

AdaptNSW



**Office of
Environment
& Heritage**

Welcome to the AdaptNSW newsletter

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Adaptation in Action: Getting FloodReady for NSW agriculture

This edition's 'Adaptation in Action' is on the FloodReady program from the NSW Department of Primary Industries

The North Coast region experiences the highest frequency of floods in NSW, which is a recurring risk to business continuity and productivity of the region's agricultural sector.

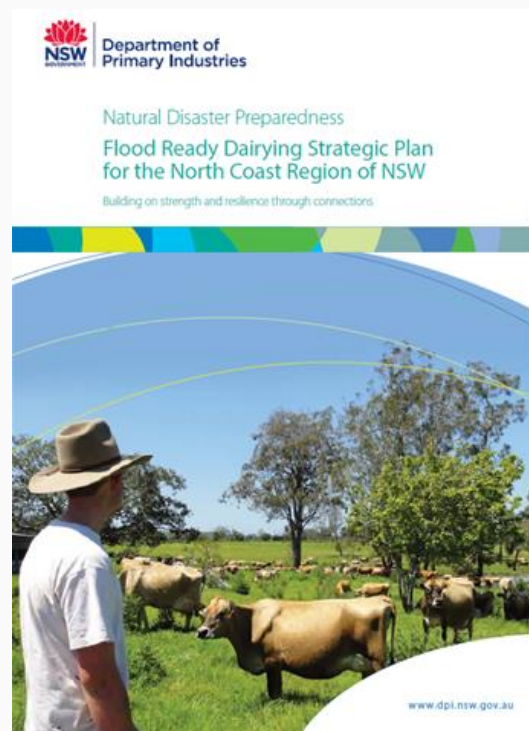
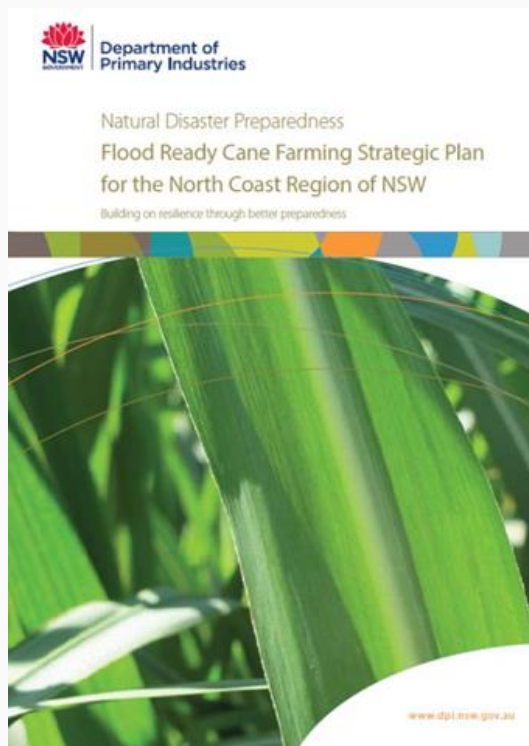
The NSW Department of Primary Industries has worked with both the dairy and sugar cane industries to help shift from a flood recovery focus, to one of better preparedness and increased flood resilience. The North Coast Flood Ready Agriculture project developed a shared understanding of what the major flood risks of the sector were, and developed practical strategies to reduce the impacts of flood on farm businesses, farm families and associated supply chains.

FloodReady developed a strategic plan for both the dairy and sugar cane farming sectors,

although the content of the plans could be relevant to other agricultural fields. The plans represent a multi-strategy approach to reduce the impact of floods on farming, and cover strategies that could be implemented at a farm level, local industry and community level and at a regional level.

FloodReady was announced as the 2015 NSW state winner of the 'Government category' for the Resilient Australia awards.

For more information and to access the strategies see: [Flood Ready Dairy Farming](#); [Flood Ready Sugar Cane](#) or email [Rik Whitehead](mailto:rik.whitehead@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



Collaboration between sectors on climate change essential

The North Coast Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment (IRVA) has been released. It is the fourth assessment of regional climate vulnerabilities completed in

NSW, and finds that climate change will have cross-cutting impacts for the region, requiring collaborative approaches for successful adaptation.

The North Coast IRVA brought together over 100 state and local government representatives to develop a collective understanding of interrelated vulnerabilities for service planning and delivery in the region, including:

- its narrow coastal plain, sensitive to changes in flooding and sea level rise
- the ageing demographics of the region, due to retirees and loss of youth
- the exposure of regional infrastructure to current and future climate risks
- short term financial cycles, including current pressures on local government, preventing investment in adaptation
- strong, but often informal, regional networks of knowledge which are vital for collaboration and
- leadership to prioritise, support and coordinate adaptive responses.

To learn more about the process there are two reports available:

[identifying regional climate-change vulnerabilities](#) and the [results of the sector workshops](#).



A great animation from [OECD.org](https://www.oecd.org) on practical applications of climate change adaptation.

Identifying opportunities to adapt in Western NSW

OEH, in collaboration with the Adaptive Communities Node of the NSW Adaptation Research Hub, is currently leading the Western Enabling Regional Adaptation (WERA) project to identify climate vulnerabilities and opportunities to respond across the four western regions of NSW; an area equivalent to the size of France!

The project has been initiated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Regional Leadership Groups, which comprise high-level cross agency representatives who coordinate government priorities at a regional level. The process builds on previous regional projects including the [Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessments](#), and [Enabling Adaptation in the South East](#).

So far WERA has engaged 250 regional decision makers (including 38 Councils, 25 State and seven Commonwealth agencies) to understand climate vulnerabilities and identify opportunities to enhance services in the Riverina Murray, Central West Orana, Far West and New England North West. Through a staged workshop process the participants:

- explore likely climate change impacts and other regional drivers of change,
- illustrate indirect impacts on different regional sectors,
- identify desirable outcomes in the context of regional adaptive capacity, and

- develop transition models for key regional systems and potential “first steps” projects.

The final three workshops are scheduled for Dubbo 30-31 May, Broken Hill 27-28 June and Tamworth 19 July. If you would like to know more about the project please contact [Suzanne Dunford, OEH](#).

Image: Road to Burke in the Australian Outback. Copyright: Edward Haylan.



Apply for the 2016 Resilient Australia Awards

The Resilient Australia Awards recognise and promote initiatives which strengthen community disaster resilience across the nation, making our communities safer, stronger and better prepared to manage any emergency situation. By celebrating innovation and exemplary practice, the awards showcase work that is often unseen, motivating others to think about how they can be better prepared and more disaster resilient. Applications open until 9 June 2016, [apply here](#)



Public Submissions Report on the Coastal Reforms and Introduction of the Coastal Management Bill

The NSW Government has prepared a [submissions report](#) on the public submissions received on the coastal management reforms. The [public consultation submissions](#) are also available. Following community and stakeholder feedback, the draft bill

Would you like an industry qualification in climate change adaptation?



The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Learning to Adapt professional development training program was developed in 2010, with support from OEH, to up-skill professionals on climate change adaptation planning and communication. It builds requisite adaptation skills, such as applying climate change science, assessing and managing climate change risks and implementing and communicating adaptation actions, and delivering practical, hands on knowledge at the postgraduate level. Completion of this course is recognised by the following industry programs:

- EIANZ's CEnvP program
- Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Green Star CPD program;
- Master Class in Climate Change Adaptation by Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA)

Mel Hillery from OEH is currently attending, and very much enjoying the course. *“The course combines a stimulating line-up of speakers with hands-on collaborative work-place based projects to explore **adaptation in practice.**”* [Click here for course and pricing information on Learning to Adapt](#)

Publications, events, news and grants

Publications (free access, click links to go to full article)

Wise, R. M. et al (2014). Reconceptualising adaptation to climate change as part of pathways of change and response *Global Environmental Change*, 28, 325-336.

O'Donnell, T. (2016). Legal Geography and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation: The Vaughan Litigation. *Geographical Research*.

Torabi, E., Howes, M., & Dedekorkut-Howes, A. The Tide is High: Evaluating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience at the Local Level.

Mackenzie, T. J., Nilsen, A. O., & Duggan, M. S. (2015). Navigating climate change: Adaptation planning for ports and navigation infrastructure. In *Australasian Coasts & Ports Conference 2015: 22nd Australasian Coastal and Ocean Engineering Conference and the 15th Australasian Port and Harbour Conference* (p. 547). Engineers Australia and IPENZ.

Runting, R. K., Lovelock, C. E., Beyer, H. L., & Rhodes, J. R. (2016). Costs and opportunities for preserving coastal wetlands under sea level rise. *Conservation Letters*.

Wilkin, K. M., Ackerly, D. D., & Stephens, S. L. (2016). Climate Change Refugia, Fire Ecology and Management. *Forests*, 7(4), 77.

Evans, J. P., Olson, R., Fita, L., Argüeso, D., & Di Luca, A. NARCLiM model performance including teleconnections with climate modes.

Elrick-Barr, C. [Household adaptation to climate change and the resilience of Australian urban areas.](#)

Conferences / events

By now you've heard about the [Climate Adaptation Conference 2016](#), but did you know about the side events planned?

4 July [Early career workshop](#)

8 July Workshop: [When rain doesn't fall](#), climate resilient water sources

8 July Vulnerable Communities Network [MasterClass](#)

Other events

26 May [Climate Adaptation and Resilience Master class](#). Green Stay. 2016

9:00am to 5:00pm

15 June 2016 Learning to Adapt Canberra, [Module 3: Implementing and communicating Climate Change adaptation action](#)

26 to 28 September 2016 12th ACCARNSI Early Career Researcher Forum and Workshop, *University of South Australia SA*

23-25 November 2016, Sydney. [Global Ecologies - Local Impacts conference.](#)

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