

AdaptNSW



**Office of
Environment
& Heritage**

AdaptNSW event announcement...plus more!

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AdaptNSW

AdaptNSW annual forum – new date announced!

Monday 27 November 2017

at the Aerial Function Centre UTS, 9:30am-5:30pm.

The AdaptNSW Annual Forum brings together government, industry, researchers, consultants and community representative to showcase the latest in climate change adaptation research and implementation in NSW.

The 2017 theme is **‘Supporting Vulnerable Communities’**, and provides a platform to showcase the achievements of the NSW Adaptation Research Hub,

leading adaptation practice from across the world, and an opportunity for face-to-face networking on adaptation for practitioners in NSW and beyond.

The program features:

- A panel on 'The Power of Innovative Adaptation', exploring case studies in financial markets, data sharing and deliberative processes.
- A Virtual Reality experience showcasing interagency collaboration to understand infrastructure interdependencies will be presented the UTS Data Arena; a 360-degree interactive data visualisation facility which will enable participants to view and interact with climate event data and key assets.

This event is an opportunity to share and celebrate achievements and help build awareness of practical actions to make NSW better prepared to respond and adapt to a changing climate.

Come and join us on **Monday 27 November** and learn how to better equip yourself, your organisation and your community to adapt to the impacts, and opportunities of climate change.

To make a contribution to the day, please contact [Storm O'Toole](#).

XDI in the UTS Data Arena :

AdaptNSW lunchtime session

Can you sweep through thousands of assets to find the one that is at risk from extreme weather? Can you quantify the cost of increasing risks, losses and insurance to their projected cash-flows? Can you collaborate with utilities and governments to find the shared financial value in an adaptation plan?

The Cross Dependency Initiative or XDI, brings climate science hard up against infrastructure engineering and financial analysis. Using big-data and high-speed cloud computing this initiative is turning climate change into dollars and cents decision making.

AdaptNSW forum delegates are invited to the UTS Data Arena during the lunch break to see a 20 minute demonstration of the XDI Climate Adaptation System in an immersive, 3D experience.

Presented by Dr Karl Mallon, Rohan Hamden and Rebecca Cunningham (ISF).



XDI | **CROSS
DEPENDENCY
INITIATIVE**

Solutions needed at a local level...

The Australian Academy of Science released a [report](#) in August highlighting the critical need for more climate scientists in Australia to help primary producers, business and governments prepare for a changing climate. Report lead, Professor Trever McDougall, fellow at the Australian Academy of Science and professor at the University of NSW said "In terms of adaptation, you need to have answers at the farm level or at least the council level, rather than [just] the state level".

The NSW Government is *already* actively undertaking the following programs to meet *exactly* these identified needs:

- announcement of \$500 million of new funding for energy efficiency and climate adaptation programs between 2017–18 and 2021–22 through the [Draft Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan](#)
- development of the next phase of best-available fine-scale climate projections available for NSW through the NSW and ACT Climate Model ([NARCIIM](#));
- regional Climate Change Support Officers located at four regional offices across the state working with state agencies and local councils to tailor localised responses;
- regional consultations with with community members, agencies and other local stakeholders to identify and understand regional vulnerabilities and develop localised transition 'pathways' for a climate adapted future;
- the [Building Resilience to Climate Change grant](#) has provided grants of \$15,00-\$80,000 to NSW councils to address identified climate change risks and vulnerabilities;
- establishment of the [NSW Adaptation Research Hub](#), a partnership with leading NSW research institutions to deliver research outcomes that are tied to policy and operational priorities.

UNESCO Governments Finalise Draft Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change

UNESCO member states, of which Australia is one, finalised a [draft declaration of](#)

[ethical principles in relation to climate change](#) in Paris, from 27-30 July 2017.

The draft declaration includes principles relating to:

- prevention of harm
- the precautionary approach
- equity and justice
- sustainable development
- solidarity
- scientific knowledge and integrity in decision making.

The declaration also includes provisions on the principles' application in relation to, *inter alia*: science, technologies and innovations; risk assessment and management; vulnerable groups; and education and public awareness.

The declaration is expected to be adopted and the principles reflected therein proclaimed at the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris from 30 October to 14 November 2017.

Big infrastructure project? Is a PPP right for you?

The substantial impact that climate change will have on infrastructure makes it particularly important to incorporate this risk into our long-term planning and management. This can mean costs rapidly become expensive – [UNEP's The Adaptation Gap Finance Report](#) estimates the costs of adaptation are likely to be two-to-three times higher than current global estimates by 2030, and potentially four-to-five times higher by 2050.

Enter Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs): an innovative approach many governments are using to work with the private sector to finance the infrastructure they need to adapt to climate change.

When is this the right choice for your project?

The International Institute for Sustainable Development's David Uzsoki outlines the following:

- PPPs should deliver efficiency, not just to fill financing gaps.
- Risks should be carefully allocated between public and private partners.
- PPPs should involve climate risk assessments.

Uzsoki says, PPPs might not be the cheapest way to buy infrastructure, but when considering the efficiency gains and key risks allocated to the private party, PPPs might be the optimal structure for the project. Read more [here](#).

Conferences | Jobs | Awards | Nominations

Upcoming conferences

27-29 September 2017 Australian Association for Environmental Education 'Make the change' conference, will support sustainability education and engagement providers from all sectors- government, community and formal - to shape effective action into the future. <http://www.nsweeconference.org.au/>

15-18 October 2017 Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand conference, 'The Critical Atmosphere' will examine the effects of climate change on human health and wellbeing and our capacity to effectively control and regulate air pollution <https://www.casanz.org.au/2017Conference/Default.aspx>

29 October – 1 November 2017 EIANZ Annual Conference 'Fronting up with wicked solutions', confronts wicked problems by focusing on wicked solutions <https://www.eianz.org/conference-information/conference/eianz-annual-conference>

10 November 2017 NSW Coastal Conference [Registrations](#) are now open for the 26th annual NSW Coastal Conference. With the theme 'The Next Wave', conference sessions will focus on the new coastal management framework. When: Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 November 2017 Where: Shoal Bay Country Club, Port Stephens

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28-30 November 2017 State of Australian Cities conference is the primary focus of the Australian Cities Research Network (ACRN) and meets every two years at an alternating city around Australia. The SOAC Conference is an opportunity to reconnect with academic colleagues and hear about the latest developments <http://soac2017.com.au/>

3-8 December 2017 International Congress on Modelling and Simulation 'Managing cumulative risks through model-based processes'. Conference themes include pragmatic policy evaluation, scenario modelling of uncertain futures under climate change, resource constraints, colliding 'catastrophes' and limited budgets

NELA national conference papers available online The National Environmental Law Association held its national conference in Brisbane on 4 August 2017 on the theme 'Addressing Past Harm, Managing Future Risks'. Papers and presentations from the conference are now available [online](#).

Awards - nominations

NELA Essay Competition The NELA Essay Competition is now open, seeking essays addressing issues facing Australian environmental law from undergraduate and postgraduate students at Australian universities. Submissions close 18 December 2017.

Awards – events

LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards – 11 October 2017, UTS Aerial Function Centre, Ultimo <https://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/excellence-environment-awards>

2017 NSW Green Globes Climate Change Leadership Award - finalists announced.

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton has announced the finalists for the [2017 Green Globes Awards](#). See the [full list of of finalists](#). Winners will be announced at an invitation only gala event at the Art Gallery of NSW on 19 October 2017.

Nominations

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is seeking nominations for AR6 author roles - nominations for author roles for the Sixth Assessment Report will be sought in September 2017. Information relevant to this nomination process will be detailed on the IPCC website <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/climate-science/ipcc>

NSW Adaptation Hub outputs

for outputs of each of the nodes please visit the following sites:

Biodiversity Node, led by Macquarie University

<http://biodiversity.science.mq.edu.au/>

Adaptive Communities Node, led by the Institute for Sustainable futures, UTS

<https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/institute-sustainable-futures/our-research/climate-change/nsw>

Coastal Processes and Responses Node, led by the Sydney Institute for Marine Science

<http://sims.org.au/research/long-term-projects/oeh-coastal-processes-node/>
