

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MISSION

PRIORITISED CLIMATE ADAPTATION CHALLENGES

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PRIORITISED CLIMATE ADAPTATION CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION

This document summarises what we did in the prioritisation summit for the Climate Adaptation Mission, what we learned, and what the next steps are in the Mission.

WHY DID WE CONDUCT A PRIORITISATION SUMMIT?

On November 26, 2021, BehaviourWorks Australia conducted a prioritisation summit to determine which 4-6 climate change challenges to take forward into the intervention codesign phase. We recruited people with expertise or experience in climate adaptation to prioritise and discuss a list of climate change challenges. These challenges had been generated from a preceding survey and desktop review.

WHAT DID WE LEARN AT THE SUMMIT?

Prioritisation results

The following table outlines the Top 8 challenges overall, detailing the problem, group, and the number it came in the overall ranking.

Rank	Problem	Group
1	Reduced or changed economic activity / foundation	Communities dependent on NRM and natural capital
2	Environmental degradation	Communities dependent on NRM and natural capital
3	Water and food insecurity	Communities dependent on NRM and natural capital
4	Loss of social capital, communities, or forced climate migration	People living or working in areas with increased climate hazards
5	Loss of culturally important values, sites, or species	Traditional Owners
6	Injury, illness, and death	People with limited finances or assets
7	Injury, illness, and death	People with increased personal sensitivity
8	Environmental degradation	Traditional Owners

A more detailed description of the voting results from the Prioritisation Discussion are presented in the Appendix.

Themes from breakout room discussions

All groups reported that the results fitted their priorities, with many participants were not surprised by the top five challenges. Several noted that they expected mental and physical health challenges to be higher, especially mental health challenges relating to young people.

Four key considerations for next steps in the mission emerged from the discussion in the breakout rooms: Co-designing the interventions; Building on what's already being done; Recognising interconnected challenges; and Limitations of the process.

Co-designing the interventions

Co-designing the interventions, especially with NRM communities, Traditional Owners, and local governments, was highlighted as an important consideration. Advice for co-design with the following groups was offered:

- **NRM communities:** trusted messengers and champions are key. Emphasis should be on the practical next steps, valuing scarce time and resources, jargon-free communication, demonstration, and peer-to-peer learning. Workshops and seminars are not well attended, and word of mouth works well for recruitment. There is a risk of 'preaching to the converted' if we rely on existing networks.
- **Traditional Owners:** A deficit identified in the long listing process was the lack of success in inviting Traditional Owner organisations to participate in the summit (invited, but not available). The desktop review did draw on strategies and plans which themselves had extensive engagement in line with self-determination principles for Traditional Owners, but this does not compensate for a lack of involvement in the summit itself. There should be stronger partnerships with Traditional Owners in actions that address climate change, this will likely require removing barriers to participation such as paying for limited time.
- **Local government:** They are closest to the community. For example, LGAs are running programs around food strategy in Cardinia Shire to increase locally produced food. One breakout room discussed how we should try to connect community 'place-based' work with what the government is doing.

Build on what's already being done

Acknowledging and building upon what has already been done is important in making the most of this process. Participants noted that there is lots of work going on in Victoria regarding these challenges. In particular, one participant highlighted the work happening with Traditional Owners and communities dependent on NRM and natural capital around environmental degradation. They noted that we could expect incremental improvements if we work on challenges that are already being addressed, or we could choose to direct those efforts elsewhere. Participants also questioned how ambitious and transformational we want to be in our challenges, as this will influence what we do and who we do it with.

Recognising interconnected challenges

Several participants emphasised interdependencies between challenges. A health perspective, for example, can be taken on other issues such as loss of social capital or environmental impacts. Participants noted that a challenge (e.g., illness, injury, and death) could be addressed broadly rather than by targeting specific groups. It was also raised that addressing challenges for particular groups like NRM communities can have important flow-on effects for other groups, as they comprise an important foundation in the community.

Limitations of the process that participants highlighted

Participants noted that the prioritisation task was challenging and had several limitations. Firstly, the categorisation framework was questioned. For example, some participants suggested that NRM and

eco-tourism communities should not have been grouped together, and others commented that challenges such as 'Environmental degradation: Traditional Owners' and 'Loss of cultural values/sites/species: Traditional Owners' should not have been split apart. Food and water security related challenges, grouped under the meta-category of 'Environment', were argued to be more relevantly, and salient to communicate, as being under 'Health' by one participant. Another participant also highlighted that Traditional Owners may find our categorisation approach counterintuitive as they see everything as connected.

Secondly, participants voiced limitations concerning the voting and analysis process. Participants noted that there may not have been enough time to properly consider and vote on the different challenges. Further, certain biases, such as being familiar with challenges that are more visible, may have influenced voting. One group expressed concerns around aggregating the criteria (especially incremental and transformative potential) and questioned why the top 5 priorities were considered equal (suggesting weighting). Participants also reiterated that some of the middle-placed challenges may still offer good opportunities for behaviour change projects.

Lastly, several participants agreed that the prioritisation results may have been skewed by who attended the summit. For example, there were several people from NRM communities but no representation from Traditional Owners in the survey or summit (there was in the desktop review component). Subsequent analysis of information about participants, their roles and organisations suggest that NRM groups, while represented, did not dominate numerically, with the majority of participants working cross-cutting policy and practice roles.

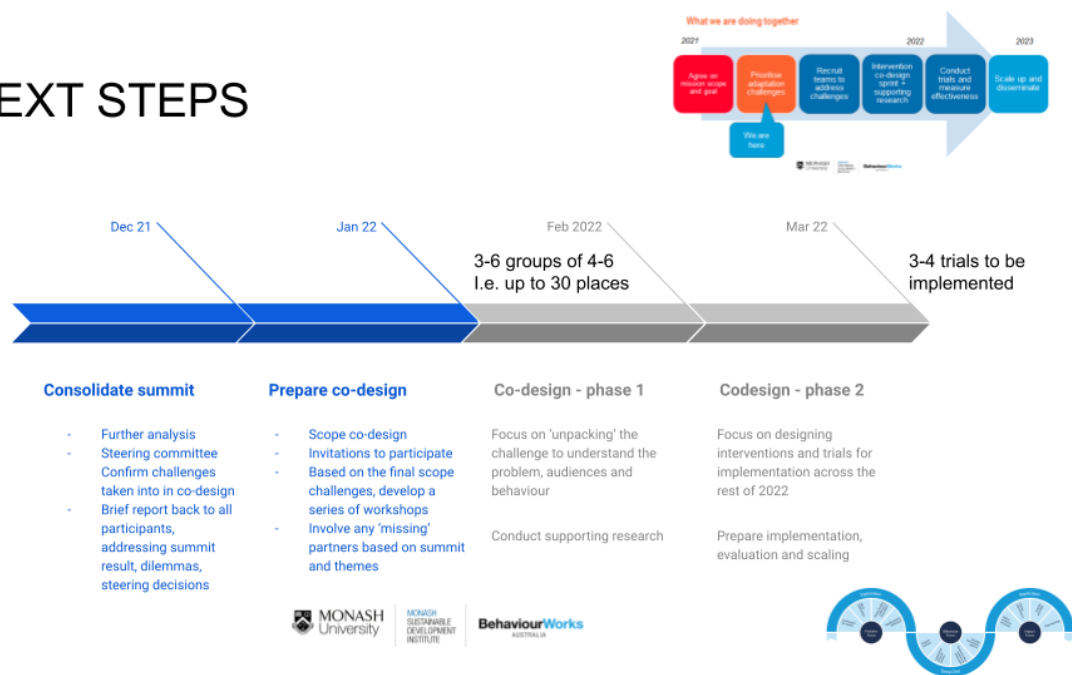
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CLIMATE ADAPTATION MISSION?

The next phase of the mission involves focusing co-design and intervention development activities on the challenges identified in the mission. We will look pragmatically at the top challenges and 'bundle them' in order to support somewhere between 3 and 6 groups to co-design a behaviour change intervention, drawing on the BWA method, and then implement trials. Three possible clusters of work might include:

- building adaptive capacity in communities dependent on NRM and natural capital and/or living and working climate hazard exposed areas, addressing one multiple challenges.
- Traditional Owners, cultural values and environmental decline.
- low income and health sensitivity populations and health outcomes.

This noted, the final composition and foci of the co-design phase will be decided and communicated via invitations to participate or support recruitment. Next steps are indicated in Figure 1, below.

NEXT STEPS



GETTING AND STAYING INVOLVED IN THE MISSION

You can stay involved in the Climate Adaptation Mission by:

- Signing up to receive updates about the Mission and its activities
- Joining a co-design team in early 2022 to learn about and apply behaviour science in creating 3-6 deployable behaviour change interventions
- Delivering the trial to test one of the behaviour change interventions during 2022
- Scaling up, adapting, and implementing tested interventions in 2023

For more information on the Mission, visit climateadaptationbehaviour.com.

APPENDIX: DETAILED VOTING RESULTS

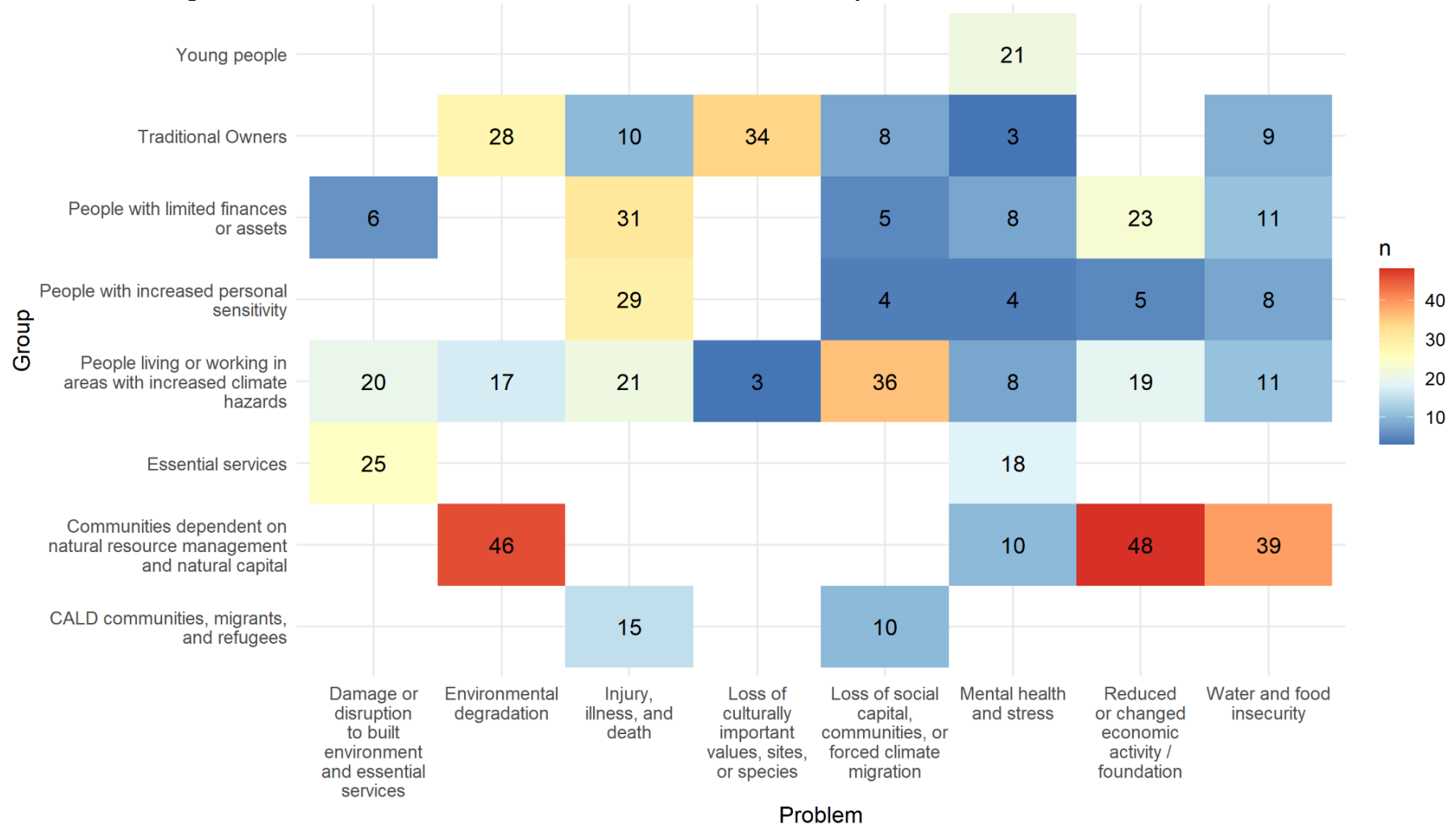
Prioritisation criteria

Attendees at the Prioritisation Summit assessed each of the climate adaptation challenges on six criteria. The criteria are summarised in the table below; a more detailed description of the criteria is provided in the Prioritisation Briefing report.

Criterion	Description
Collective benefit	Solving this problem for this group will "pay dividends" because it will help other groups solve other problems AND it does not shove the problem into another group's lap.
Chronic impacts	The group is experiencing a recurring, persistent and long-term problem that "adds up" over time.
Scale of opportunity	The problem means that the group will "miss out" on a lot of future value and wellbeing, or will cause the group a lot of suffering and harm if not addressed.
Transformational adaptation potential	The problem that the group is experiencing needs transformational adaptation, where the fundamental attributes, values or goals of the impacted system must change for the group to thrive in the face of climate change and variability.
Incremental adaptation potential	The problem that the group is experiencing needs incremental adaptation, where an otherwise valued and functional impacted system needs "tuning up" to keep it working well for the group in the face of climate change and variability.

Overall votes

Attendees completed an online survey where they chose the 'top 5' challenges (in the figure, 'problem') for each of six criteria independently. This figure describes the findings with votes across all criteria combined. The result is colour-coded by number of votes.



Votes by criterion

This figure describes the findings with each vote on each criterion. The result is colour-coded by number of votes.

