

# Enabling climate change adaptation in NSW

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## About climate change

Learn more about climate  
change in NSW page



## Impacts of climate change

Find out about the impact of  
climate change



## Adapt to climate change

Learn about how you can  
adapt to climate change



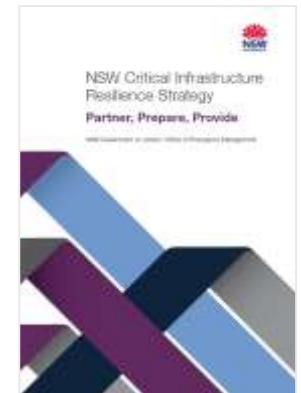
## Educational resources

Information & resources on  
climate change



# NSW Government policy

- Climate change policy framework 2016
  - Aspirational objectives
    - Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
    - NSW is more resilient to a changing climate
- Policy directives
  - Take advantage of opportunities to grow new industries
  - Reduce risks and damage to public and private assets in NSW
  - Reduce impacts on health and wellbeing
  - Manage impacts on natural resources, ecosystems and communities



# NSW Government Adaptation Programs

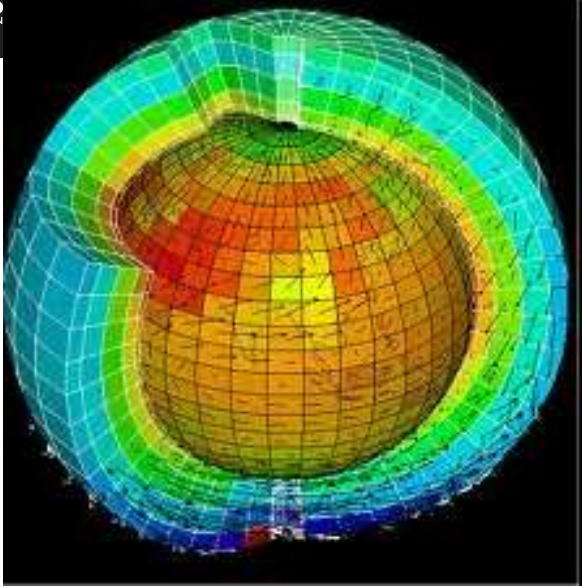
Three core areas:

- Knowledge delivery,
- Adaptation research Hub
- NSW fine scale projections
- AdaptNSW website and annual forum (19 Nov)
- Assessments,
- regional vulnerability assessments
- sectoral assessments (eg agency and council surveys)
- On ground responses
- BRCC grants and case studies
- Guidance: Green Cover, CCRA, Adaptation Planning Checklist
- Tools: XDI, Weedfutures.net, NPWS Adaptation Strategy
- L2A professional development course



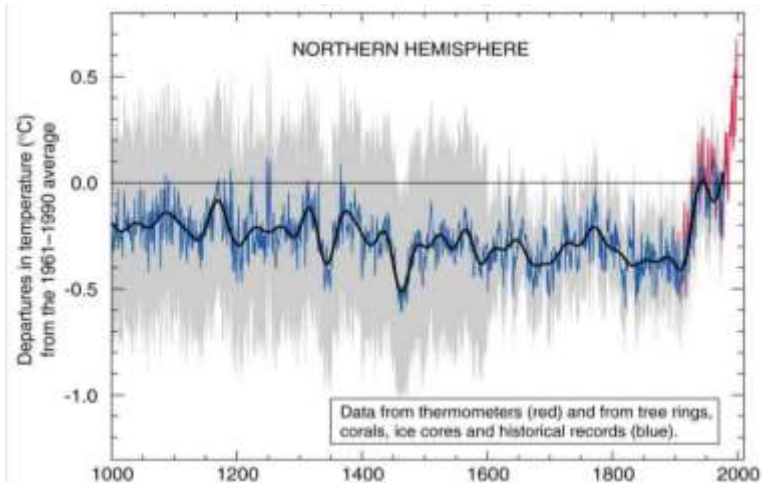
## Climate Change Fund Announced Programs

- Energy Savings for Energy Intensive Manufacturers - \$23 million
  - Energy metering systems, equipment upgrades and support to scope more complex upgrades
- More Efficient Homes for Low Income Tenants – \$24.5 million
  - Upgrades to 20,000 rental homes so low income renters can benefit from energy efficient lighting, heating and hot water
- More Efficiency Street Lighting – \$12.5
  - Upgrades of 60,000 street lights with LEDs for Councils
- NSW Government Solar Rollout – through the Government Resource Efficiency Program
- Home Action Small Business Upgrades program – \$44 million
- Home Energy Action Program - \$50 million
- Energy Management Services program



## Adaptation to climate change is not an entirely new challenge

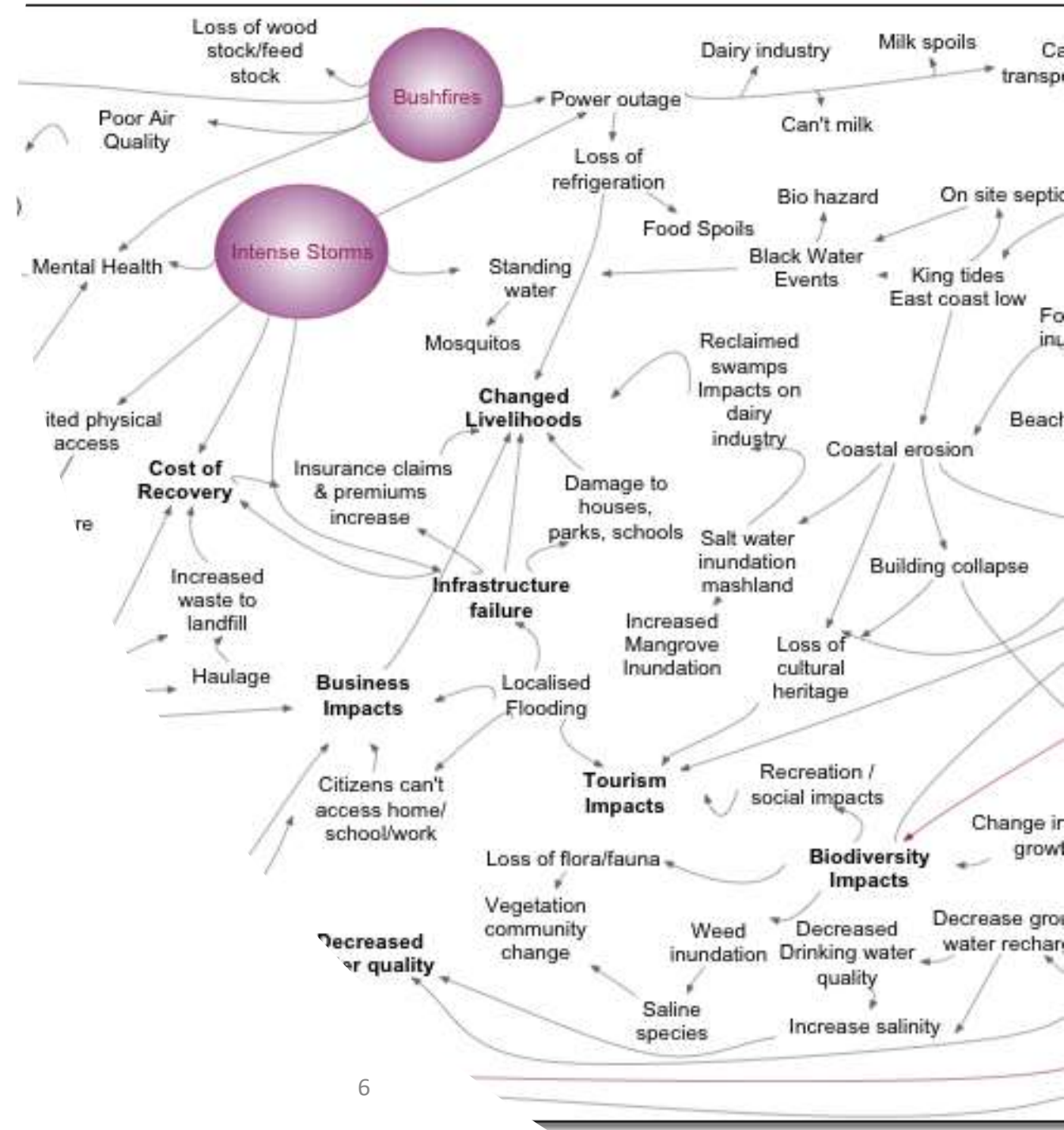
- But, it poses some new challenges:
  - an unprecedented change in climate,
  - the availability of information about this change (in itself unprecedented),
  - the potential for significant risks, and
  - contestability of views.





## Difficulties arise when seeking to make adaptation decisions:

- *Uncertainty*
- *Complexity*
- *Potential for significant consequences*
- *Irreversibility of change*
- *Urgency*
- *Scale of required response*



# Climate of the Nation published 12 September 2018

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## Climate change is happening and Australians are concerned about the impacts

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Three quarters (76%, up from 71% 2017) of Australians accept that climate change is occurring, 11% do not think that climate change is occurring and 13% are unsure.

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The effects of heat are the driving concern about the impact of climate change, and people were most concerned about more droughts and flooding affecting crop production and food supply (78%), destruction of the Great Barrier Reef (77%) and more bushfires (76%)

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## The public wants to transition to renewable energy

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Solar power continues to be Australia's most preferred source of energy. Three-quarters of Australians selected it in their top three preferred sources of energy, as a majority have done for the past three years.

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## Australians think governments are not doing enough about climate change

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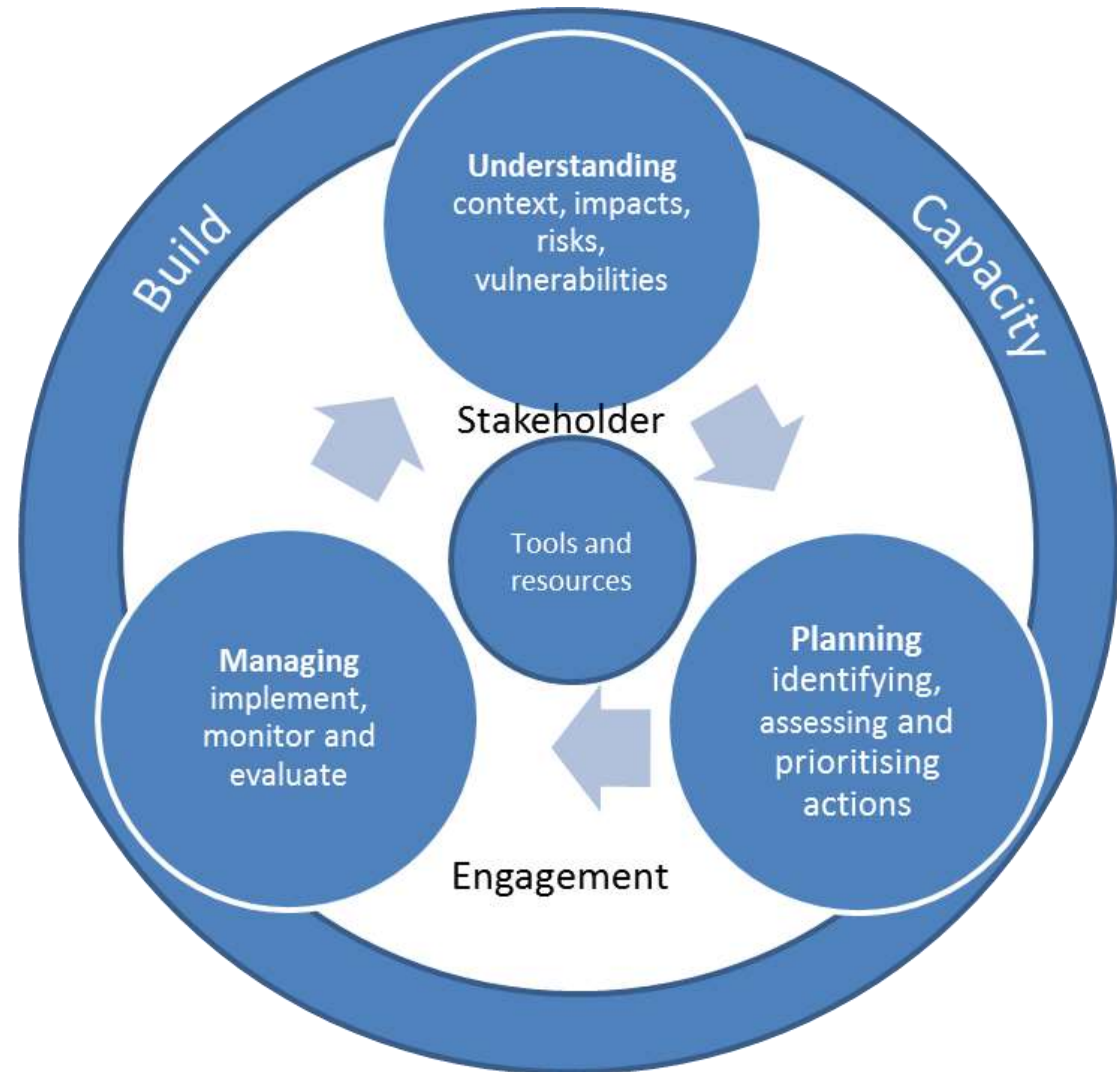
More than half (53%) of Australians think governments are not doing enough about climate change, and a further 6% don't think governments are concerned about it at all.

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55% of Australians think we should stay in the Paris Agreement, and 68% support targets to reduce emissions to meet it.

# Adaptive management

- Adaptation is a complex and multifaceted issue where important value-laden decisions need to be made with imperfect knowledge
- A balance between gaining knowledge to improve management in the future and achieving the best short-term outcome based on current knowledge (Allan & Stankey 2009)
- The cycle:
  - Understanding
  - Planning
  - Managing
- Supporting the implementation of this are:
  - Organisational capacity
  - Tools and resources
  - Stakeholder engagement





# What does good practice look like?

## Solid foundations

- Strategic alignment – identified in strategic plans and linking climate change impacts to organisational goals
- Governance and Coordination – Cross organisational working group with executive level engagement
- Motivation for acting – stakeholder driven, regulatory or fiduciary risk
- Stakeholder engagement – internal and external to the organisation





# Adaptive Capacity indicators

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**Awareness of climate change:** The ability to realise what climate change means for the organisation

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**Agency:** The capacity to spot, prioritise and develop opportunities for meaningful and timely action

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**Leadership:** The extent to which a formal leadership team is engaged

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**Access to Research, Data/Information and Monitoring:** Ability to conduct and extract value from research, expertise, data collection and monitoring activities

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**Corporate memory and a learning culture:** As adaptation is a learning and iterative process, it is important to preserve, have access to, and incorporate knowledge and experience gained

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**Working with stakeholders:** The capacity to involve, respect the needs of, communicate with, learn from, and act in collaborative partnerships

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**Program scope and coherence:** How far projects sit within an overall program for action that is suited to the scope of what the organisation is trying to achieve

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