

Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens

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Keywords: climate adaptation, information sharing, landscape succession, living collections, networking, strategic horticulture

In December 2018, at the Inaugural Climate Change Summit hosted by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, 14 delegates from around the world signed the Melbourne Declaration. The Declaration surmises that botanic gardens are ‘...custodians of critically needed scientific and horticultural knowledge, and...botanic gardens and like-minded organisations across the globe are uniting to safeguard our planet through resilient landscapes...The time for action is NOW.’ From this the Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens was founded, and since then has grown into an international movement, with over 500 members from across the world being diverse in size, history, culture and climate. The wealth and depth of knowledge found in this membership is immense. The Alliance supports climate adaptation in botanic landscapes and living collections by facilitating information sharing and collaboration between members and encouraging diverse thinking to solve the challenges posed by climate change. Since foundation, the Alliance has released two products to assist in this journey. The Climate Assessment Tool is an online application which allows users to gain insight into the likely suitability of a tree species to their predicted future climate. The Landscape Succession Toolkit offers insight and guidance for those who are unsure how to begin adapting their botanic landscapes and collections to their changing climate. The Alliance has ensured that both these products are free and publicly available, recognising that climate change affects all, so the solutions must be accessible to all.