

# Future Thinking Forum 2018



**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018: 8.30 am to 5.30 pm**

**Venue:** *The Royal Society of Victoria, [8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.](#)*

## *Is Victoria's liveability resilient to extreme weather and a changing climate?*

To answer this question, The Royal Society of Victoria has partnered with Emergency Management Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Bureau of Meteorology, *Science into Action*, and Scientell to create a Future Thinking Forum. The Forum will share the latest information, foster collaboration, connect across sectors and plan to improve our long-term resilience.

### **What will happen on the day?**

The invitation-only Forum will involve the presentation and discussion of **two extreme weather and climate scenarios** from the Bureau of Meteorology, **public-sector challenges in four key streams** presented by senior Victorian State Government leaders and academic experts, based on the latest State of the Environment report and the Resilient Cities framework. Decision-makers will act as owners of a 'Public-Sector Challenge', focussing the discussions on solutions. Central to the Forum will be recognition of the parts of government responsible for different elements of the challenge, such as responses, policies and regulations.

The Forum will operate in a **Chatham House** format, strengthening networks between senior public-sector decision-makers and academics in Victoria. There will be two Forum outputs:

1. a policy-ready series of papers (Aspiration Statements) that synthesise the various issues and state of science into accessible language for decision-makers. These will describe plausible scenarios, critical questions, knowledge needs and future aspirations that lay out the knowledge, policy responses and social and infrastructure settings we would like to see in place before these scenarios eventuate.
2. a series of peer-reviewed scientific papers to be published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, an open-access, online journal focussed on science in Victoria, published with CSIRO.

## Focus streams:

While many areas could be discussed, this collaborative, team-building trans-disciplinary day will focus on four key streams: **Energy, Transport, Human Health, and Urban Liveability**.

For each stream, all participants will be asked to consider the following questions by imagining that they are in living in the scenario being discussed (i.e., in 10, 20 or 30 years' time). From that perspective, what are the big policy challenges in this scenario/issue? What would the community expect that we would have done before this point? What do we need to start/continue/stop/know now to prepare us for that future scenario?

### Energy

#### *the resilience of energy transmission and distribution in Victoria*

Building on the [Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Planning Framework](#) and [Victoria's Critical Infrastructure All Sectors Resilience Report](#), this stream will examine transmission and distribution of energy. What are the pressures on infrastructure under different scenarios? What do we know about its resilience to extreme weather and longer-term climate change? Are there predictable tipping and/or failure points? What network designs provide the best opportunities for resilience? What can we do now to innovate, prepare or avoid future challenges to energy transmission and distribution from extreme weather and longer-term climate changes? (Note the Forum's focus defers discussion of issues and opportunities in energy generation.)



The **Public-Sector Challenge** will be presented by: **Paul Murfitt**, Executive Director, Energy Sector Reform, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The **state of knowledge and innovation** will be presented by: **Professor Michael Brear**, Director, Melbourne Energy Institute, University of Melbourne



### Transport

#### *future transport mix, demand challenges and climate change resilience*

What will happen to Victorian transport modes and infrastructure in the future? What happens to our liveability when transport capabilities are challenged by severe weather, and major changes in climate? In April 2018, Infrastructure Victoria released two research papers about Victoria's transport future. One, entitled [Managing Transport Demand](#), contains insights for 2030 and beyond ([summary video here](#)). The second [report](#) outlines seven possible futures for the introduction of driverless and zero emissions vehicles ([summary video here](#)). Both contain challenges that become even more complex when overlaid with extreme weather and climate change scenarios. What do we know about other transport modes and infrastructure? How will climate change affect these future scenarios? What can be done now to prepare?



The **Public-Sector Challenge** will be presented by: **Louise Barrett**, Sustainability Manager, Rail Projects Victoria

The **state of knowledge and innovation** will be presented by: **Dr Allison Stewart**, Project Director, Automated & Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Advice, Infrastructure Victoria



## Human health

### *resilience to impacts of climate change on human health*

Building on the approaches taken by DHHS (and EPA) to [climate, weather and public health](#), and their key role in [advising Victorians on health](#), this stream will focus on what changes might be caused by extreme weather and/or longer-term climate change in Victoria. Are there predicted changes in environmental public health, disease loadings, types of sickness, or spread of diseases? Are there predicted changes in public health impacts from extreme weather and longer-term climatic changes? What can we do now to innovate, prepare or avoid future challenges?



The **Public-Sector Challenge** will be presented by: **Dr Danny Csutoros**, Senior Medical Advisor, DHHS

The **state of knowledge and innovation** will be presented by: **Professor Neville Nicholls**, Monash University



## Urban planning for liveability

### *planning resilience to a changing climate*

A liveable city must be resilient to extreme weather and climate change impacts. What tools do we have now to plan for climate change impacts? What are the elements of urban liveability most challenged by extreme weather events and longer-term changing climate? What do we know now? What can we do now to innovate, prepare or avoid these future challenges?



The **Public-Sector Challenge** will be presented by: **John Phillips** (Director, Planning Systems) OR **Peter Durkin** Principal Policy Advisor, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (*to be confirmed*)

The **state of knowledge and innovation** will be presented by: **Associate Professor Wendy Steele**, Cities and Sustainability, Centre for Urban Research and the School of Global, Urban and Social Sciences, RMIT University



## Who should attend

Senior leaders and decision-makers (e.g. Deputy Secretaries, Commissioners, CEOs, Executive Directors, Directors etc) in Victorian State and Local Government bodies with responsibility over Victorian public, urban and natural asset planning regulation, management, policy or operational activity and oversight.

## Format of the day

<b>Welcome Session</b>	Plenary: Welcome to Country and Scene Setting	MC, Wurundjeri Welcome, RSV, DELWP & EMV
	Plenary: Two plausible scenarios - an acute scenario (severe weather) and a longer-term scenario (climate step change).  	<b>Dr Andrew Tupper</b> , State Operations Manager, Bureau of Meteorology plus Dr Lynette Bettio and Steven McGibbony.
	Plenary: Victorian Environment – Interim State of Environment	<b>Dr Gillian Sparkes</b> – Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
	Plenary: What makes Cities Resilient?	<b>Toby Kent</b> – Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Melbourne
<b>Second Session</b>	<b>Energy, Transport, Human Health, and Urban Liveability</b> - Two presenters per topic - Public sector Challenges & the state of knowledge and innovation	As per above text.
<b>Third Session</b>	Break-out: deep dive into the streams and their inter-dependencies.	All
<b>Fourth</b>	Plenary: Bringing it together - over-arching themes – share collaborations & pathways to action	All
<b>Wrap up &amp; Mixer</b>	Next Steps & Mixer Drinks to close in the Burke & Wills Room	Hosted by RSV, EMV & DELWP

## Benefits of participation

The Forum represents a rare opportunity for senior Victorian government representatives and disciplinary leaders to share authority and expertise in identifying and responding to some of the most pressing challenges facing the liveability of our state. In this policy-science interface event, you will be an important contributor to significant cross-agency policy insights and development, and have a rich opportunity to deepen leadership connections across agencies, departments, sectors and disciplines.