Nowhere to go but up:

co-creating an adaptation response in Lake Macquarie

Pre Coastal Conference Workshop 12 November 2013







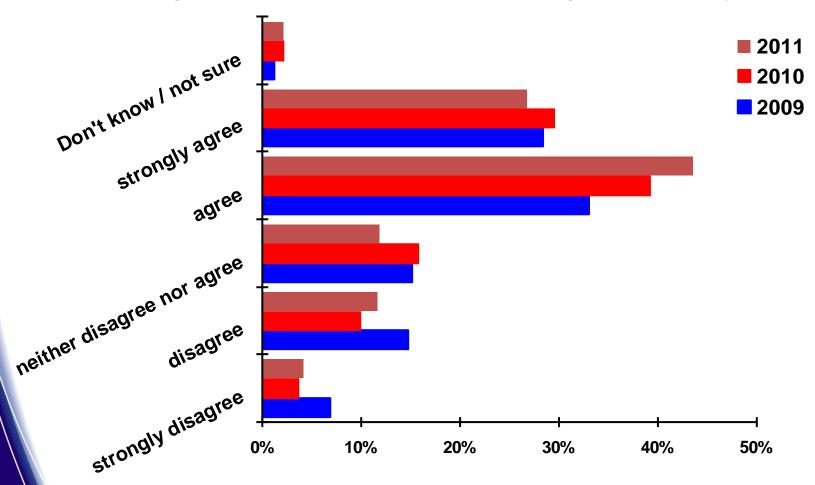
Overview

- Local perceptions of climate change
- Developing our first adaptation plan
- Lessons learned so far
- Where to from here?



Local Perceptions of Climate Change

Human activities are causing significant changes to the Earth's climate (2009-2011)

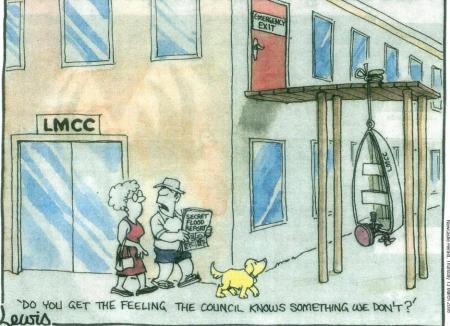




Source: Hunter Valley Research Foundation, 2012

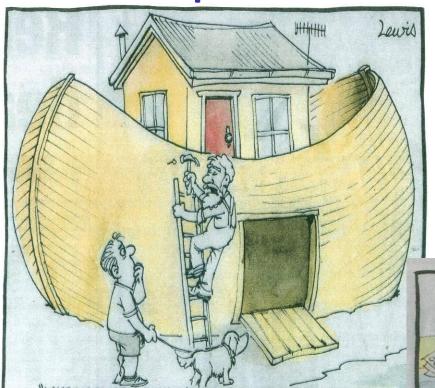
Perceptions of Climate Change (2009)

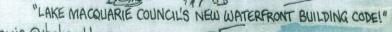




Lake Macquavie
City Council

Perceptions of Climate Change (2011)





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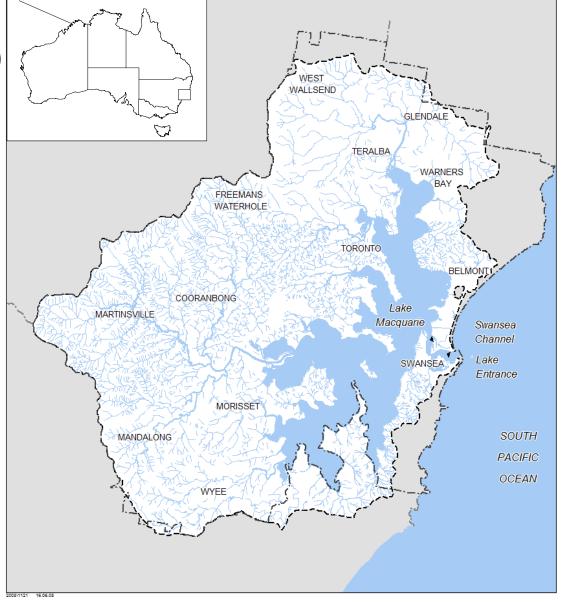
Lake Flood Study & Risk Mgt Plan (2012)

Assessed flood risk

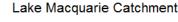
- now
- in 2050 (0.4m)
- in 2100 (0.9m)

Updated SLR Policy (2008) to Flooding and Tidal Inundation Policy (2012)

Commenced adaptation planning



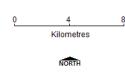




____ Lake Macquarie catchment boundary

Waterways within Lake Macquarie catchment

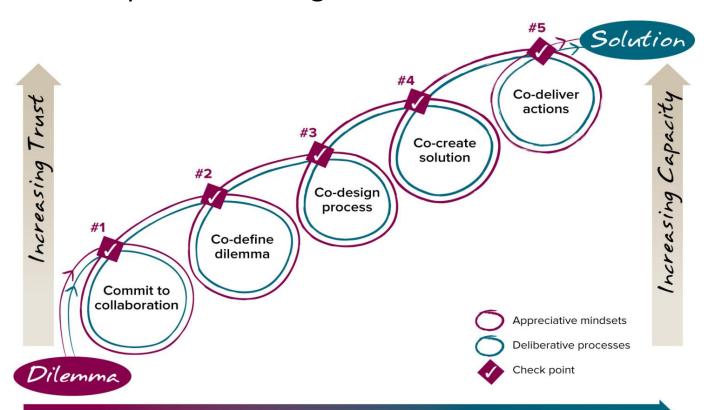
____ Lake Macquarie City Council boundary





Our Approach to Adaptation Planning

defined city-wide approach to development of local plans to manage current and future flood risk



Build readiness • Build relationships • Build capability



Our Approach to Adaptation Planning

Community Engagement Framework for Local Adaptation Planning

A: Project foundations

B: Identify Options

C: Assess options and prepare draft plan

D: Review and implementation of draft plan

What will we do at each stage?

- Involve everyone with a stake in the local area in the planning process
- Understand current and future flood risks
- Gather information on local assets and their value – physical, social, and environmental
- Identify who should contribute to the project and how they will do it
- Agree on the objectives of a successful adaptation plan
- Develop criteria for a successful adaptation plan

- Decide what options are available to reduce flood risk
- Assess what is an acceptable level of risk (threshold)
- Estimate when it is time to act (trigger)

- Group and rank the options based on the criteria for successful adaptation
- Identify when options should be implemented (link to triggers and thresholds)
- Identify the cost of options and who is responsible for implementing them
- Prepare a draft Local Adaptation Plan

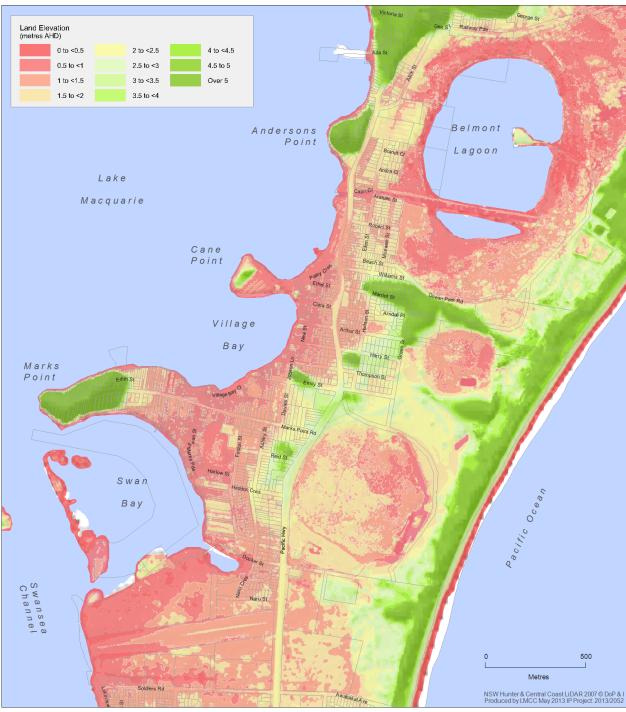
- Exhibit and seek feedback on draft Local Adaptation Plan
- Elected Council to adopt the Local Adaptation Plan
- Allocate responsibility for and schedule actions from the Plan
- Monitor and update the Plan as new information becomes available



Our First Adaptation Plan Area

Marks Point & Belmont South





What we've learned so far....

The Good

- support from Council's Mayor, senior management and majority of elected Council
- commitment to co-design an adaptation response
- incredibly dedicated staff
- one-on-one conversations
- acknowledging the concerns of individuals
- proactive investigation of those concerns



What we've learned so far....

The Bad

- increasing insurance premiums
- Iull in the housing market
- varying perceptions of flood risk
- misconceptions about planning controls
- legitimate concerns from residents about double standards





What we've learned so far....

The Ugly

- overlap with Federal election campaign
- involvement of Central Coast interests
- unhelpful media coverage
- the mob at the pub and in the paddock



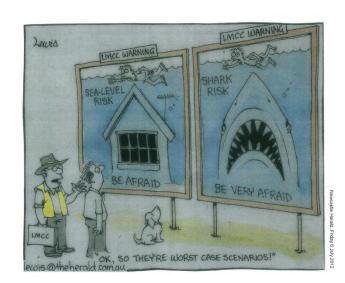






Where to from here?

- continue to proactively engage with local people
- complete our first adaptation plan
 - what level of service is the local community willing to accept?
 - at what point is adaptation required?
 - who will pay for adaptation responses?
- apply consistent planning principles to all asset classes
 - what is the appropriate flood design standard?
 - what is the appropriate asset life?





Where to from here?

- contribute towards consistent planning approach with other coastal councils and state government
- work with the new NSW adaptation hub
- advocate for policy reform to provide wider range of economic and planning instruments for adaptation
- persevere!

