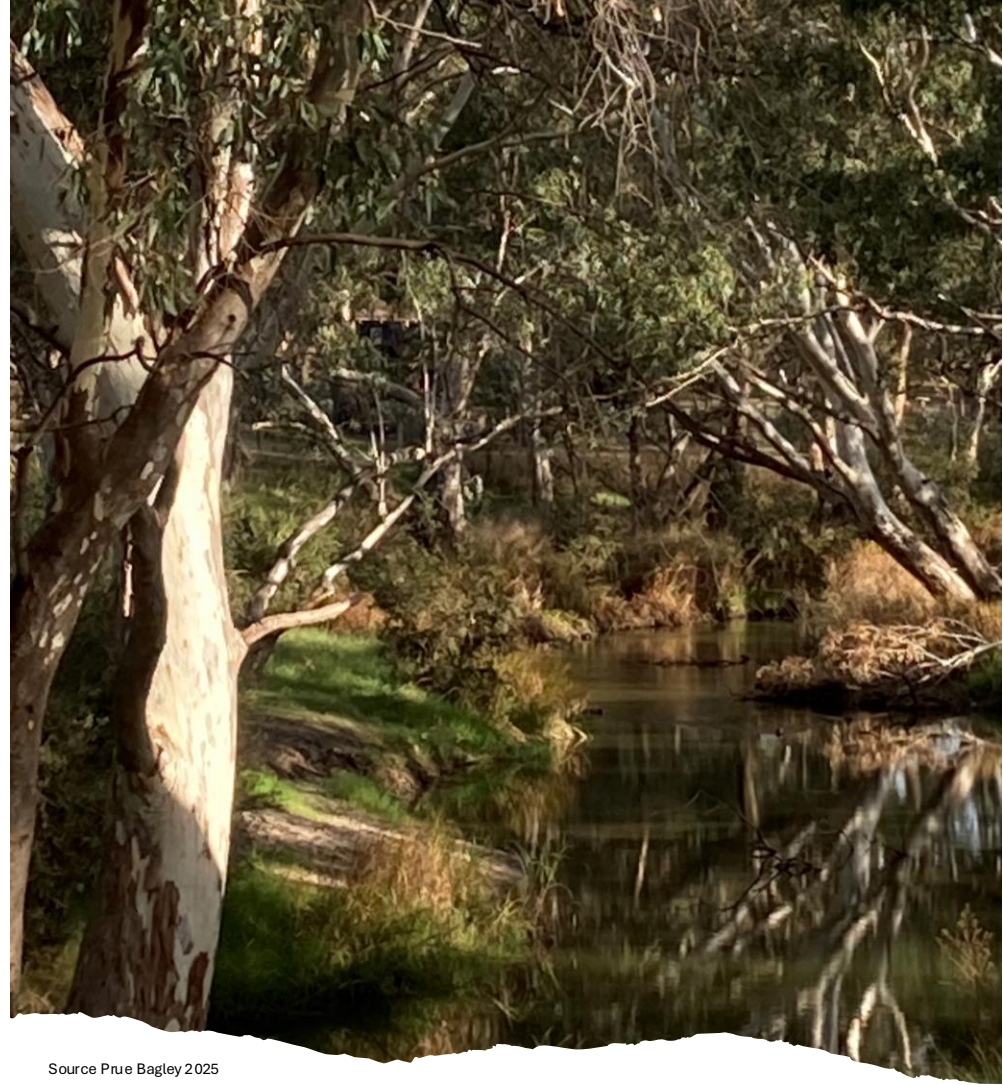# Climate Partnerships

Disaster justice: Exploring community legal centres role in enabling collaborative approaches to place-based disaster resilience.

Anna Brazier – Senior Project Coordinator, Jesuit Social Services', Centre for Just Places.

Jack Piper - Climate Justice Lead, ARC Justice.

Ebony Hogg - Community Engagement Lead, Disaster Recovery and Climate Justice Eastern Community Legal Centre.

Source Prue Bagley 2025

Source The Guardian, Native Forests

Acknowledgement of Country

Who's involved

Photo taken on 12th September at Yarra Ranges Climate Partnerships Capacity Building workshop at Japara Living and Learning Centre.

Jesuit Social Services — Building a Just Society | Centre for JUST Places | arc justice | eastern community legal centre | FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES VIC

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Why collaborative action planning?

Collaborative Action Planning

Articulate a shared vision

Co-develop a coordinated set of actions

Build capacity to support people and places most at risk

Strengthen cross-sector partnerships

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Why community service and health organisations?

- Often the first places people go to find information, and to access critical services during and following a disaster.

- Play a critical function in supporting community resilience because of their local knowledge and trusted relationships.

- They have an important role in addressing the complex and compounding impacts of climate change and disaster.

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Why Community Legal Centres?

Photo from Eastern Community Legal Centre news article taken on August 6th 2021, Bringing together community to challenge racism in Melbourne's East L-R: Iresha Buthgamuwa (ECLC), Michael Smith (ECLC), Paul Hamer MP, Donna Askew (ECLC), Wilfred Wang (CHH), Dilnaz Billimoria (CCOEI), Saarah Ozeer (CCOEI), Jaya Manchikanti (IndianCare Inc), Emma O'Brien (ECLC)

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Where are we working

Yorta Yorta, Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung Country

Photo from Campaspe Shire Council Facebook page, 16th February 2025

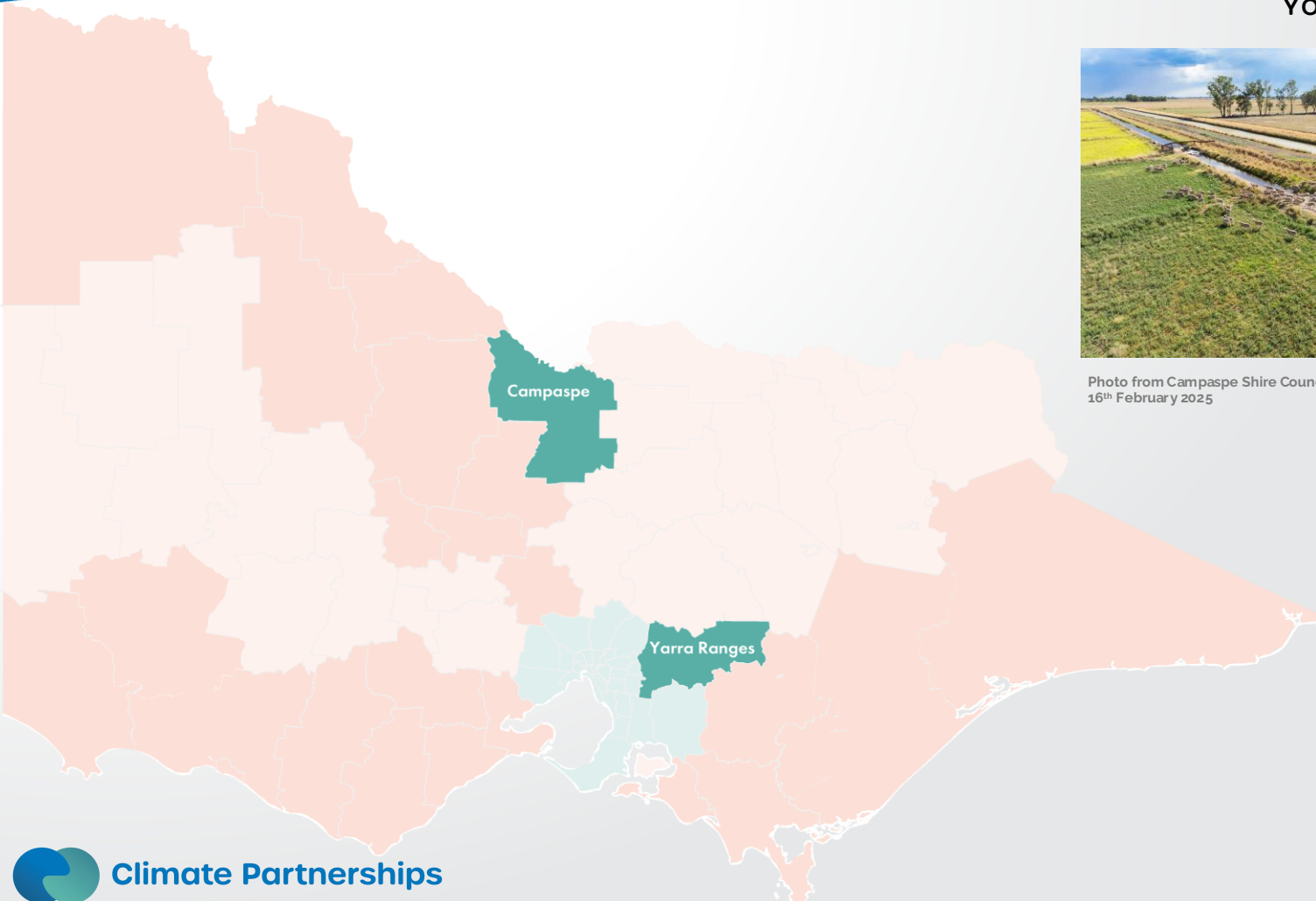Photo from 'The Ultimate Guide to Echuca', 4th July 2024 by Aus Weekend Escapes

Campaspe

Yarra Ranges

Wurundjeri Country

Photo from Visit Victoria website of Puffing Billy

Photo of 'Wild Orchid' cottage in Olinda, Australia

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Yarra Ranges

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: Herald Sun news article, **'More wild weather on the way after parts of Victoria still without power'**, JUNE 19th, 2021

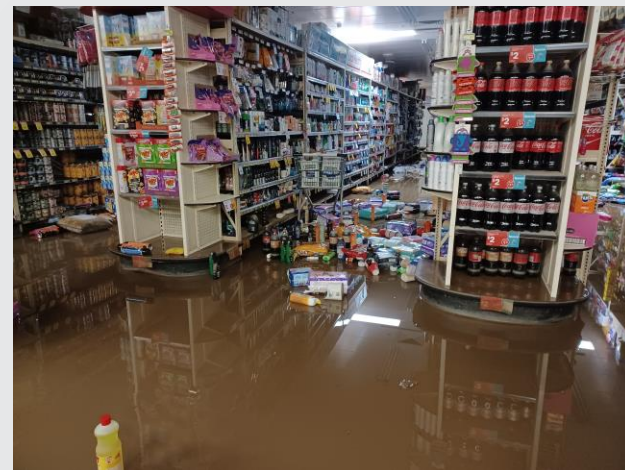MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - NewsWire Photos JUNE 14th, 2021: Picture: by Wayne Taylor

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Campaspe

Supplied: Leigh Wilson - Rochester

Supplied: Leigh Wilson - Rochester

Supplied: Leigh Wilson - Rochester

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Equity and Justice

Equality — The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports.** This is equal treatment.

Equity — **Everyone gets the supports they need** (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice — All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed.** The systemic barrier has been removed.

Image: Mobilise Green (2024), Environmental Equity Vs Environmental Justice, What' the Difference.

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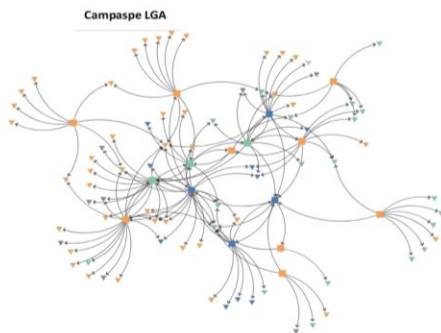# What does climate justice mean to us?

Climate change is a **social justice issue** with climate change unevenly impacting our **social** and **ecological** systems.

Communities experiencing disadvantage or marginalisation are often most at risk because they have **fewer resources to cope, adapt and recover** (Dunn et al. 2022).

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Steps in our process

Coalition Building

Social Network Analysis

Collaborative Planning &
Group Model Building

Plan dissemination &
implementation

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Key lessons

- Using a grounded collaborative approach creates a unique space for taking local action on disaster resilience

- Provides the opportunity for diverse stakeholders to work together, often for the first time.

- The timing feels right for taking action and willingness to engage

- Placed based approach means people in the room bring a deep understanding of the local context

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What's challenging?

- Recovery is complex, it is not a linear journey

- Equitable engagement in the process – structural barriers for First Nations and smaller community service organisations

- Resource intensive and invisible nature of the work

- Strong appetite for meaningful engagement with emergency services

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