

# Dr Darryn McEvoy

Leader of the Climate Change Adaptation Programme, Global Cities Institute, RMIT

Deputy Director, Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR)

# VCCCAR Project (2010-2011)

## Framing multi-level and multi-actor adaptation responses in the Victorian context

### **Project aim:**

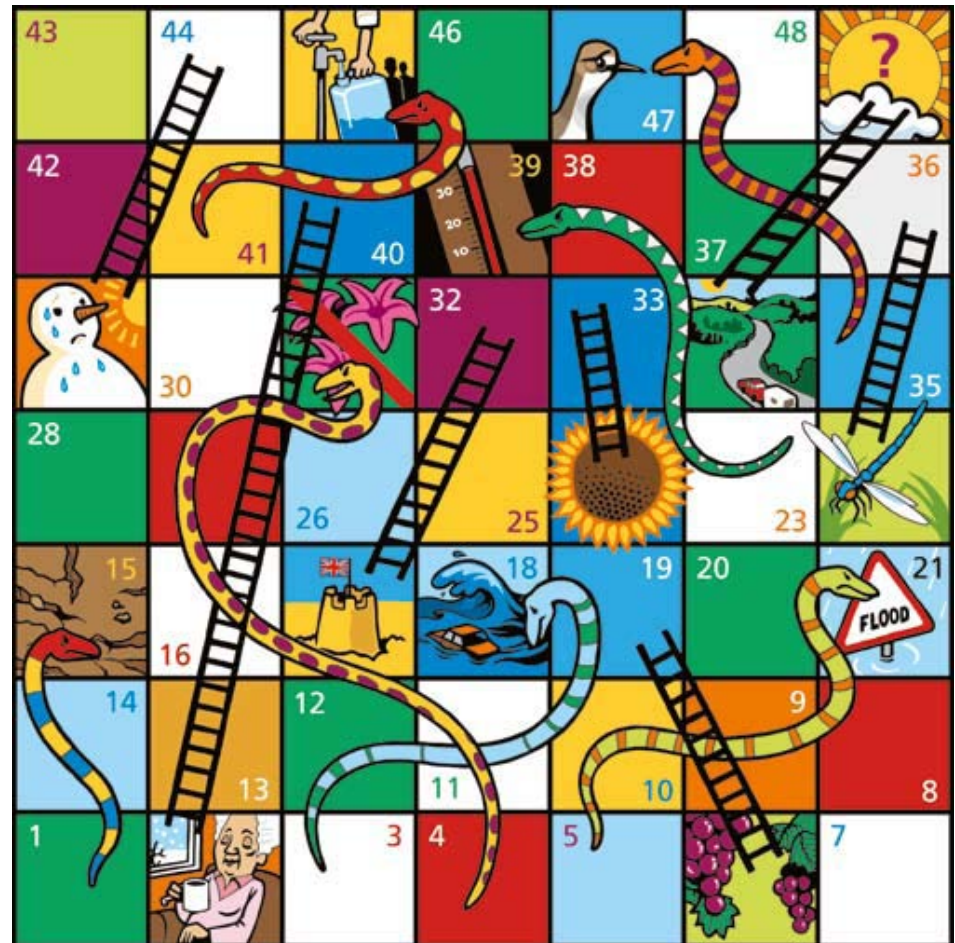
This 'framing' project aims to develop and refine an authoritative, scientifically robust, and coherent decision-support framework that is 'fit for purpose' to different situations and actors in Victoria. The development of a structured and transparent adaptation framework, tailored to the regional context and refined in collaboration with end-users, will provide a valuable shared knowledge resource for local and regional decision-makers.

# Relevance of the research project

## Addressing the challenges through framing, implementation and learning

“The Commission came to the conclusion that framing, learning and implementation are specific components underlying the building of adaptive capacity, with framing at the heart of an effective decision-making (and risk management) process”. p15

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution – Adapting Institutions to Climate Change (March, 2010)



# Research consortium (to date)

## Universities:

- RMIT University
- University of Melbourne
- Victoria University
- Monash Sustainability Institute

## Stakeholders:

- DSE (Adaptation at Place initiative)
- MAV
- CSIRO
- *Others to be determined*

# Research project details

As well as involving a critical analysis of academic and grey literature sources, this multi-disciplinary project has been designed to foster strong working links between academic, policy and wider stakeholder communities, in order to be able to draw upon, and learn from, multiple sources of knowledge and expertise. The programme of research will be structured according to four discrete work packages.

WP1 – an overarching framework for adaptation (the ‘roadmap’)

WP2 – preliminary economic analysis of climate change impacts

WP3 – framework development in selected case studies

WP4 – exploring local narratives

# WP1: Framing adaptation (led by RMIT)

- 1) To review and critically analyse national and international adaptation guidance initiatives (and their constituent parts – risk assessment, adaptation, institutional barriers and opportunities, communication)
- 2) To identify the key transferable lessons and knowledge which can be used to inform the development of the adaptation framework, ensuring that it is grounded on sound scientific principles
- 3) To test and iteratively reframe the structure and content in collaboration with decision-makers at different scales to ensure that the framing is ‘fit for purpose’
- 4) To use the knowledge gained to contribute to the development of adaptation frameworks tailored to the chosen case study areas

## WP2: Economic analysis of current and future impacts (led by RMIT and University of Melbourne)

- 1) To undertake a preliminary economic analysis of current day costs of weather events for Victoria
- 2) To identify and assess future potential losses under a range of different climate change scenarios
- 3) To set the foundations for a more detailed cost benefit analysis of adaptation

## WP4: Exploring local narratives (led by MSI)

- 1) Through engagement with actors in the selected case studies, explore the perceptions and attitudes of different stakeholders to climate-related risks and the management of uncertainty
- 2) Analyse how traditions constrain (or promote) innovation and change for climate change adaptation
- 3) Synthesise findings to consider implications for the framing of adaptation across situations



## WP3: Framework and narrative refinement in selected case studies (DSE / MAV)

To use a small portfolio of case studies (representative of different locations and settings, exposure to different stressors, and differing governance arrangements) to:

- 1) Enable iterative reframing and refinement of the adaptation framework in real world settings
- 2) Engage with a range of different Victorian stakeholders, and ongoing activity, for the informing of narratives
- 3) Promote a participatory setting which informs the development of both context specific and transferable adaptation guidance through a process of mutual learning and consensus building
- 4) Consider issues of mainstreaming and multi-level governance

*DSE: Adaptation at Place*

*MAV: two case studies to be decided, though likely to involve one metropolitan council and one provincial city*

# Deliverables

- Scoping document (identifying all relevant initiatives) – month 4
- Synthesis report on the economic implications of climate change for Victoria (WP2) – month 6
- Report: local narratives & attitudes / responses to risk (WP4) – month 12
- Individual reports for each of the case studies (WP3) – month 18
- Adaptation roadmap: guidance for decision-makers (WP1) – month 18
- Report on implications for multi-level policymaking (synthesis) – month 18
  
- Dynamic template which allows for further iterative development of the framework as new resources become available - ongoing
- Peer reviewed academic papers