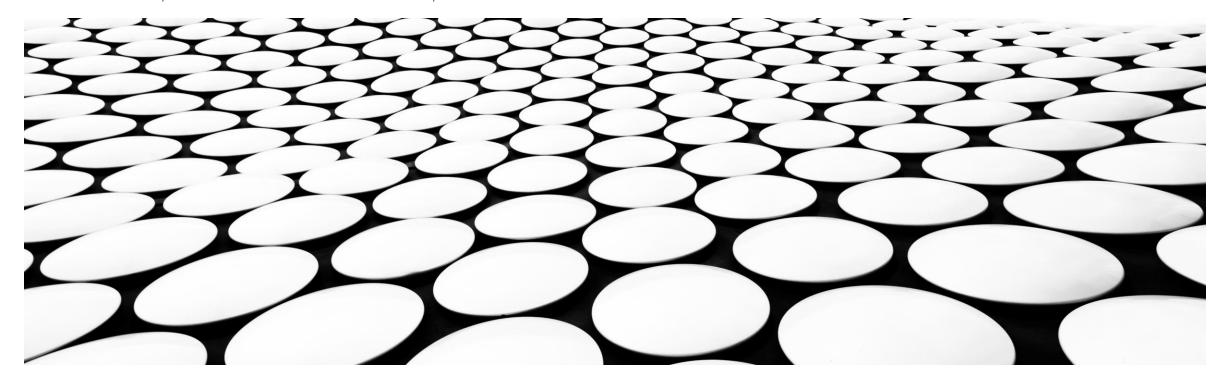
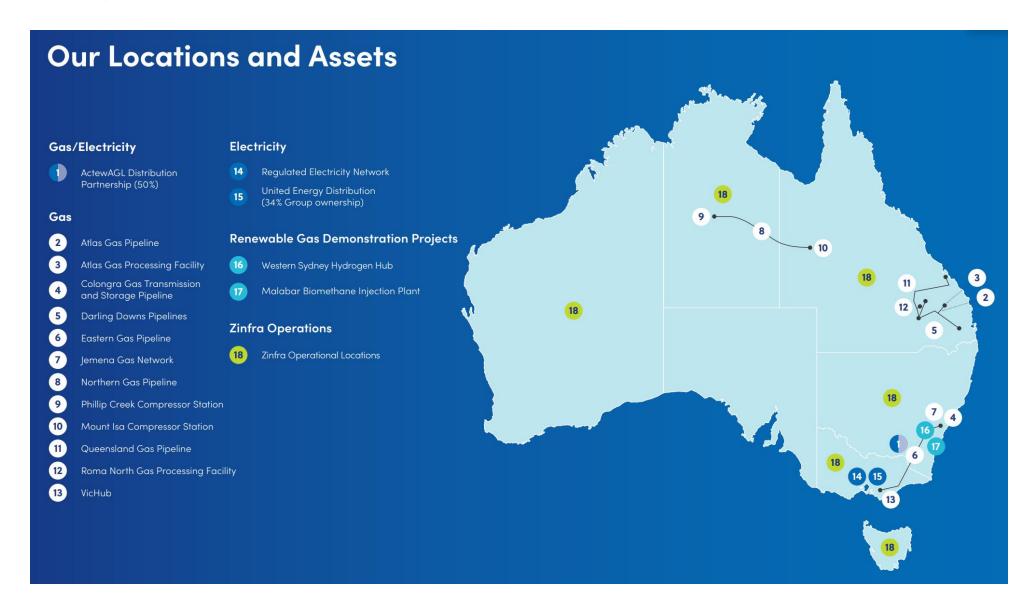
# CLIMATE CHANGE: NEW SAFETY RISKS, DUTIES & PROTOCOLS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

ADDRESSING EMERGING CHALLENGES IN HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

LISA CRAWFORD, GENERAL MANAGER HEALTH & SAFETY, JEMENA & ZINFRA

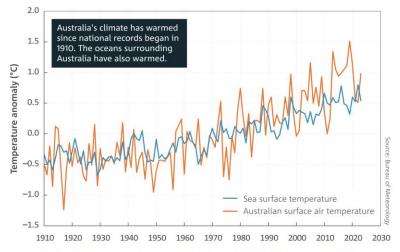


# JEMENA & ZINFRA - WHO WE ARE

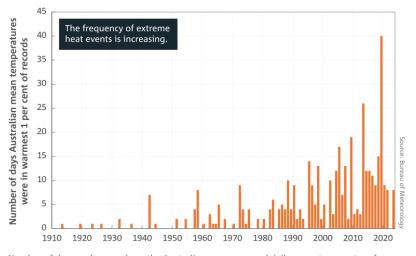


## **OUR ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING**

- Australia's climate has warmed by an average of 1.51 ± 0.23 °C since national records began in 1910.
- Sea surface temperatures have increased by an average of 1.08 °C since 1900.
- The warming has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events over land and in the oceans.
- Since 1970, April-October rainfall in south-west Australia has dropped by about 16% (with May-July seeing a 20% reduction), while south-east Australia has experienced a 9% decrease in April-October rainfall since 1994.
- Heavy short-term rainfall events are becoming more intense.
- There has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of the country since the 1950s



Anomalies (departures from the mean for the 1961–1990 standard averaging period) in annual mean sea surface temperature, and temperature over land, in the Australian region. Sea surface temperature values (data source: ERSST v5, www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/) are provided for a region around Australia (4–46 °S and 94–174 °E).



Number of days each year where the Australian area-averaged daily mean temperature for each month is extreme. Extreme days are defined as those where daily mean temperatures are the warmest 1% of days for each month, calculated for the period 1910–2023.



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

#### Climate Risks

There are two main climate risks: physical risks from climate impacts and transition risks from shifting to a low-carbon economy.

#### Impact of Climate Risks

Climate risks impact people, communities and investments worldwide, with reputation and social licence significant considerations for industry.

#### Infrastructure Vulnerability

Critical assets and infrastructure face risks from extreme weather events disrupting essential services.

# CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

#### **Climate Change Adaptation**

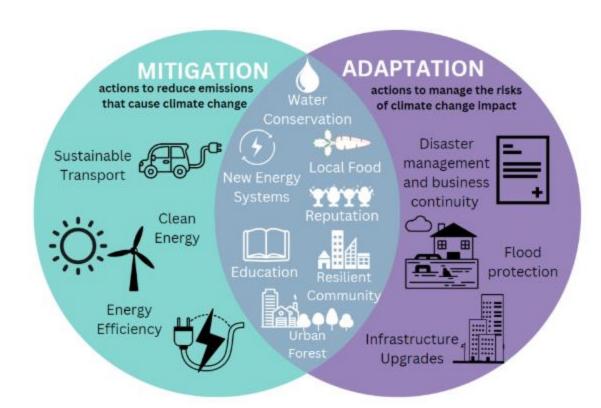
Adaptation involves decisions and actions to reduce negative climate impacts while leveraging potential opportunities.

#### **Climate Change Mitigation**

Mitigation includes efforts to limit climate change by reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Geographical and Community Focus**

Consider climate risks and opportunities based on geographical locations and communities where operations occur.



# CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

#### **Utilise Existing Frameworks and Standards**

ISO 31000:2108 - Risk management guidelines

ISO 14090 - Adaptation to climate change - Principles, requirements, and guidelines

#### Leadership and Accountability

Strong leadership and commitment are essential for managing climate change impacts effectively and ensuring accountability.

#### Implementation Plan Importance

Implementation plans are critical to delivering adaptation strategies and preparing monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

#### Long-Term Monitoring

Due to uncertainties, developing indicators to monitor adaptation progress helps guide corrective actions over time.

#### Identify Analyse How is weather How might weather-related information included in system impacts change decisions now? under future climate Has a historical scenarios? relationship between How might you assess weather and systems systems exposure under alternative climate impacts been identified? scenarios? Are there known Do you need to consider thresholds or other exposure to climate hazards that are ready to quantify? parameters? How do we communicate confidence/uncertainty? **Evaluate Treat** Financial Risk Avoid Safety Risk Reduce Operational Risk Replace Regulatory Risk Reputational Risk

# OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFICATION AND BUSINESS PLANNING



#### **Climate Change Opportunities**

Opportunities arise from climate change impacts and proactive actions taken by an organisation.

#### Markets and Innovation

New products, services, and emerging markets contribute to sustainability and innovation benefits.

#### **Business Planning Process**

Identify opportunities through structured business planning and investment frameworks.

#### Value Chain Integration

Utilise value chains and enabling environments to improve resilience and supply security.

# **ASSESSING PHYSICAL CLIMATE HAZARDS**

| Climate<br>Risk<br>Scenario | Hazard Condition   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|                             | Riverine Flooding  | Increased<br>Temperature  | Bushfire  | Surface Water<br>Flooding  | Storm Events  | Coastal Inundation   | Extreme Wind  | Drought   |
| Change                      | <ul><li>Flooding</li><li>Landslide</li><li>Erosion<br/>subsidence</li></ul>  | Increase in days<br>above 35 °C   | <ul> <li>Longer 'severe fire' weather days</li> <li>&gt; days classified Severe Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI)</li> <li>Localised bushfires</li> <li>Regional bushfires</li> </ul>                           | <ul> <li>Localised flooding</li> <li>Increase in erosion</li> </ul>  | <ul><li>Tsunami</li><li>Tropical cyclone</li><li>Hailstorms</li><li>Lightning strikes</li><li>Intense rainfall</li></ul>                          | Localised     flooding   | Average<br>increase in<br>wind speed  | <ul> <li>Increased         likelihood of         surface runoff</li> <li>Increase in         erosion</li> <li>Greater likelihood         of dust storms</li> </ul>  |
| Potential<br>Risk           | Pre-1990 pipelines were buried beneath the riverbed and channel banks. Floods could result in scouring and increased risk of physical damage Customer premise meter sets | <ul> <li>Extended high temperatures adversely affect electrical equipment</li> <li>Risk to personnel</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Customer premise meter sets</li> <li>Access to sites for response or maintenance</li> <li>Restricted maintenance activity e.g. Hot Work</li> <li>Risk to personnel</li> <li>Risk to fleet</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Access to sites for response or maintenance</li> <li>Inundation of equipment in pits</li> <li>Deterioration of assets from ground movement</li> <li>Risk to personnel</li> <li>Risk to fleet</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Access to sites for response or maintenance</li> <li>Asset damage / failure</li> <li>Risk to personnel</li> <li>Risk to fleet</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Access to sites for response or maintenance</li> <li>Inundation of equipment in pits</li> <li>Deterioration of assets from ground movement</li> <li>Risk to personnel</li> <li>Risk to fleet</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Potential access issues</li> <li>Interruption to critical activities e.g. response to asset damage if cannot utilise cranes</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Flash flooding</li> <li>Deterioration of assets from heat and ground movement</li> <li>Low runoff disrupting the biodiversity of site</li> <li>Disruptions to surface from build-up of dust</li> </ul> |

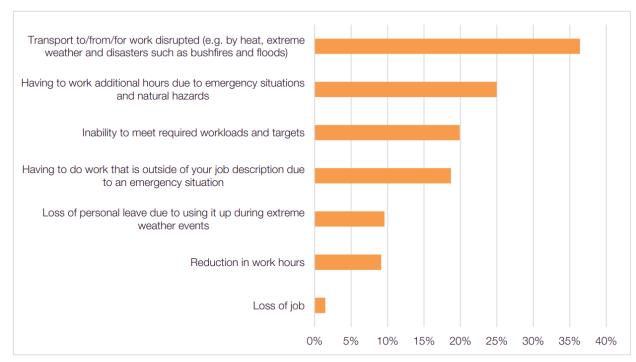
# **MANAGING WORK IN EXTREME CONDITIONS**







# THE PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT ON WORKERS



Climatic impacts on work (n = 1,165)

#### Workers are concerned about climate change

More frequent and intense extreme heat, bushfires and intensifying storms; respondent's region impacted concern levels.

#### Workers' health is being impacted

20% of those surveyed who work outdoors have seen an increase in physical injuries due to climate conditions.

Climate change is stressing and disrupting work in multiple other ways

Altering roles, job security and capacity to get to work.

#### Workers want to see action

Increased mitigation action by industry, government and as individuals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Citation: Denham, T. and Rickards, L. (2022) Climate Change at Work. Draft Report. Climate Resilience Living Lab, RMIT University, Melbourne



## **REPUTATION MATTERS**

#### Community Backlash

Change may be perceived as inadequate, disruptive, or misaligned with local expectations, potentially impacting reputation and social license to operate.

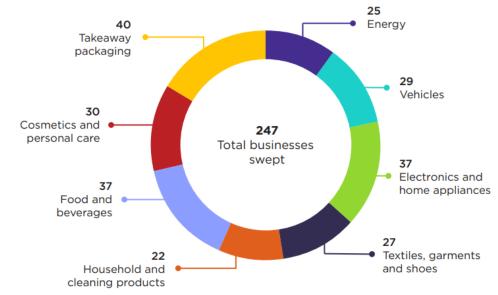
#### Attracting and Retaining Talent

Employee consideration of a company's climate actions and reputation when deciding where to work and whether to stay.

#### Considering our Future

Long-term climate adaptation builds organisational resilience and strengthens reputation.

#### **BREAKDOWN OF BUSINESSES SWEPT**



## SECTORS WITH THE GREATEST PROPORTION OF CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS







**Textiles, garments and shoes** 

Food and beverages

## REGULATORS ARE WATCHING

#### Greenwashing

In March 2023, the ACCC conducted an internet sweep of businesses environmental claims. They found some businesses are:

- Using vague or unclear environmental claims
- 2. Not providing sufficient evidence for their claims
- Setting environmental goals without clear plans for how these will be achieved
- 4. Using third-party certifications and symbols in a confusing way

Source: Greenwashing by businesses in Australia: Findings of the ACCC's internet sweep of environmental claims, March 2023

# **NOW WHAT?**

### **Understanding Climate Risks**

Understand your context. Consider transitional, physical and reputational risks.

#### Planning and Collaboration

Strategic planning and teamwork are critical to develop adaptive safety protocols. We don't do this alone.

#### Leadership in Safety

Strong leadership supports health and safety professionals to safeguard against climate challenges.