



Hello,

There's been a lot happening in the climate change space recently. This newsletter covers events in the period since the AdaptNSW Forum in late 2018 to now.

Latest NSW Government news

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced her new Cabinet and for the first time in NSW, energy and environment will be the responsibility of one minister. The Honourable Matthew John Kean MP has been sworn in as the new Minister for Energy and Environment.

To more effectively deliver services and advice to Government, the Office of Environment and Heritage will transition into the Department of Planning and Industry with heritage functions moving to the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Planning and Industry Cluster brings together the functions from the former Planning and Environment and Industry Clusters. The new Cluster will drive for greater levels of integration and efficiency across key areas such as long-term planning, infrastructure priorities, open space, the environment and natural resources.

The Climate Change Adaptation team has also recently merged with a new Net Zero Emissions Implementation team into the Climate Resilience and Net Zero Emissions Branch.

AdaptNSW Forum Wrap-up

The Annual AdaptNSW forum was held on 19 November 2018 in Sydney. Once again, a very positive and optimistic crowd of around 200 practitioners and researchers from a variety of sectors shared ideas and knowledge for adapting to climate change.



Word cloud from AdaptNSW event evaluation 2018

OEH Chief Executive, Anthony Lean welcomed the delegates and researchers noting that though sensitive to extreme events, NSW is building our capacity to respond, outlining new government [investments in climate change protection](#) including a new \$3.5 million grant scheme to councils to better plan, prepare and respond to climate change. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Treasury \(PDF 1.24MB\)](#) , [Primary Industries \(PDF 1.39MB\)](#) and the [Resilient Sydney \(PDF 1.97MB\)](#) project outlined emerging government strategies to account for climate change impacts and support responses. The State's leading adaptation researchers were out in force to share knowledge from the previous five years research and adaptation action across NSW communities, coastal zones and biodiverse regions. [Check out the Hub presentations here.](#)

An address from Colonel Ian Cumming from the Department of Defence outlined the need for leadership to collaborate for a resilient and compassionate society. These thoughts were echoed in the final panel session with investors, infrastructure managers and innovators. Some questions from the audience are answered [here \(PDF 100KB\)](#).

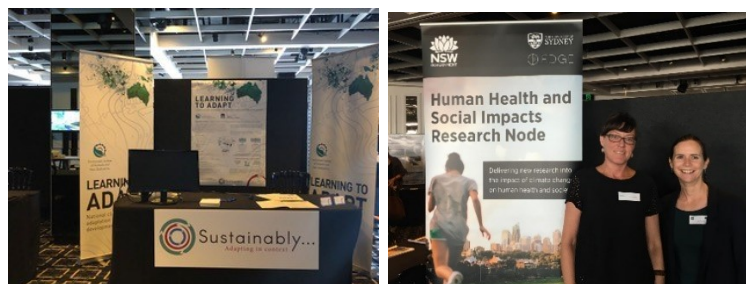


Keynote Speaker Colonel Ian Cumming Australian Defence Force

Adaptation Marketplace

Growing an adaptation services market that can meet our burgeoning needs is vitally important. So, it was especially great to see a flourishing Marketplace of vibrant and diverse adaptation tools and services on offer at the forum, with 18 businesses and public-sector managers presenting research and projects to the diverse audience of forum attendees.

This great networking opportunity saw different adaptation sectors represented such as coastal ecologists to engineers, biodiversity scientists and sustainability and disaster risk consultants, all comparing notes and identifying potential collaboration opportunities. Local government and training specialists were also on hand to share case studies, tools and approaches for implementing adaptation.



Adaptation Marketplace stall holders

Global Climate Change negotiations - COP 24

During the first two weeks of December 2018, Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement met in Katowice, Poland, to progress action amid an

escalated sense of urgency following the release in October of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on 1.5°C.

Fiji's presidency came to an end after a year of leading meetings between state and non-state actors on how to deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement, with particular emphasis on achieving a "just transition" to a better world and the transformative use of technology. New commitments on investment in [climate information services](#) and [guidelines for implementing](#) the Paris agreement were confirmed. This coincided with the World Health Organisation also releasing its [special report](#) on health and climate change.

Global Climate Risks at Davos

The World Economic Forum has released its [Global Risks Report 2019](#) to coincide with its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. For the third year in a row, climate change and climate change–related risks dominate the list, accounting for five of the top ten risks by both likelihood and impact. Despite extreme weather events across the globe, climate change is still not seen as an immediate risk.

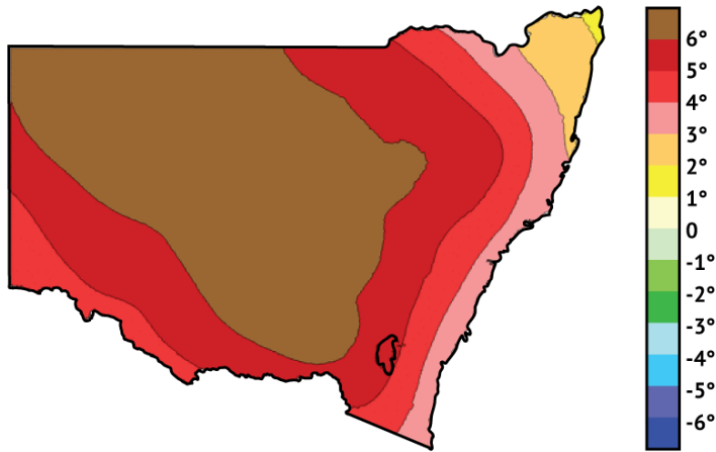
The assumption that climate-change impacts will continue to increase in the future at the same pace as in the recent past was recently challenged by the IPCC special report, and [this recent article in Nature](#) outlines why we should start to expect exponential changes in climate, and argues that the need for rapid adaptation is here.

DPI Climate Change Strategy announced

NSW continues to break temperature records, with average day and night temperatures reaching up to [six degrees above normal](#).

Mean temperature anomaly (°C)

January 2019



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

The [NSW Department of Primary Industries](#) has released a [\\$29.2 million strategy](#) targeting seven projects - including vulnerability assessments, renewable energy and low-emissions farming. For more information visit the [DPI website](#).

Local Government Environment Awards Adaptation Champs

Congratulations to the Adaptation Champions at the NSW Local Government Environment Awards.

[Winner Division A](#) - Cowra Shire Council for the *Climate Smart innovation in the Central West* conference, which incorporated a variety of speakers, workshops and tours showcasing latest innovations in regional responses to climate change.

[Highly Commended Division C](#) - Northern Beaches Council for the Practice Note 12.1: Climate Change Impacts on the Useful Life of Infrastructure. [Case Study \(PDF, 191KB\)](#)

[Highly Commended Division C](#) - Penrith City Council for the Climate Adapted People Shelters design competition and installation opposite Nepean Hospital. Subsequent monitoring of the bus shelter demonstrated significant improvements in temperatures compared to a traditional bus shelter. [Case Study \(PDF, 265KB\)](#)

NSW Common Planning Assumptions Work Book Updated

The NSW Common Planning Assumptions (CPA) are agreed information assets for use by NSW Government and others, to prepare proposals, business plans and strategies that rely on projections. In November last year the CPA Book was updated in with climate change projections from the NARCLIM climate data set. www.transport.nsw.gov.au/data-and-research/common-planning-assumptions/where-to-find-common-planning-assumptions-data-sets-3

Further updates to the CPA will be reflected as updated information and data become available and are endorsed for use.

News from the NSW Adaptation Research Hub

Biodiversity node

The 'Identifying regions of high drought mortality risk for tree species in NSW' project has recently published a paper in Nature entitled '[Triggers of Tree mortality under drought](#)'

This project utilised citizen science to build evidence around tree deaths through the following app the "[Dead tree Detective](#)". [You can read more here.](#)

Lesley and Tori from the Bionode prepared an article for the Ecological Society Australia's [latest ESA Bulletin](#) on how the Hub has supported the research-policy nexus.

Health and Social Impacts Node

Node researchers published an article in the Medical Journal of Australia assessing the impact of climate change on health, including mental health in Australia, which was covered by mainstream media. Links to [SMH](#) and [ABC](#) articles [here](#).

Node researchers and our partners at NSW Department of Health were also very well represented as contributors to a [special issue](#) of Public Health Research & Practice on climate change and health, offering perspective on well-being challenges and frameworks, local responses and asthma and allergy links.

Coastal Node

The Coastal Management Guide: [Managing coastal erosion, a teaching resource guide for years 7-10](#) has been uploaded to the AdaptNSW

website. The guide can assist teachers to engage their students (target ages 11 – 16 years) in topics such as ‘the dynamic coast’, ‘managing for the future’ and ‘how do we measure coastal change’. This educational resource will build capacity for future decision makers to consider coastal management through STEM curriculum.

Adaptive Communities Node

For our French-speaking readers, ISF have contributed a chapter to a joint French/Australian book “*Agricultural Lands in the face of Urbanisation*” (*Les Terres Agricoles Face a’urbanisation*) describing outcomes on peri-urban agriculture as part of the Sydney Food Futures project supported by the Adaptive Communities Node. The book can be [downloaded](#) in EPUP format, free of charge and may be freely redistributed.

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