# Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Pilot Outcomes Factsheet

The [Commonwealth Climate Disclosure (CCD) Pilot](https://www.finance.gov.au/government/climate-action-government-operations/commonwealth-climate-disclosure-pilot) was the first step in departments achieving transparent reporting of climate risk management activities under the CCD initiative. The Pilot was designed to cater for baseline levels of climate maturity. Departments of State were required to participate in the Pilot, while all other entities could opt in.

The Pilot offered entities an opportunity to build capability, show leadership and provide feedback on trial support services and resources. Trialling support services during the Pilot allowed the team at the Department of Finance to assess what is useful for participants and viable to continue into implementation of the full Requirements. Participants were asked to complete a survey at the start and end of the Pilot (survey 1 and 2 respectively) to assist with evaluation.

## Summary of the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Pilot Evaluation

The Pilot successfully met its objectives of supporting entities to make their first disclosures, building their capability, and trialling support services. This success demonstrates the public sector leadership the Department was aiming for, with [21 public examples](https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-12/Factsheet_Pilot%20Disclosures.docx) for others to refer to going forward.

Participation in the Pilot included 21 entities reporting in the 2023-24 financial year. All entities successfully included a Pilot disclosure in their 2023-24 annual reports, although the amount of detail varied between each disclosure.

An analysis of published Pilot disclosures showed that:

* the average length of disclosure was **6 pages**
* **57%** of entities produced a standalone disclosure as an appendix
* **29%** of entities included their disclosure within the body of their annual report
* **14%** of entities split their disclosure between the body of their annual report and the appendix
* **88%** of Departments of State included criteria from all 3 pillars in their annual reports.

Figure 1: Format of disclosure

The Pilot Implementation team at the Department of Finance offered to review all draft disclosures during the Pilot. Common information missed or mistakes made in the first draft are listed below, compared to common gaps in published Pilot disclosures.

Table 1: Common gaps in draft versus published disclosures

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Draft disclosure gaps | Published disclosure gaps |
| * Cross referencing – not linking to publicly available information * G1 – not labelling who the accountable authority is in governance diagrams * G2b (skills and competencies) * G2c (how and how often the accountable authority is informed) * G2d (trade-offs) | * MT2 (GHG measurement approach) * MT3 (summary of Emissions Reduction Plan) * MT4 (information on APS Net Zero 2030 target) * G2b (skills and competencies) * G2d (trade-offs) |

86% of Pilot entities provided their draft disclosures to the Pilot Implementation team for feedback and advice on meeting all criteria. However, many of the published disclosures differed significantly from the final drafts. The most common motivator for this change was saving space in the annual report.

### Participant insights

Common challenges identified by participants throughout the Pilot were silos (lack of collaboration), resourcing, capability and accountability. Despite this, capability and sentiment improved throughout the Pilot. 100% of respondents in the end of Pilot survey indicated they felt supported by the team at the Department of Finance. Respondent feedback included:

“The Team at DoF were fantastic. Very accommodating and patient.”

“The CCD Pilot team were fantastic responsive and took the time to help participants. The team should be proud of what they delivered to end users like ourselves. It has truly been a case study for collaboration across the Government and should be what we aim for to support climate action across the Commonwealth.”

“The team at Finance has been a knowledgeable and supportive resource and it is appreciated.”

## Lessons being implemented for Tranche 1

The Pilot was an overall success, however opportunities for improvement have been identified.

* Attendance and participation at drop-in information sessions was lower than expected. For Tranche 1, the team will offer bookable meetings instead.
* The draft disclosure reviews service was well-received and led to higher-quality Pilot disclosures. Participants benefited significantly from a second review of their draft, and as such the team will offer to review each draft twice in Tranche 1.

### What will help entities the most in Tranche 1?

Surveys 1 and 2 indicated that the following resources/services should be prioritised:

* Illustrative examples of how the Tranche 1 CCD criteria can be achieved.
* Examples of governance structures and support for entities establishing them.
* Draft disclosure review service.
* Webinars (via community of practice).

Resources will be published in early 2025 on the [Application Guidance](https://www.finance.gov.au/government/climate-action-government-operations/application-guidance) webpage. The team at the Department of Finance will continue to evaluate throughout implementation phases.