



# Community Services Committee

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Date of meeting: 28 June 2022  
Location: Council Chambers  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES



**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes: 28 June 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, on 28 June 2022, commencing at 5:05pm.

### ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Councillor Barry Calvert, Hawkesbury City Council (Chairperson)  
Councillor Sarah McMahon, Hawkesbury City Council  
Councillor Les Sheather, Hawkesbury City Council  
Councillor Danielle Wheeler, Hawkesbury City Council

**Audio-Visual Link:** Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, Hawkesbury City Council

**In Attendance:** Mr Laurie Mifsud, Hawkesbury City Council  
Ms Meagan Ang, Hawkesbury City Council  
Mr Andrew Kearns, Hawkesbury City Council  
Ms Tracey Easterbrook, Hawkesbury City Council  
Ms Amy Birks - Minute Secretary, Hawkesbury City Council

### Attendance Register of Community Services Committee

Member	26/04/2022	28/06/2022
Councillor Barry Calvert	A	✓
Councillor Lyons-Buckett	A	✓
Councillor Sarah McMahon	✓	✓
Councillor Les Sheather	✓	✓
Councillor Danielle Wheeler	✓	✓

**Key:** A = Formal Apology    ✓ = Present    X = Absent - no apology

### APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The General Manager received a written request from Councillor Lyons-Buckett to attend the meeting by audio-visual link.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor Wheeler and seconded by Councillor Sheather that Councillor Lyons-Buckett attend the meeting via audio-visual link.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests made.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor McMahon and seconded by Councillor Sheather that the Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on the 26 April 2022, be confirmed.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes: 28 June 2022

### SECTION 2 - Reports for Determination

**Item: 001**                      **CS - WSROC Heat Smart Program - (151937)**

**Previous Items:**            2, Community Services (26 April 2022)  
069, Ordinary (29 March 2022)

**Directorate:**                City Planning

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Ms Kelly Gee, Project and Policy Officer, WSROC, addressed the meeting and presented on the impacts of urban heat, key outcomes to date, and next steps associated with the Heat Smart Project, including ongoing partnerships and collaboration with councils, including Hawkesbury City Council. A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes, as Attachment 1.

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council Officers continue involvement on the WSROC Heat Smart Program, and projects associated with addressing the impacts of urban heat.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillor McMahon, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. Council Officers continue involvement on the WSROC Heat Smart Program, and projects associated with addressing the impacts of urban heat.
2. Council develop a motion to Local Government NSW regarding inclusion of heatwaves as Natural Disasters and revision of the National Building Code and Basix to include heat resilience.
3. Council consider developing a long term Heat Plan.
4. Council request the General Manager to nominate a staff member to become a Heat Coordinator.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**AT - 1** Copy of Presentation - WSROC Heat Smart Program.

**For the Motion:**                Councillors Calvert, Lyons-Buckett, McMahon, Sheather and Wheeler.

**Against the Motion:**            Nil.

**Absent:**                            Nil.

The meeting was terminated at 6:12pm.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Copy of Presentation - WSROC Heat Smart Program



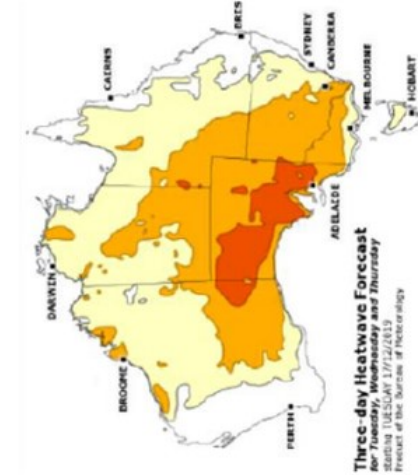
## Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action Plan





# Heat and Western Sydney | What do we mean by heat?

The issue of heat is multi-faceted, with multiple drivers.



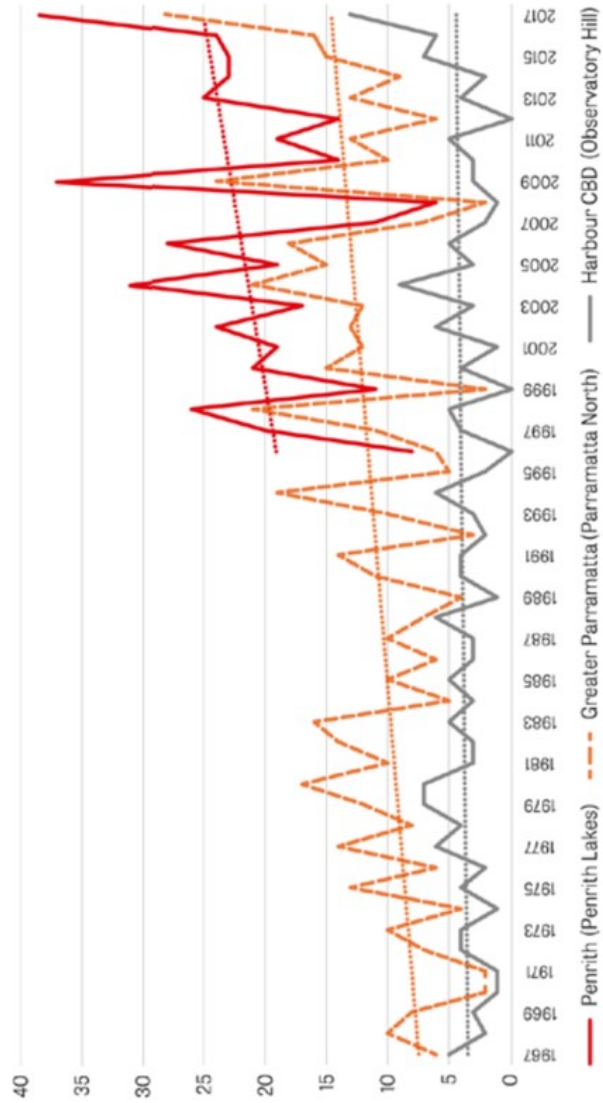
Climate

Urban heat islands

Heatwaves

## Heat and Western Sydney | a growing issue

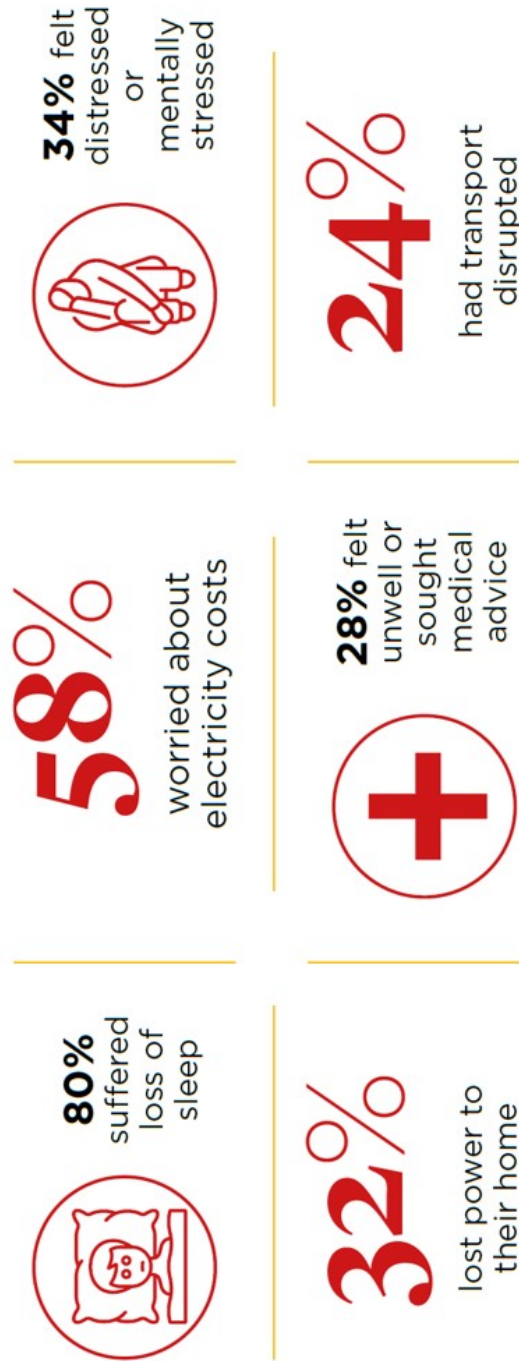
Not only is Western Sydney hot, it is getting hotter faster than the Sydney CBD.



Source: Greater Sydney Commission (2018) using data from the Bureau of Meteorology

## Heat and Western Sydney | impacts

Heat has killed more Australians than bushfire, flood and storms combined.



Survey conducted by WSROC in May 2020. Respondents were from the general population, and most were not considered at-risk individuals.

## Heat and Western Sydney | impacts

Heat is also acknowledged to have cumulative and cascading impacts on city systems.



**ENERGY NETWORK  
FAILURE**



**SERVICE DISRUPTIONS**



**INCREASED DEMAND ON  
HEALTH SERVICES**



**INCREASED WORKER  
ABSENTEEISM**



## Heat in the Hawkesbury

One of the hottest areas in Sydney – despite limited development.

### Exposure:

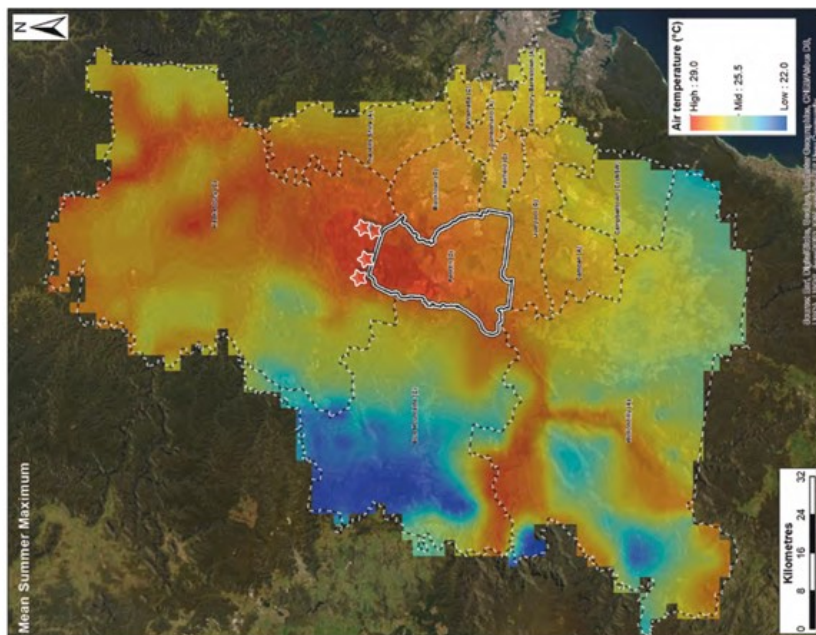
- Penrith heat study found hottest temp. at Agnes Banks – 52°C.
- Adapt NSW projects peri-urban development will double the temperature increases expected from climate change.

### Vulnerability:

- High rate of older persons living alone (16.7% in Richmond)
- Higher than average rates of diabetes, heart disease, overweight.
- Pockets of low-income.

### Other factors:

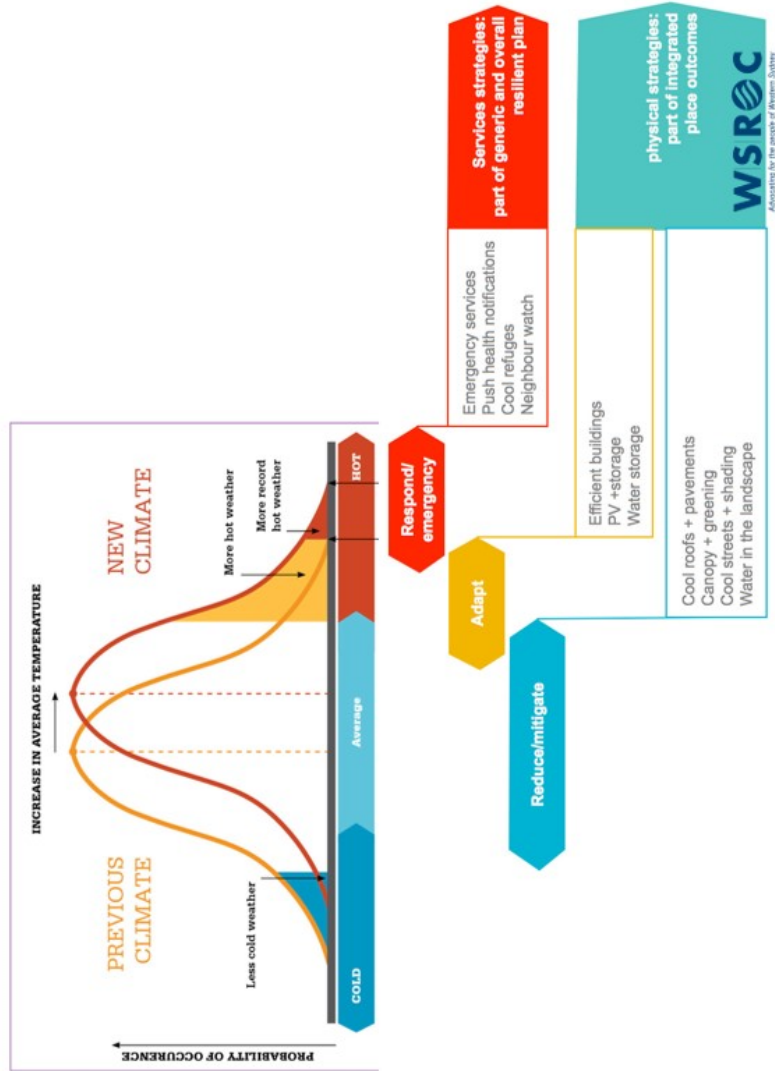
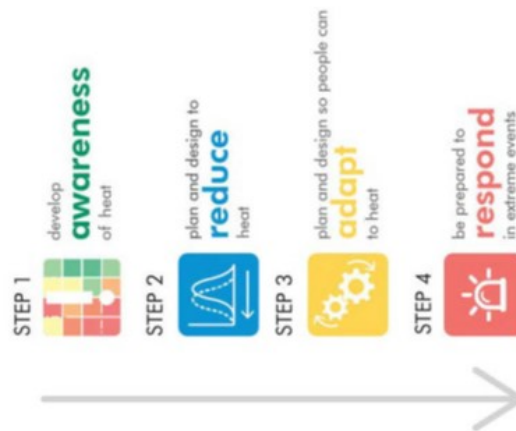
- Energy grid risks
- Geographic spread
- Limited public transport.



Adapted from Benchmarking summer heat across Penrith, NSW. Sebastian Pfautsch, Agnieszka Wujeska-Krause, Susanna Rouillard (2020).

# A resilience approach to heat

A **resilience approach** ensures that we are addressing all parts of the heat problem and matching solutions with problems.



# Heat Smart Western Sydney | Building heatwave resilience

**Aim: Building Western Sydney's resilience to heatwave with a focus on vulnerable people.**



Funded under the State Government Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

# Heat Smart | Co-design a better approach

## GAP Analysis findings presented to stakeholders for review, discussion and feedback:

Australian Medical Association (NSW)  
 Australian Red Cross  
 Blacktown City Council  
 Bureau of Meteorology  
 City of Adelaide  
 City of Melbourne  
 City of Parramatta  
 Cumberland City Council  
 Endeavour Energy  
 Hawkesbury City Council  
 Hume Housing  
 Link Wentworth Community Housing  
 Liverpool City Council  
 Local Land Services  
 Meals on Wheels  
 Multicultural NSW  
 Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network  
 NSW Council for the Aged (COTA)  
 NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS)  
 NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
 NSW Health  
 NSW Nurses and Midwives Association  
 Office of Local Government  
 Penrith City Council  
 Resilience NSW  
 Resilient Sydney  
 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners  
 Seniors Rights Advocates  
 South Australian State Emergency Service  
 South Western Sydney Local Health District  
 Sri Lankan Association of NSW  
 Sweltering Cities  
 Sydney Alliance  
 Sydney Olympic Park Authority  
 Sydney University  
 Sydney Water

The Sydney Alliance  
 Transport for NSW  
 Victorian Department of Health and Human Services  
 WentWest Limited  
 Western Sydney Local Health District  
 Western Sydney University  
 Western Sydney Community Forum

## Formal workshops held with:

- Western Sydney LEMCs + council staff
- Regional Emergency Management Officers (REMOs)
- Community organisations (workshop +survey)



# Heat Smart | Framework recommendations

**As heat risk grows, we must heatwave planning in line with other natural hazards.**

## Governance

- Define a lead for heat risk management
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Develop standard processes for heat risk management

## Prevention

- Integrate heat-resilience into urban planning policy
- Housing standards and retrofit programs

## Preparedness

- Measure and quantify heat impacts
- Better identification of vulnerable people and facilities
- Upskill staff in heatwave risk planning

## Response

- Warning systems
- Provision of cooling shelters
- Plan for the expansion of outreach activities during emergencies



## Heat Smart | Community engagement and upskilling

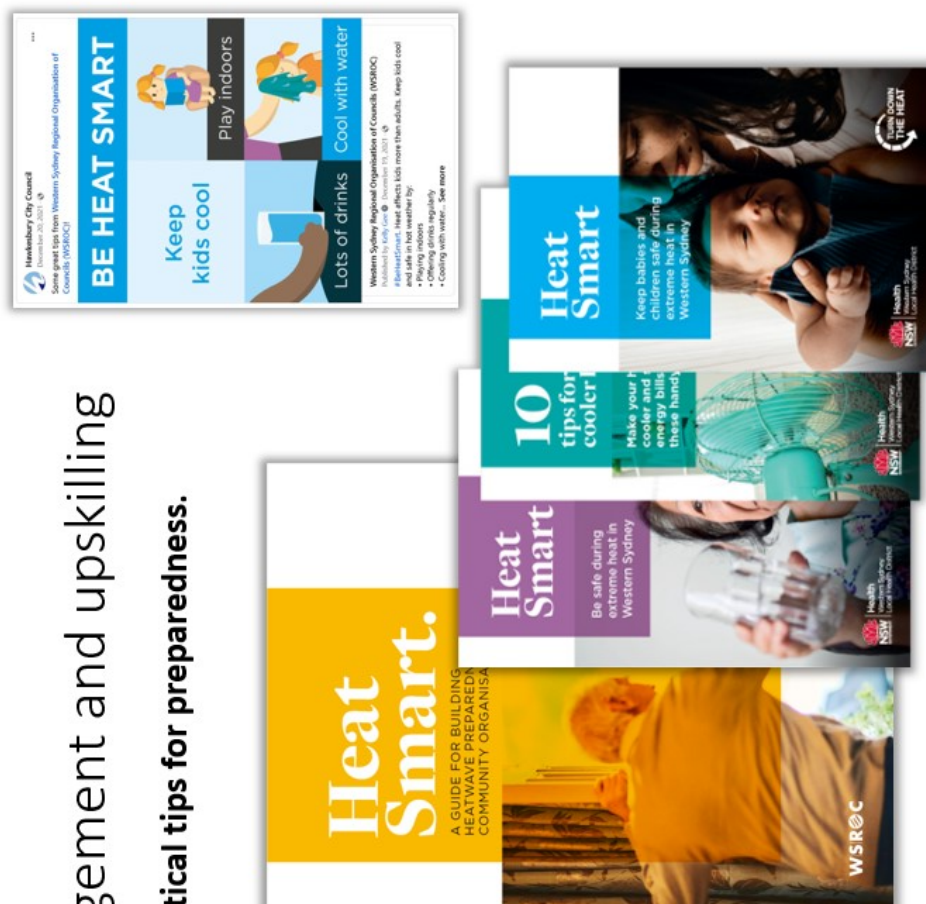
### Resources developed with LHDs to support practical tips for preparedness.

#### Community resources

- 3 community resources (print and digital)
  - Community tested (Neighbour Aid)
  - 10 languages
- Social media tiles
- Videos (in progress)

#### Organisational resource

- Gap in current resources
- Advice on heat illness, who is at risk
- Key considerations when planning for heat
- Checklist for in-home carers.



## Heat Smart | Community engagement and upskilling

### 20 heatwave preparedness workshops in partnership with councils and the Red Cross.

#### Benefits of partnership with Red Cross:

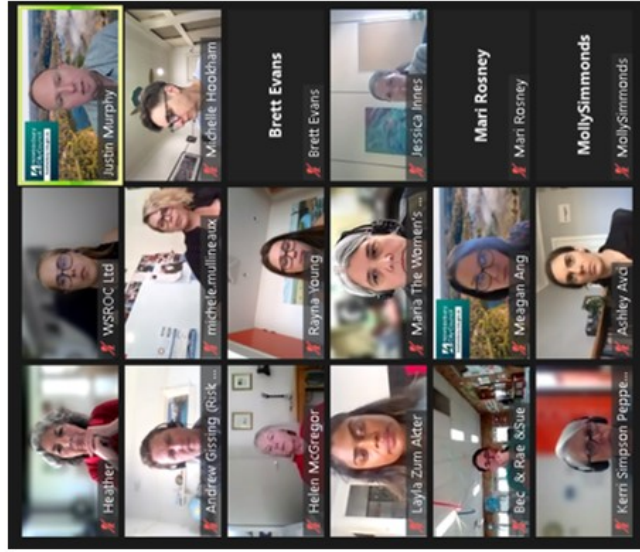
- Expertise in disaster preparedness education
- Red Cross now have heatwave content
- Volunteer network can deliver workshops ongoing.

#### Content:

- Overview of heatwaves
- Impact on community/organisations
- Tips for improving preparedness
- Scenarios

#### In the Hawkesbury:

- 2 workshops catering to Hawkesbury organisations
- 1 workshop for community members.
- 1 workshop for GPs and health professionals (all Western Sydney)



# Heat Smart | Key outcomes

**Program reporting is still underway, however the following outcomes have been achieved:**

## Heat Smart Framework:

- 500 professionals working in Western Sydney briefed on the need for better heat planning.
- Key organisations formally supported the Framework (e.g. AMA)
- Resilient Sydney Steering Committee resolved to support a Heat Taskforce

## Community engagement:

- 297 participants across 20 Heat Smart workshops
- 8.7 million community impressions via summer media campaign
- 3,324 downloads of the Heat Smart resources from WSROC website
- Partnership with LHDs to promote Heat Smart via intranet channels and push notifications to GPs at the start of summer.





## Heat Smart | Next steps

**WSROC is looking for opportunities to implement the Heat Smart Framework**

### **Grant applications in progress:**

- Heat Smart Taskforce
  - Funding to address issues pertaining to local councils:
  - Templates and guidance
  - Cool Shelters Guide
- Heat Risk Scale
  - Partnering with University of Sydney, NBMLHD, NBMPHN on application to improve heat risk communication.

### **Advocacy:**

- To recognise heatwave as a natural disaster under federal legislation.
- To integrate urban heat in state planning policies.
- Updates to the National Construction Code.



## Opportunities at the local scale

### AWARENESS

- Heat risk messaging over summer – comms/community development
- Build understanding of local heat impacts

### REDUCE

- Urban heat mitigation in local planning – planning
- Retrofit existing suburbs (e.g. greening) – parks/sustainability/planning
- Work towards emissions reduction – engineers/sustainability /planning/fleet

### ADAPT

- Energy resilience

### RESPOND

- Develop heatwave emergency plans and policies – EM staff
- How can Council support communities in partnership with community organisations? – Community development







Kelly Gee  
Policy and Projects Officer  
[kelly@wsroc.com.au](mailto:kelly@wsroc.com.au)



# Community Services Committee Meeting

## End of Minutes

This business paper has been produced electronically to reduce costs, improve efficiency and reduce the use of paper. Internal control systems ensure it is an accurate reproduction of Council's official copy of the business paper.