

NSW Climate Adaptation Newsletter

The latest in climate change adaptation research, news and events

Topics covered in this month's newsletter include:

- Minister for Environment, Rob Stokes, introduces AdaptNSW
- Videos on what AdaptNSW is, and how it's helping farmers and planners
- A free seminar on predicting beach erosion
- Profile of Ian Turner, a researcher with the NSW Adaptation Research Hub
- Other news, grants, publications and events

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Minister for Environment, Rob Stokes, talks about [AdaptNSW](#) at the project launch:

"AdaptNSW means that, for the first time, public authorities, government authorities, land holders and investors all have access to open and transparent data, in an easy to read fashion, that can inform their decisions - decisions about building new infrastructure, decisions about planning issues, decisions about investments - all of which can be informed about the likely consequences to that infrastructure of a changing climate.

The next task is interpreting this information in such ways that we can make sensible decisions about how to build resilience, and about how to adapt to the consequences of climate change"



[Hear from climate experts](#) about the latest climate change projections for NSW, modeled at a 10km regional scale.



[Local council planners](#) share their stories about using AdaptNSW for strategic long term decision making that will incorporate the impacts of climate change in their region.



[Farmers across NSW](#) share their stories about how using AdaptNSW to understand the impact of climate change to their business, and to help prepare for the future.

RSVP to attend a free seminar on our capacity to predict storm erosion recovery in NSW - Ian Turner, University of New South Wales

[25 March 2015 3-4pm, 59 Goulburn St Sydney, or via webinar](#)

Along NSW's coastlines, the primary defence to erosion by storms is an adequate beach and dune buffer. Currently we zone a 'sacrificial' setback to accommodate the natural processes of erosion recovery while protecting the built or natural environment.

But how wide should a coastal buffer zone be? How much can this vary within and between adjacent embayments? And critically, how reliable are our present coastal engineering modelling tools currently used to predict this?

This seminar will discuss the findings of a recent study into our ability to predict storm erosion in NSW and will be of interest to anyone involved in coastal zone management.



Meet an Adaptation Researcher: Ian Turner, University of New South Wales

Ian's fascination with the coast began as a child, spending summers on the beach at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Ian is currently Professor of Coastal Engineering within the UNSW School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the UNSW Water Research Laboratory. He leads a

research team that measures and models the movement of sand on beaches at a range of scales – from quantifying the number of sand grains that are moved by a single wave as it runs up and down the beachface, to long-term (years to decades) observations and modelling of shoreline changes along beaches of the SE coastline of Australia.

Ian and his team are currently involved in an ambitious study with OEH to test the ability of the current ‘start of the art’ coastal erosion models to predict the quantity of sand that is removed then returned to beaches during and after storms. This study involves a range of innovative new tools including rapid-response Airborne Lidar, jetski bathymetric surveying, UAVs (drones), and continuously operating cameras and a scanning Lidar. Meet Ian and hear about this project at the [upcoming seminar](#).

Publications, events, news and grants

Publications

[Livelihood resilience in the face of climate change](#). (Tanner et al 2015). This paper looks at the relationship between resilience and climate adaptation, and argues for a ‘livelihood resilience’ approach that puts people on the centre stage, including justice and rights, and the broader development agenda.

[Knowledge flows in climate change adaptation: exploring friction between scales](#). (Stott & Huq 2014). This paper looks at the knowledge flows between community-based adaptation practitioners and other multiple stakeholder groups. Based on interviews with practitioners, the authors identify potential frictions in knowledge flows, and suggest more effective ways of sharing knowledge, including strengthening the connection between global policies and local priorities.

[Is Adaptation a local responsibility?](#) (Nalau et al 2015). This paper examines whether adaptation should be framed at a local scale, and the role of local government in relation to other actors.

Conferences / events

[Governing Adaptation Symposium Wednesday 12 March 2015, University of Sydney](#). This symposium will examine some of the normative frameworks for adaptation policy – justice, resilience, transformation – and explore specific cases and experiences of adaptation planning. Hosted by the Sydney Environment Institute

[Learning to Adapt](#) professional development program, Brisbane and Melbourne. This innovative course on climate change adaptation is run over 3 separate full days of intensive collaborative learning delivering practical, hands on skills and knowledge.

[Earth Systems Governance: Democracy and Resilience in the Anthropocene 14-16 December 2015, Australian National University, Canberra](#). This conference will discuss social science governance research on environment and sustainable development.

Grants

[The Government Partnerships for Development \(GPDF\)](#) is a competitive funding program for public

sector organisations to support public organisations in developing countries. The main objective of the projects must be the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

Environmental Trust Research Program is open until 13 March 2015, offering grants up to \$150,000 for applied research relating to land and seascape management, water dependent ecosystems, soil health and mechanisms for social engagement.

Sydney's Salty Communities — 'Turning the Tide for Blue+Green Carbon' Grants Program, supporting projects at local and sub-regional scales on public and private land to address existing and predicted pressures from pollution, weeds, feral animals, degradation, neglect, inundation and erosion. Coastal land managers (especially Councils and their local communities) will use strategic assessment and conservation management activities to physically assess, restore, enhance and maintain biodiversity values and functions in these critical areas. Closing 10am Monday 30 March, 2015.