



Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation Planning Initiative

Introduction

The Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning Initiative is a collaborative project between the 14 councils of the Hunter, Central and Lower North Coast of NSW. Its delivery is being co-ordinated by the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Environmental Strategy (HCCREMS) in partnership with member councils, Marsden Jacob Associates and Spatial Vision.

This regional initiative includes two sub projects:

1. Rural Councils Project

This will deliver climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning processes in 8 councils including Maitland, Cessnock, Dungog, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Dungog & Greater Taree. The project will:

- Identify the risks arising from climate change for each council;
- Develop individual organisational adaptation strategies for each council;
- Identify areas of common risk across councils; and
- Identify priorities and actions for collaborative, cross border adaptation planning & implementation.

2. Coastal Councils Project

This will deliver a regional scale risk assessment and adaptation planning process across the region's 7 coastal councils including Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford.

The project will:

- Synthesise the outcomes of individual corporate risk assessments previously completed by councils;
- Identify and prioritise areas of common risk across councils; and
- Identify and prioritise strategies for collaborative and consistent adaptation across councils.



Project Delivery

Consultants Marsden Jacob Associates and Spatial Vision have been engaged by HCCREMS to deliver key elements of the project. These will include:

- reviewing appropriate council documentation and systems and consulting with key council staff;
- synthesising and analysing data and information to inform council risk assessments;
- designing and facilitating the implementation of joint council risk assessment and adaptation planning workshops;
- documenting the outcomes of risk assessment and adaptation planning processes; and
- preparing both local and regional risk assessment reports and adaptation strategies.

HCCREMS will be responsible for overall project management, providing logistical support to the promotion and delivery of project workshops, and for the distribution and review by councils of project reports.

Project Activities

The key project activities and the time frame for their delivery are included in the following table.

Project Activity	Time Frame
Preparatory stage (both projects) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with councils • Data collation and analysis 	Nov – Jan 2009
Regional Risk Assessment Forum	15 th December 2009
Risk Assessment Workshops (rural councils)	15 – 26 February 2010
Risk Assessment Workshops (coastal councils)	April - May 2010
Adaptation Planning workshops (rural councils)	April 2010
Adaptation Planning workshops (coastal councils)	June 2010
Final risk assessment and adaptation plans	June – July 2010

Four one day risk assessment workshops will be delivered in total for the rural council's project.

Two half day / short day risk assessment workshops will be delivered under the coastal council's project. The focus of these will include:

- gap analysis; identifying gaps in existing risk assessments completed by councils, with a particular focus on regional issues; and
- agreeing on priority regional risks.

The proposed council groupings for the risk assessment workshops are shown below.

Rural Councils	
Workshop 1 – Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook	15 – 26 February 2010
Workshop 2 – Singleton, Dungog	
Workshop 3 – Gloucester, Greater Taree	
Workshop 4 – Cessnock, Maitland	
Coastal Councils	
Workshop 1 – Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Port Stephens	April / May 2010
Workshop 2 – Gosford, Wyong, Lake Macquarie, Newcastle	

Participation

For the project to effectively deliver on its objectives, the participation by a range of council staff that *represent the diversity of council operations* and who are *senior enough to make decisions on behalf of their organisations* is imperative. It is recommended that the staff from the following areas be involved:

- Land Use Planning
- Emergency Management
- Sustainability / Environmental / Natural Resource Management
- Asset Management
- Engineering Services
- Stormwater and Flooding
- Water and Sewerage Services
- Finance and Risk Management
- Recreation / Community Services
- Community / Environmental Health

It is anticipated that the following time commitment will need to be provided by individual council staff members participating directly in the project.

Project Activity	Commitment
Regional risk assessment forum	1 day
One risk assessment workshop	1 day
One adaptation planning workshop	1 day
Pre workshop reading	1 day
Reviewing draft reports	2 days
TOTAL	6 days

Find out more!

Further inquiries or requests for information can be directed to:

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