

IMPACTS ON HEALTH

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Climate change already impacts significantly on global health, and Victoria will be no exception in experiencing some of the health burden associated with climate change. These changes will overlap and interact with existing public health trends and challenges rather than represent new types of illnesses per se. Heat-waves, diminished air quality, fires, floods and droughts clearly can have direct impacts on human health. And no less important are the indirect effects of lost livelihood and/or socioeconomic disadvantage that can have

immense flow on mental health and wellbeing of communities. How we prepare our communities to adapt to these changes can have a major bearing on their capacity to cope with these changes in future decades. Concurrently there are enormous incentives to encourage the community to take up win-win activities that reduce global greenhouse emissions and at the same time improve health, especially as public health policy makers also try to tackle the challenge of Non Communicable diseases such as rising Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular diseases.