



# Is your council ready?

**Presented to:**  
**Tweed BRCC forum**

# Overview

- LG adaptation survey
- Barriers and enablers
- Planning for the future



# NSW Climate Change Adaptation Survey

- Monitors local government responses to climate change
- Every 3 to 5 years since 2006
- Joint Local Government NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage project
- Guides the design of support programs
- Used for advocacy

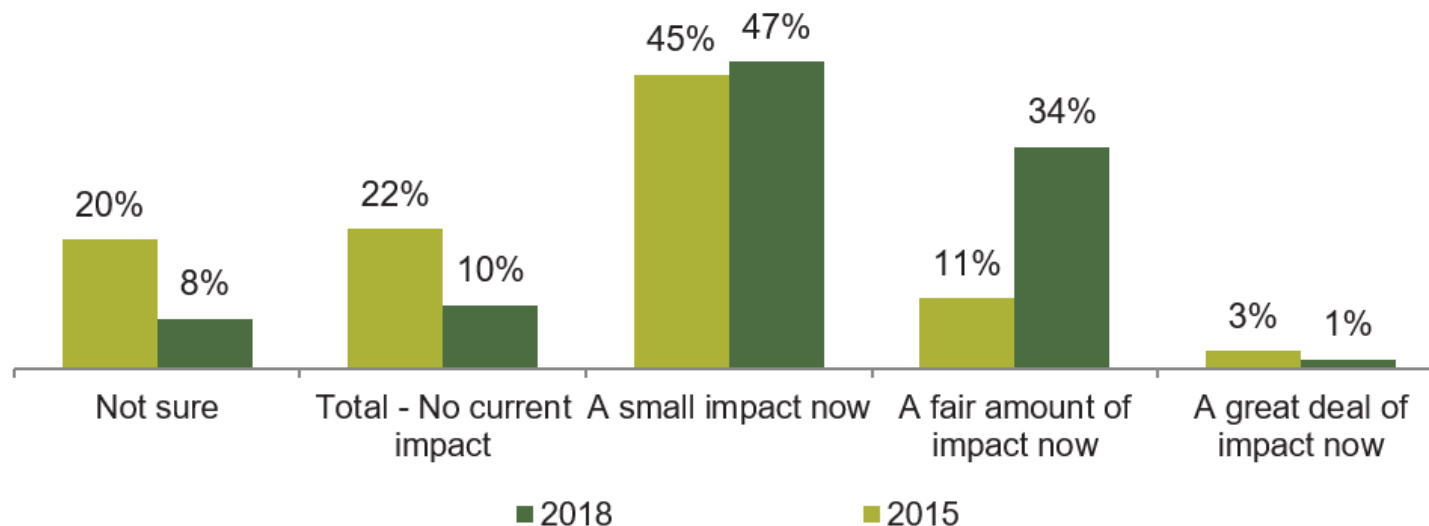
## Key findings

- Councils are already experiencing the impacts of climate change
- Consideration of climate change is now mainstream
- Lack of information and uncertainty of LG roles is less of a barrier
- Politics remains an issue
- Councillor and GM support is a key enabler

## 2018 participation rates

- Increasing as climate change becomes a more significant issue for councils to address
- 180 responses representing 66% of councils in NSW
- Most respondents have 10+ years local government experience
- Work in a range of roles

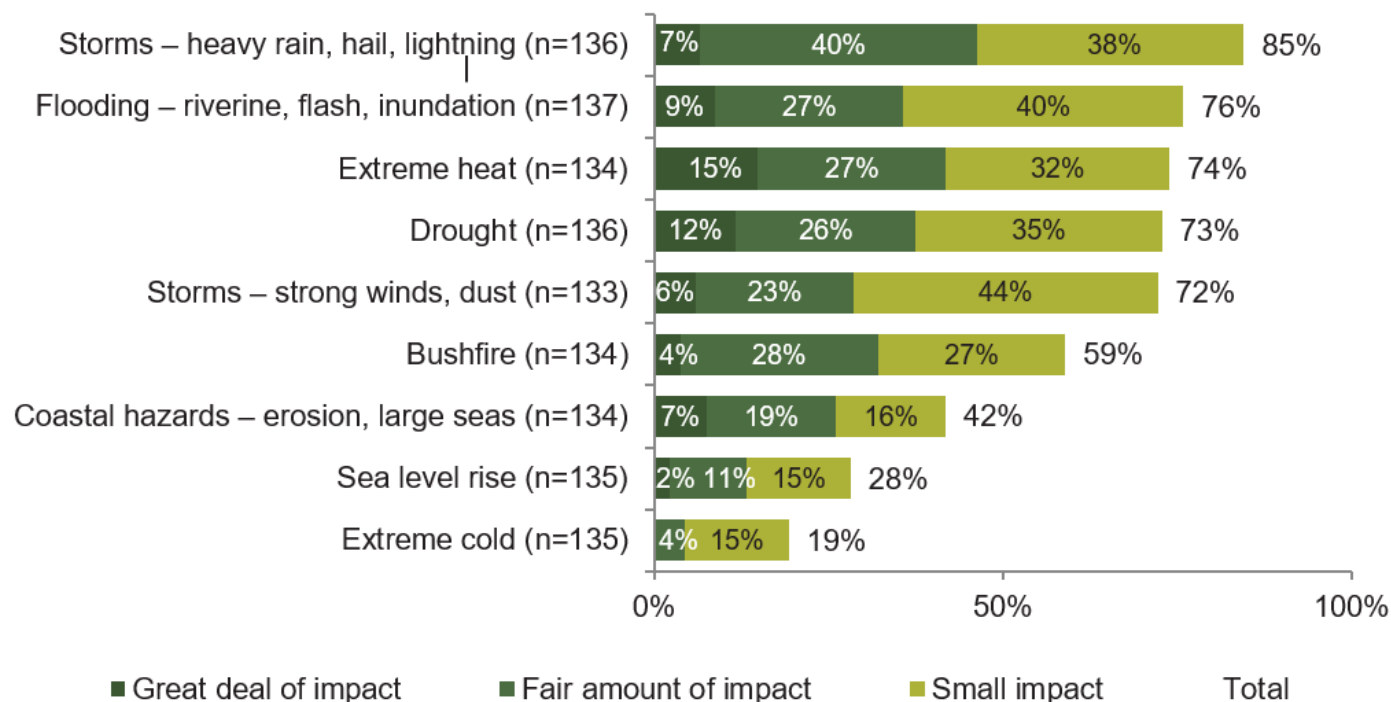
# Experiencing impacts of climate change



**Figure 4 Extent of impact of climate change on operations and management, 2015-2018**

Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 9 'How much impact is climate change having on your local government operations and management currently?', n = 144. NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2015, Question 7 'Are you currently experiencing impacts from climate change in your operations or management of assets?', n = 186.

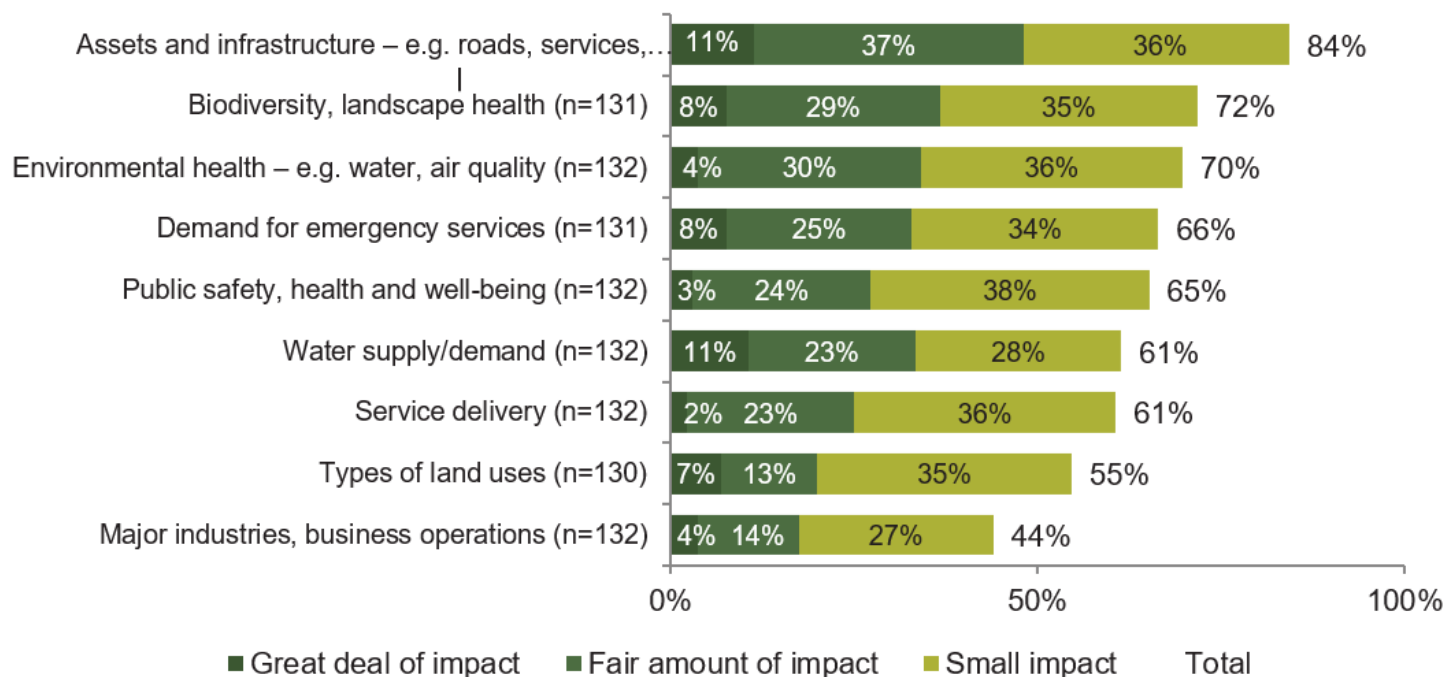
# Types of climate change impacts



**Figure 5 Types and extent of climate impacts**

Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 11 'To what extent are the following climate events impacting on your Local Government Area(s)/region?'.

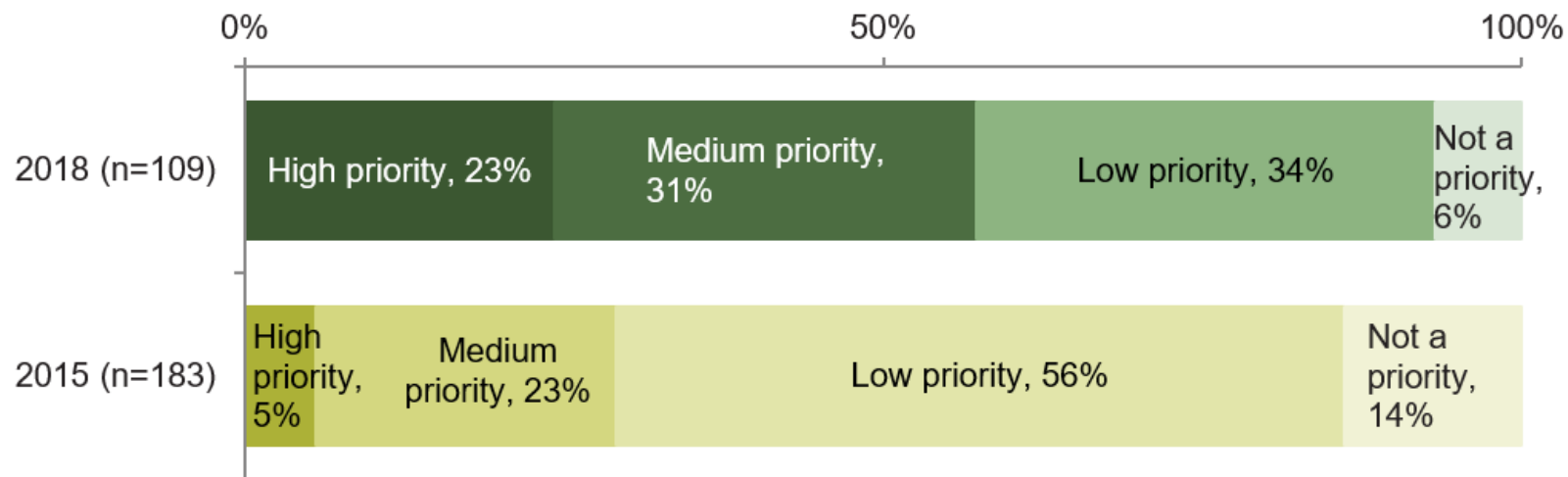
# Impacts to council operations and communities



**Figure 6 Types and extent of impacts on the LGA and council operations**

Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 12 'Overall, to what extent do you think climate events have (or will) impact on the following aspects of your Local Government Areas and operations?'.

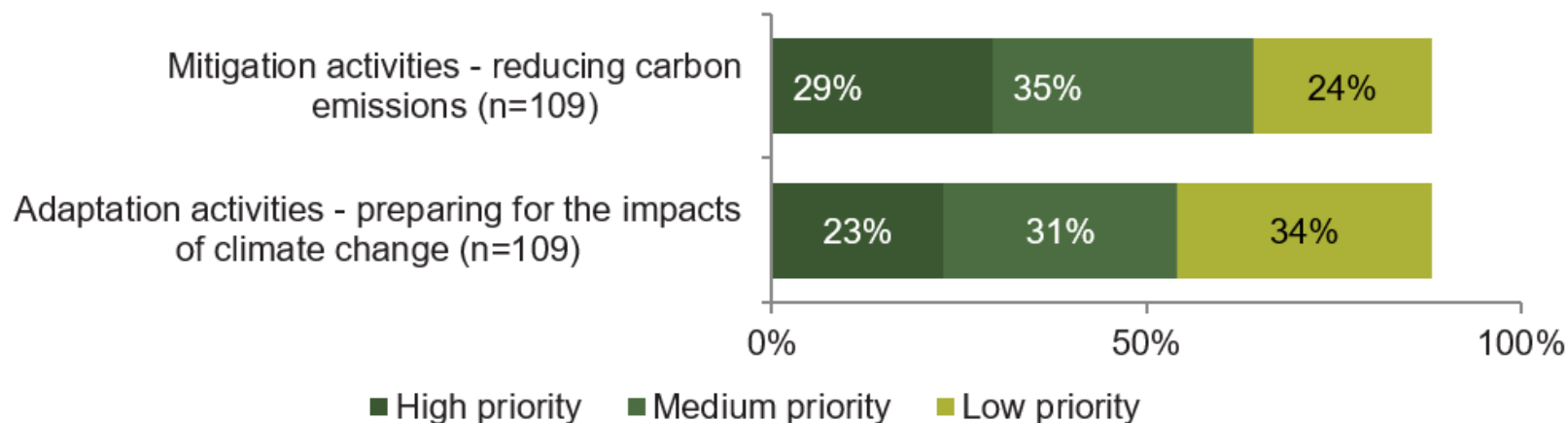
# Priority within council of adaptation activities



**Figure 18 Priority given to climate adaptation activities, 2015 and 2018**

*Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 23 'To what extent are climate change mitigation and adaptation activities a priority for your local government organisation?'. NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2015, Question 10 'Thinking about your council and its activities, how much priority does your council give to adapting to the impacts of climate change?'*

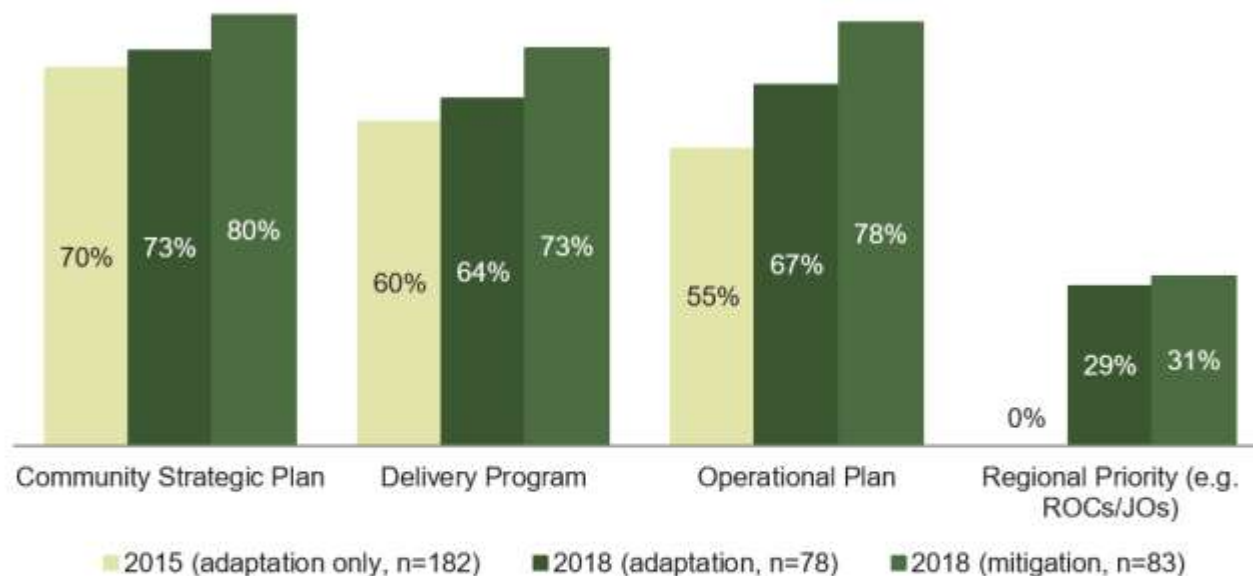
# Priority of all climate change activities



**Figure 17 Level of priority of mitigation and adaptation activities**

*Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 23 'To what extent are climate change mitigation and adaptation activities a priority for your local government organisation?'. N = 109.*

# Councils are acting on climate change



**Figure 19 Incorporation of mitigation/adaptation activities in organisational plans**

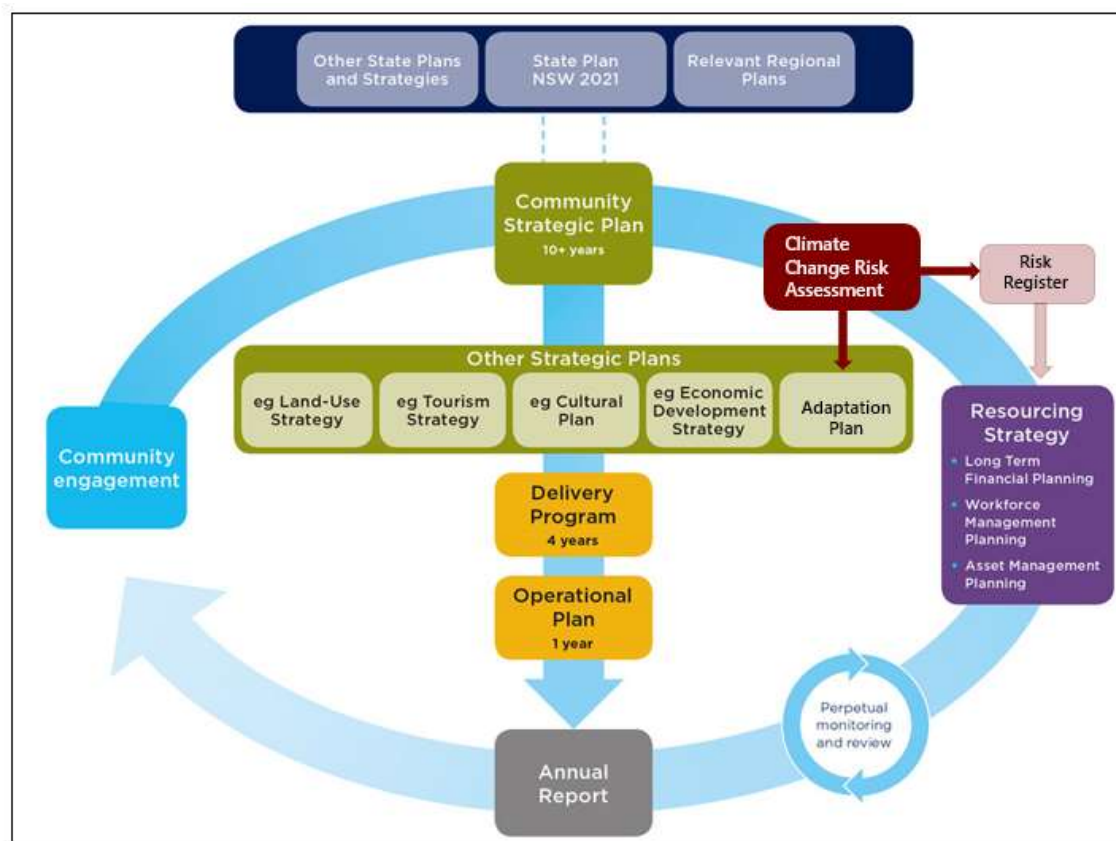
Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 24 'Please indicate which of your local government plans include climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities'. NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2015, Question 11 'Are actions about responding to climate change impacts mentioned in your...'.

# Climate change risk assessments

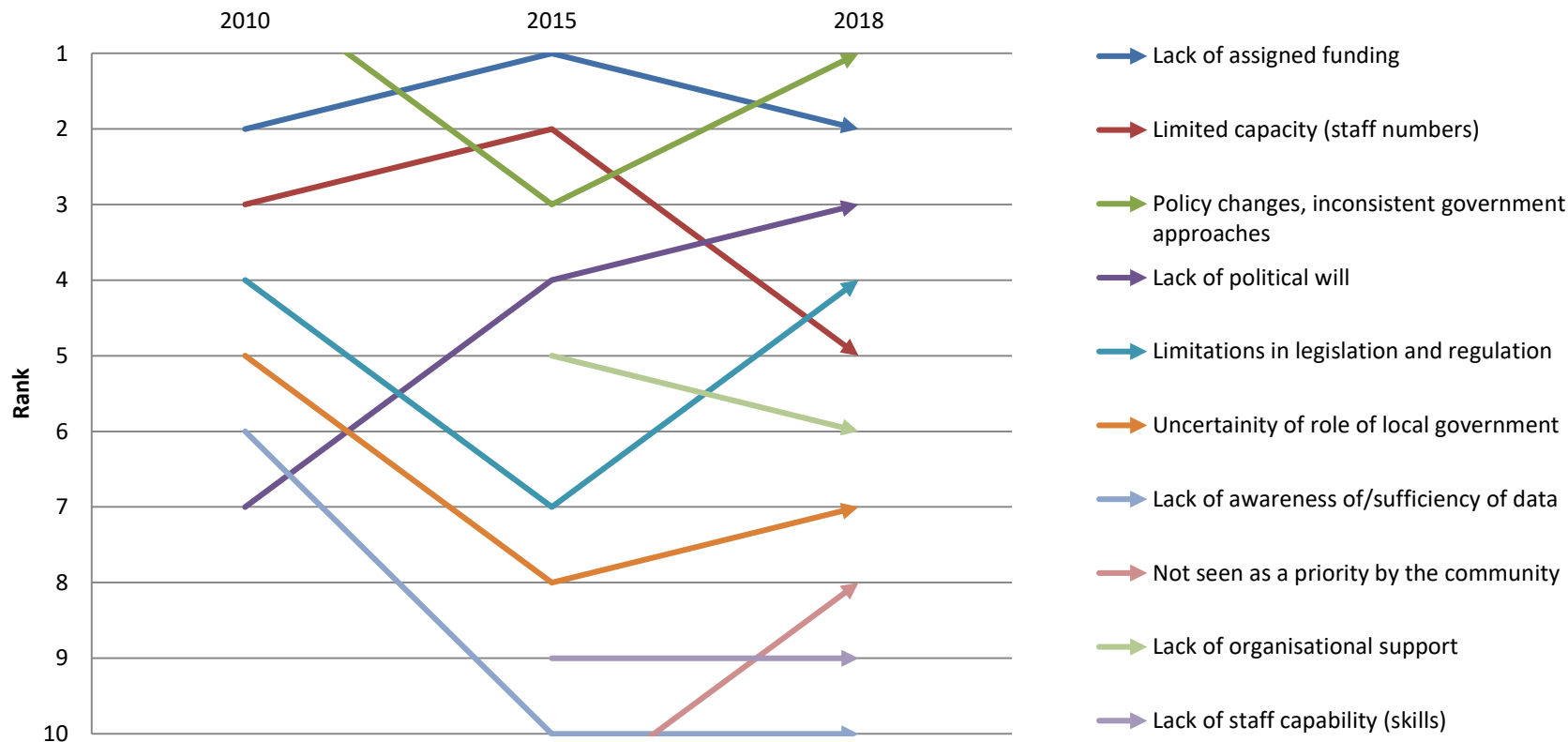
Endorsed by council	Carbon, Emissions or Energy Reduction Plan (n=50)	Climate Change Risk Assessment (n=51)	Climate Change Adaptation Plan (n=51)	Other (n=20)
Yes	50%	20%	39%	40%
No	26%	33%	25%	20%
Not sure	24%	47%	35%	40%

*Source: NSW Local Government Climate Change Adaption Survey 2018, Question 26 'Please indicate which plans have been endorsed by council'.*

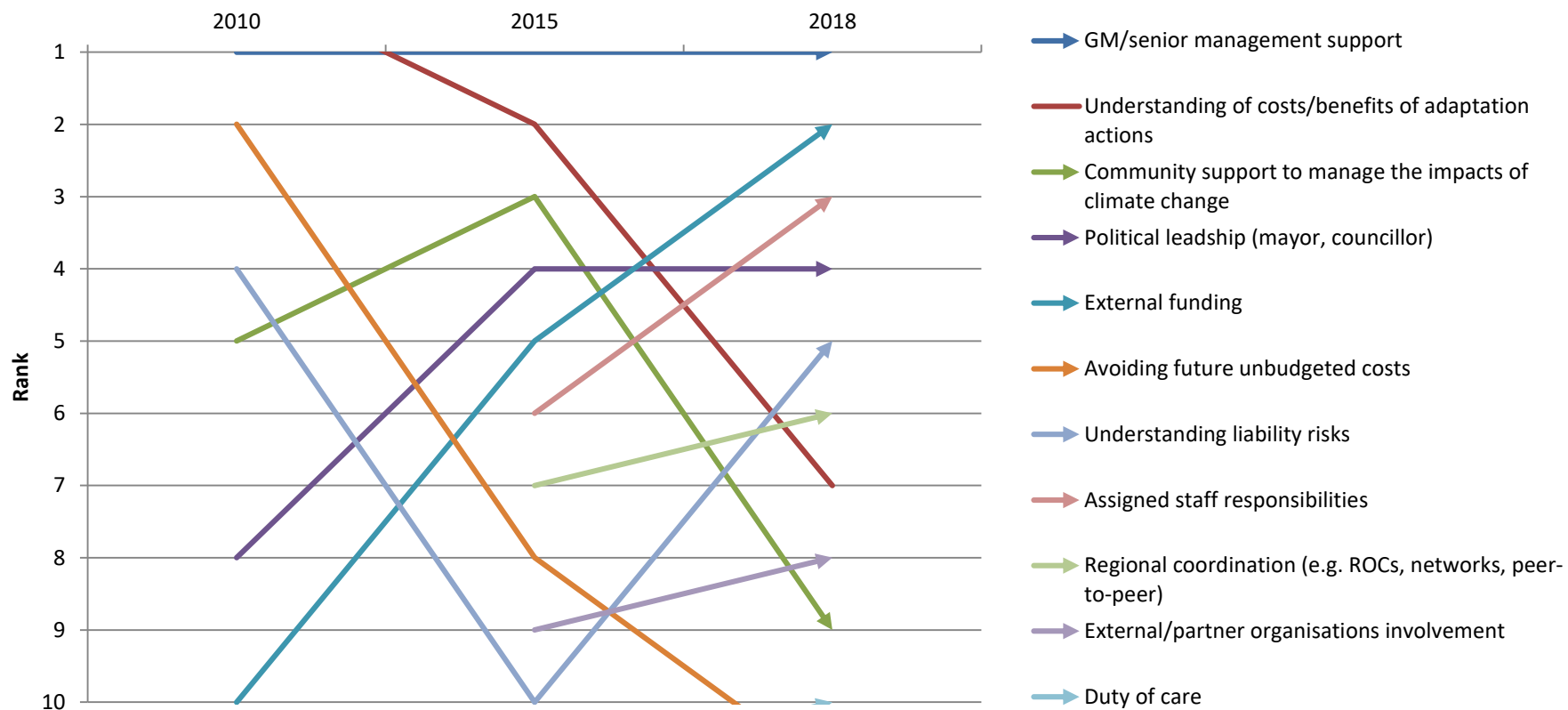
# Incorporating climate risk into IP&R



# Barriers



# Enablers



# Observations

- Barriers are external, enablers are internal
- Shift from assessing to implementation
- A lack of data is not a barrier – data and info are essential and increasingly applied
- Capability and capacity are different
- Internal leadership remains a crucial factor
- Accessing external funding circumvents policy uncertainty



LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
NSW

[LGNSW.ORG.AU](http://LGNSW.ORG.AU)