



AdaptNSW Newsletter - December 2020

As we come to the end of a challenging but exciting year of achievements, we would like to thank you for your continued support in engaging with our work. This includes delivering the first online AdaptNSW webinar series which allowed us to connect a diverse range of people with the common goal of increasing resilience to climate change across our beautiful state of New South Wales.

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday period and look forward to sharing all the latest climate change information with you next year.

AdaptNSW 2020 webinar series

The first AdaptNSW2020 webinar series was held from 17 November to 1 December and attracted over 570 people. For those who were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed the inspiring line up of experts talking about a range of approaches they are taking to build the resilience of New South Wales to climate change.

This series showcased the amazing dedication to climate change adaptation work happening across the state, from sharing traditional Aboriginal cultural knowledge to innovative ways of climate resilience planning by communities, industry and government.

There were many positive opportunities that came out of a new online delivery due to the social distancing restrictions of COVID-19. It was great to offer the option to participate from anywhere in Australia, and the flexibility to catch up on recorded sessions later.

If you attended a webinar or have watched the recordings, we'd appreciate your feedback which will be used to design future webinar series.

Please complete the 5-minute post event survey by 5pm on Friday 18 December.

Take survey

Didn't catch the presentations?

[Click here](#) to view the webinar series presentations and recordings.



Successful councils announced for climate resilience grants

Eight projects, including 33 councils and their partners, have been successful in receiving a share of \$611,000 in the third round of Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) council grants announced by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) on 17th December 2020.

Both individual and groups of councils were awarded grants to increase their resilience and respond to identified climate risks in their region. Some of these councils are collaborating with other organisations,

government agencies and community groups with projects commencing early 2021.

Nambucca Council were awarded for ***Filling the tanks – Improving Rural Resilience to Bushfire threats in the Nambucca Valley***, which will fund a strategically located water filling station. This system uses a web-based system and will provide rural residents and emergency services access to life saving supplies of water in the event rain tank supplies are depleted or power failure affects the ability to pump water.

Act now on Adaptation: Coastal Wise Communities is an initiative by the Hunter Joint Organisation (of 7 councils and 2 partners), to deliver coastal adaptation communication and engagement resources for the Hunter and Central Coast region that embeds climate change resilience into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework of councils.

The IRCC grants are a partnership between LGNSW and the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment.

[**Find out more about these councils and their projects.**](#)

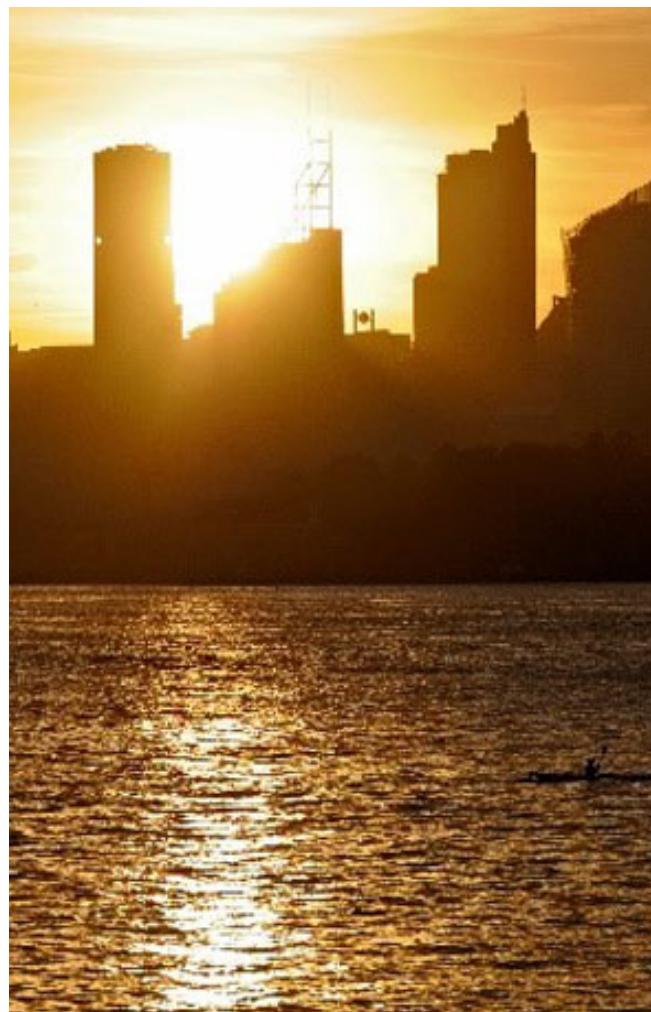
New podcast series, Climate Resilience Namoi

In the [Climate Resilience: Namoi](#) podcast you'll hear directly from staff and councillors from Walcha and Tamworth Regional councils in the Namoi region about their experiences of unprecedented drought, and how they are preparing for a future of climate uncertainty. And we'll bring you to a farm on the Liverpool Plains which is working to keep water in the land for longer and helping ensure a viable future for agriculture.

You will find inspiration in these three stories of climate resilience, produced and presented by former ABC documentary maker, Gretchen Miller with sound engineer Judy Rapley. The podcasts are proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government

NSW through the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change program.

Download the podcasts, by typing in ***Climate Resilience: Namoi*** into Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify. Each episode is around 20 minutes. Why not have a listen while you travel or when you take a break from work?



Cutting edge research showcased at online event

The Human Health and Social Impacts (HHSI) Node of the NSW Adaptation Research Hub hosted its final virtual research showcase for 2020 on Tuesday, 8 December. The event brought together close to 100 participants from across the country to hear world-class Node scientists present on the latest climate and health research.

In addition, the event offered the opportunity to celebrate Node achievements and to discuss how the health and social impacts identified through Node research can be used to inform policy, practice and communities in the face of a changing climate

The Node is a collaboration between [The University of Sydney](#) and other leading universities and experts in climate change impacts and adaptation science. Funding for the Node is supported by The Department and NSW Health.

Please monitor the HHSI Node website for a link to the presentations.

[**FIND OUT MORE HERE >**](#)

End of an ERA: 10-year Enabling Regional Adaptation report



The Hunter & Central Coast is the 10th and final NSW region to complete the Enabling Regional Adaptation

(ERA) process, led by The Department in conjunction with the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF). Five workshops with over 150 stakeholders from the region have informed a final report outlining pathways to transition key sectors in the Hunter & Central Coast to a more climate resilient future.

Since 2010 the ERA team has consulted over 1700 stakeholders to understand climate change vulnerabilities in NSW regions and identify opportunities to respond. It aims to empower regional decision-makers to build regional resilience by enhancing government service delivery and planning. The Hunter and Central Coast now joins the South East, Shoalhaven Illawarra, North Coast, Riverina Murray, New England North West, Central West Orana and Far West regions as having successfully completed the [ERA process](#). The final HCC report can be accessed on the [AdaptNSW website here](#).

New Climate Risk Ready training course

The newly accredited Climate Risk Ready training course in climate change risk assessment and management was recently launched with an orientation session on 3 December for officers from NSW, Commonwealth Government and the Australian States and Territory governments.

The interactive online course is the first of its kind in Australia, designed to support government staff to build the capacity of their agencies to better understand their exposure to climate risks and opportunities. Staff who complete the course will receive a nationally recognised accreditation in Climate Risk Readiness for the Public Sector.

The course was developed in partnership with The Department, NSW Treasury, Western Sydney University (WSU) The College and AECOM and builds on the Climate Risk Ready NSW Guide. The Guide is aligned to state risk management policy and will be co-released by with NSW Treasury in December.

More dates for the training program are planned for 2021-2022. The Department is now recruiting prospective attendees. We encourage you to share the course details with any state government contacts.

[**FIND OUT MORE HERE >**](#)

Working with Custodians on adaptation for cultural values and Country

Feature story by Joanne Wilson, Miriam Vandenberg and Polly Mitchell (Cultural and Ecosystem Adaptation program, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment)

In November, the Cultural and Ecosystem Adaptation (CEA) team met with traditional owners of the Worimi Conservation Lands and the Githabul Nation to talk about adaptation options to protect cultural values and Country under increasing impacts from climate change. These groups are two communities working with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Climate Change Adaptation program which aims to provide support for Aboriginal communities to identify adaptation solutions to reduce impacts on cultural practice and cultural values from climate change.

Worimi Country lies on the coast between Newcastle and Port Stephens and encompasses the largest mobile sand dunes in the southern hemisphere. Worimi people are the recognised traditional owners of the Worimi Conservation Lands which has been gazetted as national park and is jointly managed under a 'hand back / lease back' agreement between the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Worimi people and NPWS have already seen the impacts of climate change on Worimi Conservation Lands. To protect the cultural values and realise the vision for Worimi Conservation Lands, it's important that Worimi people understand climate change impacts, and say what's important and how to protect it. Our aim is to support Worimi people to discuss and decide how to realise their vision in the face of climate change impacts.

On our field visit, we saw first-hand the impact of east coast lows and inundation, ongoing challenges of neighbouring sand extraction and 4WD impacts. There have also been conservation successes in dune rehabilitation, protecting midden site and restricting 4WD activity to a smaller area.

We started the conversation with Worimi representatives and NPWS co-managers about the concerns and aspirations of Worimi people and what information would support their goal of an adaptation strategy for cultural values.

Githabul Country encompasses parts of the Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Area in northern NSW and includes the forests and ranges that extend in the area north of Casino up into southern Queensland. This area is one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in the world. Its rainforests and eucalypt forests are home to ancient lineages and unique Australian iconic species giving these parks and reserves globally recognised World Heritage status.

In 2007, an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) between the Githabul People, the Githabul Nation Aboriginal Corporation, and the NSW Government was signed. These rights cover over 1,100 km² in parks and reserves in the headwaters of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers. In 2018, the Githabul and conservation groups signed a memorandum of understanding to care and manage the land.

In November, we attended the first Githabul meeting held since 2012, alongside NPWS park managers. The team showed the Githabul group the projected climatic changes to the north east of NSW including change in annual rainfall, temperatures, heat waves and forest fire index. We discussed how climate change may affect cultural values and we heard first-hand how the first nation peoples are already seeing a decrease in rainfall in the catchment area, significantly impacting turtle and fish numbers, an integral part of connecting to Country.

The group heard how we are delivering a climate change adaptation implementation plan for the Tweed Caldera

Reserves of the Gondwana World Heritage, identifying how to protect some of the most unique and biodiverse areas in the world. We also discussed our engagement with other indigenous groups on Country in NSW to protect and conserve cultural values and practice. The Githabul people are keen to engage further to develop an adaptation plan for Githabul Country in 2021.



Photo credit: Miriam Vandenberg



Our mailing address is:
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