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Climate Change Adaptation  
Program  
Global Cities Research Institute  
RMIT University

In collaboration with:  
Monash Sustainability Institute  
The University of Melbourne

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# Framing Adaptation

## Project Update April 2011

### 1 Workshop held

*The Framing Adaptation project held its first Stakeholder Workshop on 16 February 2011.*

The VCCCAR Framing Adaptation workshop engaged with project partners and stakeholder from over 20 organisations, including Victorian state government departments, regional government alliances, local authorities, industry representatives, and research groups. The half-day workshop focused on creating a space and opportunity for dialogue between adaptation policy developers, practitioners and researchers; to explore the challenges and opportunities of establishing the meaning and purpose of climate change adaptation in various contexts, from the individual scale to the scale of state government.

The intention of the workshop was not only to provide insights into research currently being undertaken by the Framing Adaptation project team but to also give participants an opportunity to share their own experiences with different approaches to planning and the implementation of adaptation processes.

Conversation mapping techniques were used to elicit participants' experiences with climate change adaptation approaches in policy and practice; followed by a panel

discussion involving representatives of three key stakeholder groups (researchers, state government policy developers, and local government practitioners).

Members of the panel were Halley McCann, Senior Policy Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment; Professor John Handmer, Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT University; Yvonne Lynch, Sustainability Policy Coordinator, City of Melbourne; Robyn Major, Manager Environment, City of Greater Bendigo; and Celeste Young, Executive Officer, Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

A summary of key discussion points, as well as advice given by workshop participants to the research team, is available on the VCCCAR website.

### 2 Work package 2

Four distinct work packages make up the Framing Adaptation project. For this project update the spotlight is on WP2: Economic analysis of current and future impacts.

This work package, jointly led by Professor John Handmer (RMIT University) and Professor Rod Keenan (Univ. of Melbourne), consists of four main tasks.

The first of these, now completed, was to undertake an evaluation of existing approaches for economic

impact assessment to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies.

The second task, also completed, was to conduct a critical analysis of methodologies that have been used to assess the costs of recent extreme events in Victoria and Australia. In the first instance there

was an examination of three studies that look at the aggregate cost and relative impacts of disasters. Further research then investigated six cost / loss / impact estimates of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires.

Working papers from tasks one and two (lead author: Keating, RMIT University) are in the final stages of review and will be hosted on the VCCCAR website shortly.

Task three shifts the focus from the current day to consider the future impacts of climate change. This is the focus of ongoing research activity. The final task of this work package will then attempt to think through some of the many complexities that are associated with costing adaptation responses under conditions of uncertainty. The project will contribute towards the identification of the costs of future climate change and adaptation responses, and will provide the basis for a more informed conversation on the many complexities involved.

A workshop session on the economic costing of climate change adaptation will form part of the VCCCAR annual forum on May the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the early lessons from the Framing Adaptation project will also be used to stimulate discussion in a session on 'a climate resilient Bendigo'.

that are fundamental to framing climate change adaptation and an exploration of how adaptation theory is applied in climate change assessment methodologies. The paper draws from a literature review conducted at the beginning of the project, as well as from outcomes of discussions with various project partners, including those participating in the February stakeholder workshop.

The paper was peer-reviewed by twenty-four Australian and international adaptation researchers and practitioners. It can be downloaded from the VCCCAR or CCAP websites.

## Announcements

### Framing Adaptation project website

All research outputs of the Framing Adaptation project are published on the VCCCAR and CCAP websites. The website also has a summary of the project for download. See:

[www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/framing-project](http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/framing-project)

## Upcoming Events

2-3 May 2011

### VCCCAR Annual Forum

VCCCAR's 2nd Annual Forum will showcase the current climate change adaptation research program, which engages leading expertise and ideas within the VCCCAR research community to assist the Victorian government and community better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Leading climate change scientists from the higher education sector and state and federal government agencies will join senior government decision-makers to outline work to date and future climate change adaptation research priorities in Victoria.

Find out more at:

[www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/2011-annual-forum](http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/2011-annual-forum)

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## Working paper online

*The project has published its first working paper called 'Framing climate change adaptation in policy and practice'.*

The comprehensive paper provides a review of theoretical concepts

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