

Climate Ready Communities Project Evaluation

2020

the
power of
humanity





This project was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the Government of South Australia through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, in partnership with Red Cross, the City of Holdfast Bay, the City of Marion, the City of Mitcham, and the City of Onkaparinga.

Resilient South



RESILIENT EAST

Climate Ready Eastern Adelaide



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The Climate Ready Communities project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the Government of South Australia through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, empowered self-organising community volunteers to spread climate preparedness and adaptation messaging and take local action.

The project aimed to empower people in communities to understand the natural hazard risks they currently face; the way these have, and will change because of climate change; and what they can do to build their resilience and that of their community.

The project was facilitated by Australian Red Cross in partnership with eighteen Adelaide metro and regional councils and was supported by a Steering Committee including local government and other emergency management sector representatives. It saw community members engaged, who were provided with training and then supported to take self-organising action, both individually and as collectives, in their community to increase climate preparedness.

Climate Ready Communities has successfully expanded earlier stages of the project by reaching, recruiting and training an additional 118 Climate Ready Champions who have taken a range of actions to prepare and educate their community with regards to climate adaptation.

This brings the total number of participants trained as Climate Ready Champions across the two phases of the program to 180.

Face to face training sessions were held at Christies Beach, Hawthorne, Adelaide, Marion (youth focused), Victor Harbor, Mount Barker, Glenunga and Modbury and online training was held with Holdfast Bay.

COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions brought unexpected challenges to both the roll-out of the program as well as to Champions' plans to deliver events and activities. Adaptations were made which turned Champions' focus to home preparedness activities as well as providing support for vulnerable members of their communities. Modifications were also made to the operation of the program, switching to 100% online delivery and networking activities for a period of time.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the Climate Ready Communities project saw Champions take at-home actions, hold events and have face-to-face and virtual conversations, reaching an estimated 1660 further people.



Climate Ready Communities Training at Modbury in February 2020.

With a strong cohort of over 300 people engaged in the online Climate Ready Communities online network, a series of virtual events and capacity building activities were run by the Project Officer as well as some that were facilitated by Champions in their chosen focus or expertise areas.

A self-guided online training was created by the Project Officer and Project Lead Volunteer to enable access to the program for regional or isolated prospective participants. Further development is recommended, with scope to utilise the recorded training module to broaden the reach of the program, particularly in more geographically isolated areas.

Red Cross' national conversation continues around the potential to expand the Climate Ready Communities program to other states and territories. The Emergency Services team in South Australia will continue to explore collaboration possibilities for sustainable delivery models in this space.

The evaluation process reinforced the benefits and constraints of supporting self-directed and self-organising volunteers, the advantages of collaborations between not-for-profit organisations & local government, as well the positive responses to using values based messaging to talk about getting prepared for climate change. It also outlined the importance of networking and increased opportunities to connect Champions together.

Key successes of the project included the increase in the network of 62 Climate Ready Champions to 180, the delivery of nine Climate Ready Champions workshops including one entirely virtual delivery, and a range of actions taken by Champions to help others to understand climate preparedness messaging. The project has been showcased at a number of conferences and events including the IFRC's Climate:RED summit and has been the subject of significant interest across Australia.

Key challenges in the project centred around intensity of human resources required to scale up the program in it's current form as well as the fluctuating nature of involvement of community members as self-organising volunteers. The self-organising volunteer model continued to be a key success of the project, and attracted volunteers of various 'age and stage' who had not previously engaged in Red Cross volunteering opportunities or programs.

The evaluation also revealed there is potential for more focus on connecting Champions with local government and building confidence in educating community on climate preparedness.

Following the success of the Climate Ready Communities project, the delivery model developed and refined throughout the project term is set to continue through partnership (on a fee-for-service cost recovery basis) between Red Cross and local government.

Every year households and communities are increasingly impacted by climate change and within the community there is a growing recognition that these effects are very real and here to stay. Whether it's bushfires, heatwaves, floods or cyclones, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more intense. Everyone is at some level of risk, with the poor and vulnerable likely to be hit the hardest. As such, it is essential that communities are supported to adapt to changing conditions.

The Climate Ready Communities (CRC) project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the Government of South Australia through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, was a twelve month project from 2019-2020 facilitated by Australian Red Cross. Climate Ready Communities successfully expanded on an award winning pilot project *Resilient South Aware and Adapt* (RSAA) from 2017-2019.

The Climate Ready Communities project aimed to educate and inspire people to better understand the hazard and risks they are facing and how climate change will amplify these in ways that demand urgent and sustained personal and community action to build resilience.



Video of Climate Ready Champion activity - property tours in June 2020 at Hartly, SA.

Participants (Champions) were equipped and supported by Red Cross in partnership with local governments, state government, and other NGOs. This project expanded to include more local government partners in addition to the **Resilient South** region (consisting of the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga); including **Resilient East**: Cities of Adelaide, Norwood, Prospect, Unley, Burnside, Campbelltown, Tea Tree Gully and the Town of Walkerville; and **Resilient Hills and Coasts**: Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker District, Alexandrina, Yankalilla Councils and the City of Victor Harbor. Community members were trained and equipped to initiate action, both individually and as collectives, in their community to increase climate preparedness and resilience.

In delivering this second stage, feedback from a range of stakeholders was considered.

The CRC project uniquely targeted conversations and action at the community level, specifically to improve preparedness by leading conversation on climate from a risk reduction perspective.

This report evaluates the success of the CRC project. Participant and stakeholder survey data was key to informing further recommendations.

Project Overview – Champions’ Training

The first stage of the CRC project was to facilitate Climate Ready Communities Training sessions. The trainings were well received and participants were highly engaged. The number of new participants was 118 joining the previous 62 Champions trained in the pilot project.

A smaller number of Champions (approximately 72) continued to actively engage with formal and non-formal activities post-training, however a large number of participants elected to join the Climate Ready Communities Facebook group as well as inviting others in their communities, resulting in over 300 members by the end of the project.

Training opportunities were primarily advertised through the partner councils (council newsletters, libraries, community centres), and Red Cross channels (volunteer database, social media, contacts in other organisations). Attendee bookings were made and managed through Eventbrite.

The trainings were facilitated by the Red Cross Project Officer, and included a range of guest speakers from local government, NGOs, and a Climate Ready Champion who had been trained in a previous training. The Red Cross Climate Ready Communities guide (available online), was used during the training as a key supporting resource.

At the beginning of each training session, a survey was conducted to ascertain the level of climate change understanding held by each participant. The purpose for the pre-training surveys was both to assist the facilitators to adapt to the requirements of the cohort and alter the time spent on specific parts of the training as well as to measure the outcomes of the training against a post-training survey.

The online training session held in April for Holdfast Bay had the largest non-attendance rate with only four of the 15 registered participants attending the training. This may be due to oversaturation of online events in the second quarter of 2020. More outreach engagement may have assisted in converting registrations into participants. Across the entire project, a total of 194 participants were recruited, with 180 attending training.



Climate Ready Champions Trainings: top at Victor Harbor in January 2020 and bottom at Mount Barker in February 2020.

The Champions trainings were delivered as one day sessions as this proved to have a better turn out than splitting the sessions, which was trialled in the RSAA pilot. Marion City Council held a youth focused training, split into two sessions to allow school students to attend. Training sessions were held at Christies Beach, Hawthorn, Adelaide, Marion (youth focused), Victor Harbor, Mount Barker, Glenunga, Modbury and Holdfast Bay’s training session was held using zoom online.

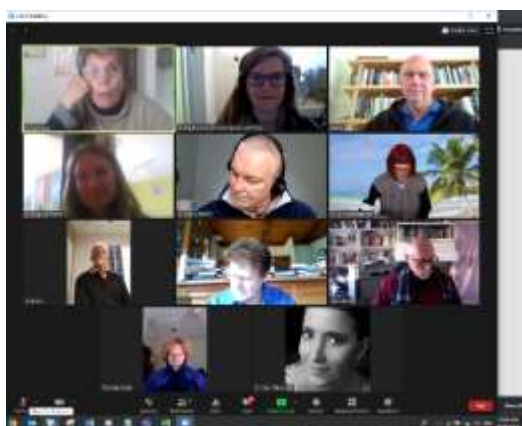
Project Overview – Champions’ Actions

Support for Champions

Champions were supported by the Project Officer following training to initiate change within their own networks. This included holding preparedness conversations; run community events; and take personal actions to increase climate resilience.

Ongoing engagement included monthly e-newsletters, the Climate Ready Communities Facebook group and periodical online surveys. Social media and email were used to efficiently communicate with the large group of self-organising Champions. A live online training program, a recorded training session, regular online Champions’ catch-up sessions and Champion facilitated workshops were all delivered via Zoom.

COVID-19 brought many initial challenges to the project’s participants as face-to-face information sharing and project organising were restricted. However many participants reported a positive outcome through the learning of new methods, especially the use of online communication.



A screenshot of an “Online Champs Catch Up” on zoom

Champions actions and community change

Qualitative measures of resilience building were collected through two main metrics based from the self-reporting of Champions: 1) the number and percentage of Champions reporting success utilising their existing networks and resources to become more prepared for climate impacts; and 2) the percentage of Champions who report that others have been made aware of climate preparedness on account of the Climate Ready Communities project.

Six Champions reported running an “event” with an additional four Champions who identified in comments that they’d run activities which constituted community events.

There were 59 “activities” reported by Champions to specifically broaden the understanding of others, which included events, conversations, talks to groups, assisted neighbours to take climate preparedness, or shared information on social media.

As COVID-19 heavily impacted Champion’s ability to hold events or activities in person, there was a reduction in Champion activity in March, April and May while solutions were generated. For some Champions, undertaking household based adaptation tasks became the main focus. For other Champions, having more conversations with their close networks about some of the commonalities between COVID-19 and climate change preparedness was also a key focus.

Project Overview – Champions’ Actions (cont.)

Small group online discussions with Champions and some Council staff throughout the COVID-19 restriction period enabled some collaborative projects to take place. This included the Climate Ready House signs, Climate Medicine workshop (pres. Champion Dr Kate Wylie) and Ecological Grief workshop (pres. Champion Rana Kokcinar.) Despite the considerable logistics involved in organising these events, the workshops were a success and laid technological groundwork for future sessions. Both workshops presented by Champions were recorded and will be made available to share more broadly in the network.

The Climate Ready House Signs resource was created collaboratively with Champions to help start climate ready conversations in their neighbourhood, especially during COVID-19. The signs were originally planned to take advantage of the increased numbers of people out walking, riding, jogging and having neighbourly conversations during March – May 2020. In addition, the resource has proven useful beyond of restrictions totalling 50 signs printed and distributed to Champions.



Champion Shani, a Resilient East resident has taken action with a Climate Ready sign, a street library and herb sharing box.

The “Climate Ready Champions Actions Toolkit” was collaboratively developed with Champions to support them with organising skills for events and groups. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the release of this resource was delayed to ensure appropriate modifications could be made to ensure physical distancing did not prevent Champions from taking action. A “COVID-19” edition was created and supplied to Champions in May 2020 with positive responses (below).



The success of the Climate Ready Champions Network was quantitatively measured by the number of Champions who had joined the network via the Facebook group. Around 40% (n=72) of the Champions who were recruited and trained joined the group. As of June 30th, there were 327 members, with 21% completed the training. The other 79% were invited to join or joined spontaneously. As some people use pseudonyms it was an imperfect exercise matching profiles to trained Champions, therefore these numbers are approximate. There is potential for those within the group yet to engage in training to form a new pool of training recruits.

Key Findings – Champions’ Feedback

Project Feedback – Champions’ Survey

A series of surveys and 1:1 conversations with Champions provided in-depth feedback for the monitoring and evaluation of the project, with data collected from around a third of the 118 Champions trained in 2019-2020.

Pre and post-training surveys were completed at each of the trainings as well as follow up online surveys approximately three months later. The surveys were used to assess and evaluate the outcomes of the training and progression of the Champions actions. An end-of-project evaluation survey was completed in the last two months of the project. Participants responded to questions about what they learned and what actions they took as a result of attending the training session as well as their likes, dislikes and any further support required.

Of the cohort of 180 Champions from the entire RSAA/Climate Ready project, approximately 25% responded to the end-of-project evaluation survey, while others responded to the initial follow-up surveys throughout the project. Close to 100% of respondents self-reported to have engaged in events and activities within their household or community. Actions taken by Champions included holding an event (18%), group talk (24%), 1:1 conversations (67%), assisted neighbours with preparedness (15%), shared information on social media (55%).

One Champion commented: *“We are working with our council regarding the declared emergency. Met and spoke with others that are concerned. Worked with other groups including Cittaslo.”*

Participants surveyed showed an overall increased understanding of actions required to build climate preparedness (Fig. 1).

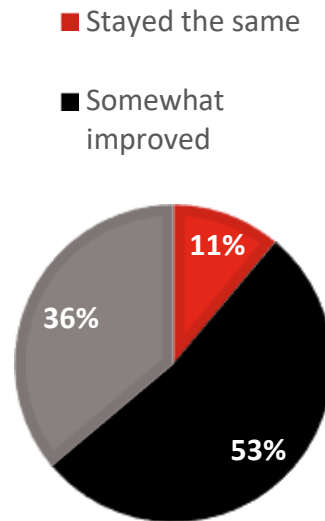


Figure 1: Do you feel that your knowledge about actions to prepare for climate change impacts has improved since being involved in the Climate Ready Communities program?

As illustrated in the word cloud below, the word *mitigation* had a higher prevalence compared with *adaptation* in the key learning responses. A topic in the training that participants found challenging was the difference and relationship between climate adaptation and mitigation actions, many reported this as being an important learning outcome. There was also a high number of requests for the training and subsequent development opportunities to include more content on climate mitigation at a community level.



Survey generated word cloud for Q.10: What were the key things you learnt as part of the Climate Ready Communities program that you were able to communicate to others?

Key Findings – Champions’ Feedback (cont.)

A large majority (75%) of respondents reported ‘trying something new’ after being part of Climate Ready Communities (Fig. 2), a very positive result.

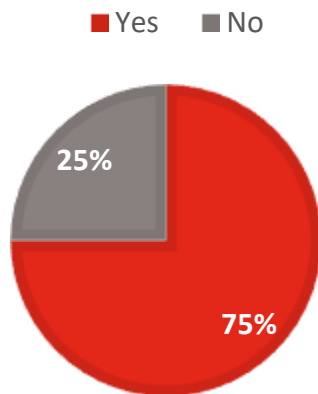


Figure 2: Have you tried something new on account of being part of the Climate Ready Communities program? (eg. spoken to someone new, run an event, planted trees or vegie garden, invited someone to the Facebook Group).

Similarly, a large majority (75%) of Champions were also able to share their climate preparedness knowledge within their own networks and broaden the understanding of others. This positive result illustrates the effectiveness of the values based conversations content in both the training sessions and the Climate Ready Communities reference guide.

While both of these positive results indicates success in regards to empowering participants to take climate preparedness actions, the results and accompanying feedback demonstrate that there is scope to improve and expand on training sessions.

The 36 Champions who responded reported speaking to an average of 46 people each about climate preparedness which equated to a total of 1660 people. If this average were to be extrapolated to the total group of 118 Champions trained in 2019-20, the reach of Champion engagement can be estimated at approximately 5,441 people. When including the original 62 Champions who were trained in the pilot, the estimated reach is over 8200, taking into account COVID-19 restrictions and variations in engagement in the program.

Comments around key learnings from Champions included:

“Caring for the local community is the basis of effective communicating, people are more likely to change if they can see concrete examples of what others are doing, start with small changes because everything helps.”

“Adaptation can be as important as mitigation. To bring people along with you rather than lecturing at them. There are lots of resources available.”

“Sharing ideas with others. Group work has many benefits. Good facilitators (like these) are very important.”

“This program was not what I thought it was going to be. I did not realise it was just a grass roots program, I thought it might actually be working with the council, government and businesses to implement big change strategies.”

Key Findings – Stakeholder Feedback

Project Feedback – Stakeholder Survey

A stakeholder survey for partnering councils was conducted to gain feedback around perception, satisfaction and suggested recommendations for improving the program.

There were five responses from a range of councils which revealed a medium-high level of satisfaction in terms of expectations but a high level of overall satisfaction with the project. Importantly, the responses highlighted that council partners highly value the Climate Ready Champions. It was noted that two of the five respondents were also part of the Steering Committee.

There was a varied level of involvement from the respondents, with some attending regular online catch-up sessions with Champions and others only peripherally involved. There were varied expectations of the project as well as preferred levels of information about the progress of Champions activities.

Specific requests from stakeholders included having direct access to Champions' contact details (which has been a request from the pilot program), following up on verbal commitment to provide a "presenters training" to Champions, exploring ways to increase Champion's participation in online forums, working through overlap in content with other programs such as Living Smart and improving the engagements and content relevancy on the Climate Ready Communities facebook group.

The stakeholder group were also asked to consider their role in the project. Responses seen in the table below show a high level of agreement across 4 areas:

- Provide information about events, activities and opportunities across my community
- Promote my organisation's events and programs to Champs network
- Provide information to others within my organisation about what community members want
- Helping to moderate online network is not their role

while there were several with low levels of agreement of the stakeholder's role:

- I have a passive role and don't need to actively engage
- Provide resources to equip Champs to take actions (workshops, how-to-guides, conversational tips, adaptation & mitigation action ideas etc)

Stakeholders also responded to what they expected Red Cross' role to be, there was a far more consistent level of agreement across the areas outlined below.



Key Findings – Key Highlights

Despite the challenging operating environment, the project had a number of outstanding moments to report.

There was a great uptake in Champions reaching out to their neighbours to check on their general welfare around the pandemic. The “Hello Neighbour” card (below) was adapted from the Red Cross version by a Champion to reach out and offer assistance to people nearby who may be isolated.



Left: Hello Neighbour card, Right: Monthly newsletter by Lead Volunteer Lynwen

Monthly emails continued, facilitated by Lead Volunteer, Lynwen, and were well received by Champions while the Facebook platform became increasingly popular, growing from 280 members to over 320 by June 2020. Interactions also increased with numerous posts and engagements initiated mostly by Champions each day, with some content being added by Council staff and the Project Officer and Lead Volunteer.

Another Champion, Daryl, and his wife held property tours at their place at Hartley, showing the adaptations they had made to prepare for climate driven extreme weather events, while also reducing their environmental footprint.

Two groups of Climate Ready Champions were taken on tours and assisted with some revegetation and maintenance of older revegetated areas. Daryl educated the Champions about the purpose of the revegetation, to prevent erosion and stabilize the soil in heavy rains, and winds, helping to protect his home in extreme weather and increasing biodiversity.

A series of online events was created for Champions to participate in, to remain engaged and supported in taking action. Through the “Online Champs Catch Up” sessions held through zoom video calls, two Champions initiated a “masterclass” workshop each – “Climate Medicine” and “Ecological Grief”. These sessions were informative and shifted the transfer of information from authorities (Red Cross, Local Government etc.) to Champions in a peer-to-peer environment. The workshops led to fruitful conversations and more connections made between Champions. Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board (now Green Adelaide) assisted with extra funding for these sessions to be recorded and shared with the network.



Left: Champion Daryl & Doriana's facebook invitation to their property Right: promotional poster for online events

Key Challenges

Persistent and new challenges presented themselves across the course of the Project. The persistent challenge revolved around monitoring and evaluating the fantastic self-directed work of the Champions, particularly the impact of the informal community conversations. To overcome this challenge more regular surveys were created to assess Champions reach, impact, and to collect stories. Surveys often had to be followed up with reminder emails but had less than a third uptake.

The Monitoring and Evaluation plan proved to have some ineffectual and unrealistic strategies. Quarterly phone calls were included as a main source of monitoring Champions activities but proved too resource intensive while simultaneously training and providing ongoing support to Champions with activities and resources. Even though the frequency of phone calls had been reduced to quarterly, as numbers grew beyond what was expected (with the original 62 plus an additional 118 Champions) capacity to make these calls became an issue. Facebook and email were subsequently used primarily for Champion communication.

During the Black Summer bushfires, the project's capacity was heavily impacted due to re-deployment of the Project's Lead Volunteer to emergency response. The Project Officer (staff) was subsequently required to take on these additional tasks.

Although there were positive reports from Champions about their increased preparedness for emergencies, Champion's community based activities were also reduced due to a variety of impacts from the bushfires and heatwaves as well.

A "Climate Ready Community Educators" training session was also being planned by the project volunteer. This training was planned for early 2020 but due to widespread emergencies, this was also unable to take place.

Online coordination of the Champions network became vital to the project during COVID-19, using the Facebook platform, emails and e-newsletter to communicate with the 180 Champions as well as surveys to gauge Champions activities. In lieu of face-to-face capacity development, Coffee catch-ups were moved to an online format. There was a combination of significant push back to the unfamiliar online format, while others keenly embraced the change, citing reduced travel, time and emissions.

Procuring new software to enable online activities was relatively fast (such as Zoom) but uptake from Champions was varied; initially slow for some who were unfamiliar with the technology, while others who were already ofay with and regularly using online video calls for multiple reasons dropped off due to "Zoom fatigue".

Key Findings – Champion’s Needs

Key Challenges – cont’d

The widespread interruptions to people’s routines due to both the bushfires and global pandemic greatly impacted on extra-curricular activities. This made engaging with and motivating people far more difficult as their focus and energy was spent on adjusting to constant changes.

Project managing in the constantly changing situation also required additional capacity to transition all program operations to online platforms and continue motivating Champions to remain connected to the program.

Outside of COVID-19 and the bushfires, other barriers that Champions reported prevented them from taking action included:

- *Lack of confidence, experience or skills to pull events together or organise groups of people*
- *Not enough understanding of council rules or laws*
- *Being a renter created too many barriers to take actions at home*
- *Not feeling legitimate in asking others to take actions if they hadn’t done so themselves*
- *Not enough time/overcommitted*
- *Adaptation actions are expensive to take*

Champion’s Needs

The Champions survey asked what needs were outstanding for Champions to take action. Below are some of the comments received

- *I believe I work well in teams rather individually. I also am not sure how to organise events in my community or how to spread the word. I think I need a team to work in.*
- *I did attend one of the climate ready training where they encouraged us to take steps of our own and help spread the word in our communities. However, I think I still need a helping hand*
- *I need to have conversations with someone else with similar ideas to develop a common direction and that’s not happening at the moment. I guess I need to have comfortable one to one conversations*
- *Ongoing contact with climate ready champions - its been a really project for me. Having support of like minded people has given me courage. I'd like to see this programme continue, with repeat treating days at my council and others and continued online events*
- *Possibly the opportunity for ongoing conversations? Possibly involvement with a group where conversations can keep happening and getting to know each other happens. I would have liked to meet the people in my training again a few times to have conversations about their circumstances and their climate activities. My goals identified at the training were not heartfelt and were developed too quickly. They lack any sense of ‘I can do this’.*

A range of recommendations for any further iterations of Climate Ready Communities has been compiled from Champion and stakeholder surveys, anecdotal feedback and Project Officer observations.

Reflections on constraints from the Project Officers perspective revolve around the touch-points for Champions as well as issues of scale. A single training session is not enough face-to-face support as half of participants said they felt "somewhat supported" but also couldn't identify what they needed. This issue was initially overcome through regular contact from the Project Officer via phone conversations and facilitated catch-ups with other Champions. However, as the program has grown, there is no longer enough time or capacity to maintain this level of support. A change in training structure and curriculum is recommended to both train (including initial follow up from training) and equip Champions to take further actions as the number of trainings and Champions increases.

To address the needs expressed by Champions, a recommendation based on constructivist educational theory is to employ scaffolded learning to better foster individual and community action after participating in the session. Through scaffolded learning, 'the expert fades from the learning situation as the novice masters the necessary skills within meaningful activities' (QLD Curriculum & Assessment Authority, 2018). Multiple early and intensive interactions help embed the knowledge, while progressively reduced interactions encourage a transfer of

ownership and direction to the learner, empowering them to self-direct their activities. A structure that incorporates multiple training sessions with scheduled opportunities to link up with other Champions post-training will aim to address the needs for more confidence building and more teamwork and connection among Champions.

Another recommendation for change in curriculum is to incorporate a topic around identifying an actionable goal and strategic planning to achieve it, using a mock scenario and real-life case studies.

In addressing the feedback from stakeholders to increase connections between Champions and Councils &/or Resilient Regions, an administrative change is recommended in transferring ownership of registration platform. The registrations had been managed via Eventbrite by Red Cross Project Officer, however a transfer to Councils managing registrations would provide direct access to Champions contact details. If Councils have identified that they have capacity to directly engage with Champions, they can follow up at their discretion, in accordance with privacy laws.

Another recommendation for linking previous Champions with Councils, is for the Project Officer to oversee volunteer capacity utilised to individually contact Champions via phone to obtain consent to pass on their contact details to Councils who have requested this. Champions may at the same time be re-engaged in further activities.

The Climate Ready Communities project successfully achieved positive outcomes, despite a challenging environment presented by national bushfire emergencies and a global pandemic. The feedback from both participants and stakeholders demonstrated an enthusiasm for the project to adapt and continue. The project has garnered great interest from Red Cross interstate and overseas.

The project provided a platform for engagement, learning and connection for those in the community who are concerned about climate change, disaster resilience, what actions they can take to prepare and how to talk about this to other people. The Climate Ready Champions built resilience in their communities in a way that fit with their existing lifestyle, often focusing on household preparedness, as self-directed volunteers with support from Red Cross and Council partners.

This support was provided through the initial Climate Ready Champions training, subsequent engagement and motivation, and collaborating on projects and ideas to create new resources for the network. Champions found regular communication, encouragement and connection with others extremely helpful, as well as the sharing of ideas and real-life examples of climate and extreme weather preparedness.

Key lessons include adapting to a completely online environment, limitations to intensive support at scale and the growing need for connecting Champions to each other as like-minded people.

As the program scaled-up, many participants expressed a desire for more personal engagement to deepen their understanding and skills to take action. Similarly, it was observed that 1:1 or facilitated small group conversations were most effective in increasing activity but were also time and resource intensive.

A clear trade-off exists between increasing the number of trainings in new locations/ recruiting more Champions and being able to engage deeply with new participants - breadth over depth. Reaching Champions mainly through passive electronic means (email, Facebook posts within group) has a limited impact.

Overall, the Climate Ready Communities Project engaged communities in meaningful household and community level action. The project delivery model was both community-facing and community-led.

The Climate Ready Champions showed versatility to communicate the need for urgent climate preparedness action to a wide and diverse audience.

The evaluation of the project with Champions and other stakeholders reinforced the success of the project and an enthusiasm to see more climate resilient communities into the future.

Reference List

- Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (2018): "Scaffolding" <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/transition-school/continuity-curriculum-pedagogies/resource-list/scaffolding>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C (SR15), <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Appendix 1. Key outcomes of the project

Outcome	Comments
Communities are more aware of the risks facing them including those identified in Zone Emergency Risk Assessment and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plans.	The Climate Ready Champions training addressed local projections and explored specific risks most relevant to their situation. Training also included in-depth discussion and group activities exploring actions at both individual and community levels for different examples of risks.
Communities better understand the way in which current risks may change in the future because of climate change.	Climate change science including information on unpredictability and increased intensity were explored through activities in the training using the Climate Ready Communities Guide. Participants explored these potential changes in relation to tangible valued elements in their lives that may be impacted and how they could adapt and prepare.
Information about natural hazard risks and climate change is delivered by community leaders, rather than officials, and is contextualised to local experiences and values.	Champions delivered information to their own networks through a variety of modes including events, stalls, talks to community groups, 1:1 conversations and sharing information on social media.
Community members lead action in their community, fostering ownership of activities and outcomes.	Champions decided the best ways to take action in their own lives, both through tangible preparedness actions and through communication and education. A particular focus of actions was neighbourhood resilience building through connecting to potentially vulnerable neighbours through out heatwaves, bushfires and the global pandemic.
The delivery method of information, and preparedness and resilience building activity, is driven and delivered by community members in response to their unique community context and strengths.	Depending on their level of comfort, confidence, time, capacity and COVID-19 impacts, Champions initiated actions independent of Project Officer as well as sought support from others in the Champions the network, mostly online.
Community leadership capacity is developed and strengthened through capacity development activities and improved relationships between emergency management agencies, local Councils, environmental agencies, NGOs and community.	Online Champions catch-up sessions connected Champions with each other, Red Cross and Council staff to build relationships and share information. These sessions led to two "master class" workshops presented by Champions in their field of expertise. This area has great potential to be built upon in future, including identifying and equipping Champion mentors.
Climate Ready Champions established a network of peer support and information sharing for future action.	The Facebook group has grown to over 320, with most content generated by Champions. Sharing of information, examples and experiences has been positive but the platform could be better utilised for peer-to-peer support and community organising.
A sustainable funding model is established for ongoing coordination of the program.	The increased training sessions and initial interactions between Red Cross facilitators and Champions with each other aims to boost the self-directed and self-organised outcome component and reduce the long term support required currently. The Climate Ready Communities project will continue to be delivered in partnership between Red Cross and local government on a fee-for-service cost recovery basis.

Appendix 2. Trainings and events coordinated or supported by the Project Officer

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES

STAGE 2 PROJECT POINT-IN-TIME REPORT

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
Oct 2019	Christie Downs	Climate Ready Communities Training	9
Oct 2019	Hawthorne	Climate Ready Communities Training	10
Nov 2019	Adelaide City	Climate Ready Communities Training	6
Nov/Dec 2019	Marion	Climate Ready Communities Training	14
Jan 2020	Victor Harbor/ Alexandrina	Climate Ready Communities Training	29
Feb 2020	Mount Barker	Climate Ready Communities Training	11
Feb 2020	Glenunga	Climate Ready Communities Training	18
Feb 2020	Modbury	Climate Ready Communities Training	16
April 2020	Online/Holdfast Bay	Climate Ready Communities Training	4
April 2020	Online	Climate Ready Champs Catch-Up #1	6
May 2020	Online	Climate Ready Champs Catch-Up #2	8
May 2020	Online	Lunch with a local - Monica Oliphant	8
May 2020	Online	Climate Ready Champs Catch-Up #3	9
June 2020	Online	Climate Medicine Workshop - Dr Kate	7
June 2020	Online	Ecological Grief Workshop - Rana	9
June 2020	Online	Champs Networking Event	5
June 2020	Online	Champs Networking Event	3
May-June 2020	Online	Champions Evaluation Survey	36

Appendix 3. Actions taken to be prepared for climate change Impacts, as reported by Climate Ready Champions

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'm acting to help prepare the community to prepare for cc by understanding its impacts particularly on biodiversity.	7/20/2020 7:21 PM
2	I'm acting to help prepare the community to prepare for cc by understanding its impacts particularly on biodiversity.	7/8/2020 8:03 PM
3	Adaptation: Gardened to produce my own food. Got chooks. Mitigation: divested, rescued red meat consumption, reduced driving, got an electric bike.	6/25/2020 11:21 AM
4	Closing doors, organising better insulation, water saving devices and actions	6/23/2020 8:56 PM
5	Prepare myself for extreme weather in small ways e.g. more blankets for winter, talking to my family about bushfire preparedness	6/23/2020 7:32 PM
6	I feel I personally have already done as much within my means as I can with the house & garden. I have made more connections with neighbours, with a bit of info about how local communities can support each other more.	6/23/2020 1:53 PM
7	I haven't been able to take actions on community level such as organising an event etc. However, I do make sure that I spread the word about the issues surrounding climate change to my family and friends. I often talk to them about climate change and how we should tackle it on individual level.	6/22/2020 8:38 PM
8	greening my yard with more vegetation and understanding the positive impact of this, composting worms, chickens, arranging neighbour get together to show we are there for each other	6/15/2020 6:12 PM
9	Water retention, eliminating gas, planting trees, tanks, swales,	6/10/2020 9:00 PM
10	Part of me thinks I haven't done much since I haven't changed much. However we did fix our verandah which helps the heat in summer.	5/27/2020 7:23 PM
11	Cleared flammable trees near house. Installed roof sprinklers and system connected to pump and tanks to fight fires	5/27/2020 6:45 PM
12	Cool retreat, outdoor kitchen, WSUD, etc.	5/20/2020 9:13 AM
13	Not enough as yet! Bought a couple of wicking beds and have also potted out a bunch of pots that were languishing so I now have a range of veggies and herbs in progress. Need to make significant changes in my housing situation - but that's not an easy fix.	5/20/2020 12:52 AM
14	Joined groups supporting the environment and sustainability	5/19/2020 9:43 PM
15	I have the knowledge, however, I cannot enact them fully because I live in a shared-rented space.	5/19/2020 4:44 PM
16	I am planting own vegetable and store or give away other. Also talk people my knowledge.	5/19/2020 4:19 PM
17	Planted trees, veggies, connected with neighbours	5/12/2020 10:58 PM
18	Prepared a climate ready pack. Garden is ready Planting trees on my own property for shade as well as contacting Council to suggest locations for trees.	5/12/2020 8:46 PM
19	Just a few practical things like clearing gutters and fixing down pipes to cope with the heavy rain we have had. Arranged to install a bigger solar system and battery storage on the house.	5/12/2020 6:29 AM
20	Modifications of home and garden to cope better with a warmer climate.	5/11/2020 12:40 PM
21	installed 3 rain water tanks, constructed shade structures around the house, installed solar panels, planted drought tolerant plants and trees, put up shade over the summer vegetable gardens, worked out a bushfire plan	5/7/2020 4:09 PM
22	Building community!	5/7/2020 3:00 PM
23	Growing seedlings to give away, using grey water and rain water to water the garden, wearing clothes from natural fibres that are sustainably sourced, growing food, using less electricity, walking to the shops.	5/7/2020 2:16 PM
24	Planted. Fire blanket in car. Water sensitive. Secured things around yard	5/7/2020 1:08 PM
25	Make sure I know the neighbours, renovated the kitchen with energy efficient layout & insulation.	5/6/2020 9:21 PM
26	Built a sustainable house, drive an EV and taken more public transport, growing own vegetables and fruit, built up community connections	5/6/2020 4:43 PM
27	Replaced hot water service and renewed solar panels; Changed sections of garden to be less demanding of resources	5/6/2020 4:09 PM
28	House: (double glazing, solar panels, window furnishing, retractable awning on northern face) Garden: Local native plants, irrigation system	5/6/2020 3:30 PM
29	Started a new veggie garden	5/6/2020 3:25 PM
30	I have a survival pack now and try to understand what is recyclable and what goes into the waste bin. Reduce our household waste and utilities green waste better. Being careful not to buy unnecessary packaging.	5/6/2020 1:40 PM
31	Action plan and more sustainable practices	5/6/2020 1:08 PM

Appendix 4. Champions reported trying something new on account of being part of the Climate Ready Communities program

#	IF YES, WHAT DID YOU DO?	DATE
1	Invited to FB group, spoken to someone new (outside my bubble), ran an event.	6/25/2020 11:21 AM
2	Tried to make my house garden and travel more efficient, energy wise. Also to contact my neighbours.	6/23/2020 8:56 PM
3	Talked to people about it and started a neighbourhood facebook group so we at able to communicate with neighbors during times of crisis (and other times too!)	6/23/2020 7:32 PM
4	spoken to someone new (neighbours) & helped facilitate an event	6/23/2020 1:53 PM
5	be more sustainable, enjoying the garden	6/15/2020 6:12 PM
6	Reduced my water usage	6/15/2020 3:42 PM
7	Collect preshower water in bucket	6/10/2020 9:00 PM
8	Gave a talk to community about ecological grief	5/27/2020 7:23 PM
9	Planted 500 trees and cleared trees too	5/27/2020 6:45 PM
10	Run workshops, help organise the Climate Ready Forum, started trying to plan one for the Hills, implemented further changes at home etc.	5/20/2020 9:13 AM
11	Joined the 'Green team' at work to help with their initiatives, have tried to tackle the 'difficult' conversations, bought a couple of wicking beds and have been growing veggies (but if I'm honest that was really more due to the Living Smart course than the Climate Ready training)	5/20/2020 12:52 AM
12	Tried planting our own veggies and composting	5/19/2020 9:43 PM
13	I spoke and informed my friends about climate ready program.	5/19/2020 4:44 PM
14	I invited people FB	5/19/2020 4:19 PM
15	Mail drop	5/12/2020 10:58 PM
16	I have reconnected with an old friend and her daughter through the Facebook page for climate ready communities. It's not direct action, but has been good to have contact with someone with similar ideas.	5/12/2020 6:29 AM
17	Expanded my network contacts. Liaised with environment officer at Local Council regarding public education.	5/11/2020 12:40 PM
18	spoke to Willunga Garden Club about CRC	5/7/2020 4:09 PM
19	Met new people	5/7/2020 3:00 PM
20	Growing more plants/food to give away and buying locally more.	5/7/2020 2:16 PM
21	Planted more, discussed climate change actions more and attended rallies	5/7/2020 1:08 PM
22	I've spoken to more people about CC but I've been living CC for years so not much is "new"	5/6/2020 9:21 PM
23	Recycled more waste	5/6/2020 4:43 PM
24	Spoke to two groups; Walking group and Men's Breakfast	5/6/2020 4:09 PM
25	Planting local native plants	5/6/2020 3:30 PM
26	Gave a talk that included Climate Change readiness	5/6/2020 3:25 PM
27	I speak to others about being mindful with single use plastics and ask them to consider their options	5/6/2020 1:40 PM
28	Planted trees, spoke to family about action plan	5/6/2020 1:08 PM

Appendix 5. Any other actions Champions are currently doing, or plan to do, to get prepared for climate change impacts or to help spread the climate ready message.

#	IF YES, PLEASE OUTLINE	DATE
1	Project to cool the burbs by planting trees etc	7/20/2020 7:30 PM
2	I run an entity called Climate Medicine (https://www.climatemedicine.net) which educated people about the health effects of climate change	6/25/2020 11:26 AM
3	I facilitate conversations for Climate for Change	6/23/2020 9:34 PM
4	Stay connected with my neighbors and make a plan for summer	6/23/2020 7:35 PM
5	Considering a climate feelings type event for the CRC group	6/23/2020 2:10 PM
6	ask for trees planted at work	6/15/2020 6:23 PM
7	Eating More locally grown produce	6/15/2020 3:44 PM
8	Working out how to make meaningful contact with people outside the green bubble	6/10/2020 9:05 PM
9	Ecological grief workshop	5/27/2020 7:26 PM
10	Connect with neighbours before next fire season	5/27/2020 6:48 PM
11	More workshops and festival of climate action for hills.	5/20/2020 9:15 AM
12	Just at the moment, no, because I honestly barely have time to think.	5/20/2020 1:03 AM
13	Go-bag kit	5/19/2020 9:47 PM
14	Just used to FB for information	5/19/2020 4:31 PM
15	Installed a rain tank, growing veggies, bees	5/12/2020 11:03 PM
16	Currently re structuring my garden and looking for solutions to excess storm water in an old house where everything has to be fitted around what already exists.	5/12/2020 7:10 AM
17	having the house and garden open for Sustainable House Day, installing an adapted grey-water system, creating a native garden on the vergebio	5/7/2020 4:32 PM
18	Wild South is ongoing	5/7/2020 3:03 PM
19	Keep planting seeds on social media	5/7/2020 1:10 PM
20	Keep talking	5/6/2020 9:39 PM
21	I plan to use EV as house battery, open house again for SHD 2020 (Covid permitting), run workshops on CC preparedness	5/6/2020 4:44 PM
22	Applying as a curriculum writer for secondary science	5/6/2020 3:37 PM
23	Rotary talking to members trying to get our club to be environmentally aware and recycle at our events. BBQ etc..	5/6/2020 1:46 PM
24	all the usual	5/6/2020 1:40 PM