE
Withstand disruptions and bounce back better than before

THRIVE
Significantly improve people’s quality of life

EMBED
Build resilience thinking into our institutions and ways of working

STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

In addition to the three flagship actions, there are:

15 SUPPORTING ACTIONS
15 ALIGNED LOCAL ACTIONS

STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

Metropolitan urban forest strategy
Integrated Water Management Framework
The Neighbourhood Project
New apartments trial for public housing residents
Local Government Renewables Group Purchasing
National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy
Association of Bayside Municipalities Adaptation Planning
Working with Melbourne’s tertiary and further education colleges and upper secondary schools to support STEM education
Ask Izzy

An emergency management community resilience framework for Victoria
Understanding drivers of community resilience
Community-based resilience compendium
Innovative insurance
IBM Smarter Cities Challenge and Twitter Data
Flood Management Strategy – Port Phillip and Westernport
Multicultural water safety and settlement
‘Refuge’, the role of art and culture in preparedness
Building preparedness through relationships in Koori and culturally and linguistically diverse communities

The metropolitan cycling network
Community-led neighbourhood renewal and development pilot projects
Citymart Challenge – involving citizens in mobility and transport
Young and Resilient Living Labs
STEM Mentoring Melbourne
Innovative business models
VicHealth Mental Wellbeing Strategy
Melbourne Metro Rail Project
Preventing Violence Together
30-year Infrastructure Strategy for Victoria
The Resilient Melbourne Delivery Office
City of Melbourne chair in resilient cities
Resilience Training for Local Government
Working to embed resilience and build social cohesion

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