

**Victorian Centre for Climate Change
Adaptation Research**

2010-2011 Research Project



**Building common
understanding of climate
adaptation scenario
approaches and strategies**

**Project leader: Professor John Wiseman
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Aim: To strengthen the capability of policy makers in using scenarios to improve climate change adaptation strategies and outcomes

Objectives

1. To work with Victorian policy makers to undertake a **needs analysis** of priority actions to improve the development and use of scenario based strategies and methods.
2. To develop a **stocktake and policy map** of the ways in which Victorian policy makers are using scenario strategies to improve climate change adaptation outcomes.
3. To develop a **conceptual framework and typology** of scenario approaches in order to provide policy makers with a clear view of the range of approaches available including their strengths and weaknesses and their relevance to specific policy making and decision making tasks.
4. To produce a concise, practical **guidebook** to strengthen capabilities of policy makers in the use of scenario based strategies to inform and improve climate change adaptation policies and decision making.



'The shortage of research on scenario planning and its influence means that there is limited guidance on how to optimise scenarios in terms of both outputs and uptake by policy makers'.

European Environment Agency 2009

1. Challenge of making well informed policy choices about climate change adaptation – given high levels of complexity and uncertainty
2. Broad range of scenario strategies and methods being used to:
 - Clarify climate trends and risks
 - Engage citizens and stakeholders; Inform and provoke debate
 - Develop common understandings; Promote social change
 - Inform policy development; Evaluate likely policy impacts
3. Wide range of assumptions and views about purpose and value of diverse scenario approaches and methods
4. Importance of shared understanding about roles and purposes; strengths and weaknesses; risks and opportunities
5. Importance of strengthening capability of policy makers in developing and using scenario based approaches and methods



- Includes scenario strategies in relation to:
 - Climate change trends, exposure and sensitivity
 - Climate change adaptive capacity and resilience
- Maximise learning from scenario based approaches from diverse fields eg. demography, regional development; economics, health and social policy
- Policy and decision makers in government and community settings
- Primary focus Victoria – informed by national and international learning. In collaboration with CSIRO also likely to include Australian focus.

Project leader

Professor John Wiseman, McCaughey Centre and Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne (with Taegen Edwards and Che Biggs)

Team members

Dr. Penny Whetton, Program Leader, Climate Variability and Change, CSIRO

Dr. Darryn McEvoy, School of Civil, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering, RMIT

Dr. Roger Jones, Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University

Professor Ray Ison and Andrea Grant, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University

Kate Gavens and Barry Warwick, Victorian EPA

A project advisory committee drawn from key government agencies and other relevant organisations will be established.



Deliverables and milestones

Subproject	Deliverables	Milestones
<p>1. Needs analysis and stocktake</p>	<p>Project Briefing Paper (approx 6pp)</p> <p>Victorian climate change adaptation scenario workshop (also possible national workshop)</p> <p>Project Report 1: <i>Using scenarios to improve climate change adaptation decision making and outcomes: Needs analysis, stocktake and policy mapping.</i> (approx 30pp)</p>	<p>June 2010</p> <p>August 2010</p> <p>November/December 2010</p>
<p>2. Conceptual framework, typology and overview of key learning</p>	<p>Online survey and/or interviews with relevant agencies and stakeholders</p> <p>Project Report 2: <i>Using scenarios to inform climate adaption policy making and planning: Conceptual framework, typology and key lessons.</i> (approx 30pp)</p>	<p>December 2010</p> <p>February 2011</p>
<p>3. Climate Change Adaptation Scenario Guidebook</p>	<p>Online Guidebook and Toolkit: <i>Using scenarios to inform climate adaption policy making and planning: Learning from Victoria</i> (approx 30 pp)</p> <p>Roundtable discussion with key policy makers</p> <p>Guidebook launch; Public forum and information session</p> <p>Peer reviewed articles and conference papers</p>	<p>Draft: March 2011</p> <p>April 2011</p> <p>June 2011</p>

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