

About the Resilient Assessment Management and Investment project



This document provides context for the Resilient Asset Management and Investment (RAMI) project.

What is RAMI?

RAMI is an M9 project to improve the way council assets (roads, buildings, parks, drains etc.) are funded, renewed and managed for effective climate risk reduction in inner metropolitan areas.

The aim is to develop practical solutions that help council integrate resilience into asset management systems and investment processes to better service local communities.

RAMI is being led by City of Melbourne, on behalf of M9. A consulting team is providing engagement and technical support.

Why do we need this project?

- Local governments manage billions of dollars in assets, but climate change is creating new and growing risks.
- Some assets are not performing or being maintained as required in a changing climate, undermining renewal assumptions, and affecting service delivery to communities.
- Councils will increasingly need to invest in maintenance and new types of assets and to manage drought, floods and heatwaves.
- Current asset management systems, budgets (including maintenance resourcing) and funding models might not be structured to consider these new pressures.
- To address difficulties accounting for the financial benefit of resilience investment, as council often bears the full cost while benefits are shared by many.

What is the opportunity?

The M9 has secured 'Disaster Ready' grant funding from the Commonwealth Government to address the challenge of asset resilience. The RAMI project is the focus of this grant.

The M9 CEOs have empowered their staff to progress this project and are receiving quarterly updates on its progress. Your involvement is vital to its success.

What will RAMI do?

RAMI will develop ways to consistently embed 'resilience' into local government asset management systems and processes, so that managing climate risk becomes business-as-usual. This will help councils to:

- Protect asset performance and extend service life.
- Direct investment to the priority assets and areas where upgrades are needed to adapt to climate risk.

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- Develop agreed service levels and / or standards for assets to perform in a changing climate.
- Identify asset retirement requirements early, such as investment that is viable in a changing climate.
- Meet the requirement to manage climate risk in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Other benefits include:

- Enhance advocacy for sustainable funding and strategic, regional asset management initiatives.
- Share knowledge, research insights, case studies and data across councils.
- Improve coordination on asset management across the region, especially where shared initiatives are needed to address common resilience challenges.

Timeframes

Phase 1 is a discovery phase, to define the specific problem and the format of the preferred solution.

This phase runs from October 2025 to July 2026.

Phase 2 involves building and testing that solution and supporting integration into M9 councils' day to day operations.

The timing and scope of this phase will be determined at the end of phase 1.

The project is funded to operate from mid 2025 to November 2027.

About M9

M9 councils are an alliance of nine inner Melbourne councils, representing 1 in 5 Victorians and managing over \$15 billion of community infrastructure.

M9 advocates collectively on issues of common interest and work cooperatively on projects that affect inner-metropolitan Melbourne.

The member councils are Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Merri-bek, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, and Yarra.

Find out more about M9 at www.m9.org.au