

# Climate change adaptation networking & knowledge sharing breakfast

## OUTCOMES REPORT

---

Event: Sydney, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014

Hosted by



# Summary

On 26 August 2014, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) and Net Balance teamed up to host a networking and knowledge sharing breakfast on climate change adaptation.

The breakfast was designed to establish a forum where those with an interest, practise or research focus in climate adaptation could have relaxed, interesting and meaningful interactions with each other, as well as explore ideas and share knowledge on climate change adaptation, particularly future challenges and opportunities. Specifically, the event aimed to:

- Promote knowledge generation and sharing
- Facilitate new ideas
- Harness and develop strategic linkages
- Scope future visions and scenarios in relation to climate change
- Provide effective and enjoyable relationship building opportunities.



A welcome was provided by Net Balance and, preceding a group facilitated discussion, presentations delivered by both host organisations. Full details are set out in the Agenda below.

The strong interest and need for events of this nature was evident from the attendance figures. Thirty-one people attended, with most representing local government or the private sector (29% each; Fig. 1). State government and research bodies were also represented (Fig. 1).

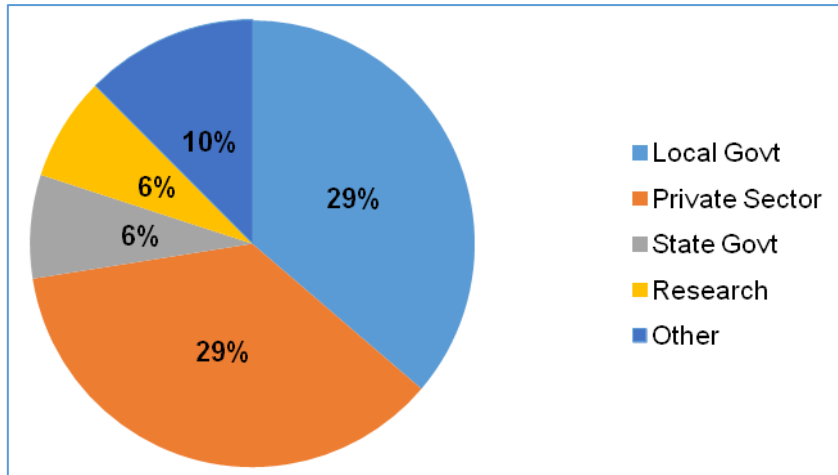


Fig. 1. Participants by sector

The presentations were designed to seed conversation amongst the group. The 'round-table' discussion post presentations was lively and engaged and a positive indication that future events will continue to be engaging, informative and participatory.

The host organisations will look to convene another meet-up subsequent to the [Climate Adaptation 2014: Future Challenges](#) conference hosted by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and CSIRO in October 2014. Stay tuned for details....

# Speaker bios & summary of presentations

In order of appearance

## Stephen Summerhayes | Manager Projects and Programs | SCCG

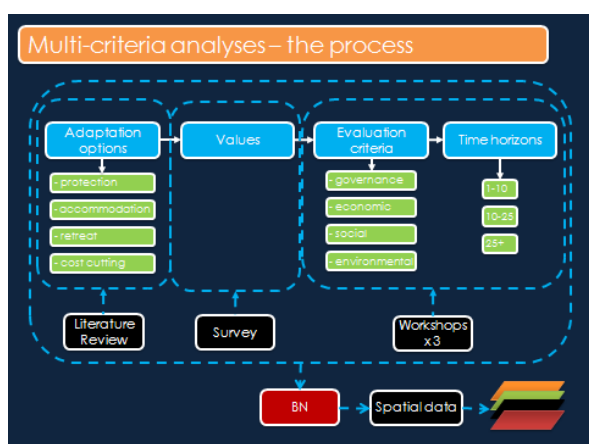
*Stephen is a solicitor of 20 years' standing, admitted to practise in both England and Australia. In 2003 he established his own legal firm to fund undergraduate studies in Environmental Science and International studies and, thereafter, a postgraduate Master of Environmental Science by research. Before starting work with the SCCG in 2011 he spent two years in Latin America studying and working for not-for-profit organisations in Ecuador and Guatemala. To assist his role at the SCCG he has undertaken a Diploma of Project Management, Diploma of Management and a Cert IV in Training and Assessment.*

### Stephen provided an overview of the SCCG project **Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government.**

This project harnessed the regional collaboration model employed by the SCCG to explore multi-criteria analysis (MCA) as an alternative to cost/benefit analysis to help engage and guide practitioners through the unique challenges posed by urban coastal adaptation in Australia. A spatial MCA tool was developed using Bayesian Networks which provided a flexible framework for incorporating multiple qualitative and quantitative criteria into adaptation decision analysis.



The tool considered various coastal adaptation options against weighted economic, social, political and environmental criteria drawing upon regional (coastal Sydney, Bega Valley Council and Sunshine Coast Council) local government values. Results were combined with geospatial landscape data and hazard information on sea-level rise, storm surge and erosion to identify risks to financial, social and environmental assets. Results were displayed graphically via a GIS interface to promote dialogue and help prioritise different place-based adaptation options for selected planning horizons.



property levels to support adaptation planning.

This project developed and tested new approaches to evaluating adaptation options for coastal communities. Outcomes demonstrate the potential benefits of MCA for identifying adaptation pathways. The methodology, transferrable across coastal Australia, enables analyses at individual or clustered

Further project details and to download the project report, please go to project webpage: [http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Projects/prioritising\\_coastal\\_adaptation](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Projects/prioritising_coastal_adaptation)

## Emma Norrie | Coastal Projects Officer | SCCG

*Emma is the Coastal Projects Officer at the Sydney Coastal Councils Group. She has a Bachelor of International Studies and is currently undertaking a Master of Environmental Management at the University of New South Wales.*

### **Emma provided an overview of the *Guide to Monitoring & Evaluating Coastal Adaptation*, developed as part of the project presented by Stephen.**

The Guide distils findings from the research undertaken during the project about best practice planning, adaptive capacity and measuring outcomes. It translates the theory into a series of practical templates that are designed to guide users through an iterative assessment of not only their adaptation outcomes, but also their planning processes and adaptive capacity.

The key message in Emma's presentation was that adaptation outcomes are largely a function of planning processes and adaptive capacity, and without an understanding of the way these two factors are influencing outcomes, it is hard to know how effective or ineffective one's adaptation efforts are.

The SCCG and University of Sunshine Coast recently road-tested the Guide with five coastal Councils (Bega Valley, Leichhardt, Rockdale, Sunshine Coast and Sutherland), to assess its utility and identify opportunities for improvement. A revised Guide is currently under development and will be published on the SCCG website in the coming months.



## Alianne Rance | Associate | Net Balance (at time of event)

*Ali has been engaging in the adaptation space for a number of years now, as a student, researcher and consultant in both the private and public spheres. She graduated with Honours from the University of Western Australia in Natural Resource Management and proceeded to extend her interest in managing the impacts of climate change by commencing her PhD investigating engaging the private sector in adaptation. She is a trained facilitator and climate communicator through the Climate Commission. Ali also holds a research role at RMIT University on a number of State Government funded research projects.*

Ali provided an overview of the key messages from the Adaptation Futures 2014 conference in Brazil:

- The issue of **model reliance** and that new climate models will not provide any further answers, and that initiatives like adaptation pathways, scenario planning, robust decision-making and decision making under uncertainty should be implemented rather than depending on models.
- **Community based adaptation** – the bottom up approach. Examples shared from Bangladesh with much focus on the developing country context. Includes methodologies such as participatory GIS, which provides benefits of both local knowledge harvesting, facilitates ownership and promotes engagement. This



approach is seen as means to build community capacity and there are some strong rural Australian examples being seen, particularly in the community service sector. VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project provides some good recommendations for facilitating adaptation – see resources.

- **Knowledge brokers** – this is not a role of a scientist, as this person needs to effectively influence policy, and translate the science into practical messages. There is enough information out there, we just need translators to make it practical.
- **Human Health imperative** – the best imperative for action. Echoes from the AR5 and the WHO are being used as mechanism for action internationally.
- **Private sector adaptation** – the sector cannot be treated as a single homogenous cluster – they have to be asked what they would like to know, what would be useful etc?
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – internationally, initiatives still remain largely at the National level and increasing focus seen with requirement for reporting on funding allocation.
  - Canadians – [www.trac3.ca](http://www.trac3.ca)
  - IIED / TAMD – [www.iied.org/tracking-adaptation-measuring-development](http://www.iied.org/tracking-adaptation-measuring-development)
  - GIZ – national M&E case studies with fact sheets
  - UKCIP – learning to be incorporated into adaptation.
  - [Bours et al](#) & CARE International
  - ESSA – consolidating datasets
  - ARCAP program – 30 yrs – Bangladesh, bottom up.
  - New research projects such as the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) in Victoria is developing regional and council led M&E initiatives.

Additional points you wanted to know about:

- **Embedding Adaptation:** context is vital, linkages across the organisation need to be found. For example, infrastructure projects are a great place to start. The Embedding Adaptation project (City of Greater Geelong) provides example of how a ‘train the trainer’ model can be used to improve consideration of climate risk across council. Literature review available soon.

# Summary of group discussion

Following the presentations, an open discussion explored adaptation challenges and opportunities. This discussion also provided an opportunity to discuss areas of interest pertaining to the morning's presentations.

There was particular interest in the use of data collection and analysis tools such as that presented by Stephen. Participants were also interested in how to communicate such information to various stakeholders, including the government, commercial entities and the community.



Participants were also asked what they wanted to know from the upcoming NCCARF Conference *Climate Adaptation 2014*. This feedback is summarised below:

- Internal capacity – how do we increase both the knowledge base and ability (resources) to work on this?
- Prioritisation of adaptation – competing priorities for staff
- Shift from responsiveness to proactive adaptation – where does emergency management fit into all of this?
- Community Based Adaptation
- Monitoring and Evaluation and ongoing benchmarking
- Transparency between bodies – how can we share data and knowledge?
- Knowledge brokers
- Science communicators – information transfer between groups
- Governance – how can adaptation become incorporated within governance structures?
- Adaptation in business – what's the business case? How can we build it?
- Continue networks – knowledge sharing
- Be innovative

- MCA/MAC
- Planning under uncertainty
- Socialising outputs
- Coastal infrastructure

These areas will be investigated by Alianne and Stephen at the NCCARF conference. The initial program has been released (click [here](#)) and participants are invited to let them know of any key sessions that are of interest.

# Resources

**VCCCAR Implementing Adaptation project:** policy brief and final report on how to facilitate adaptation with different organisations - <http://www.vcccar.org.au/implementing-tools-to-increase-adaptive-capacity-in-community-and-natural-resource-management>

## **Climate communication tools**

Climate change and AFL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p08k2lh7mm0>

Difference between climate and weather:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBdxDFpDp\\_k&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBdxDFpDp_k&feature=youtu.be)

**UKCIP:** tools to guide you through the adaptation process with examples translatable to Australia- <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/>

# Contacts

## Presenters

The presenters would be pleased to discuss any aspect of the event, cca generally or networking opportunities further:

### **Alianne Rance**

P: +61 422 244 993

E: [alianne.rance@rmit.edu.au](mailto:alianne.rance@rmit.edu.au)

### **Stephen Summerhayes**

P: +612 9246 7326

E: [stephen@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:stephen@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

### **Emma Norrie**

P: +612 9246 7702

E: [emma@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:emma@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)



## Participants

The details of participants who were happy to share their contact details appear below.

Please note that Ali no longer works for Net Balance.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Sarah Bray	Edge Environment	<a href="mailto:sarah.bray@edgeenvironment.com.au">sarah.bray@edgeenvironment.com.au</a>
Jenny Scott	Ku-ring-gai Council	<a href="mailto:jscott@kmc.nsw.gov.au">jscott@kmc.nsw.gov.au</a>
David Andreallo	Leighton	<a href="mailto:david.andreallo@leighton.com.au">david.andreallo@leighton.com.au</a>
Rosemary Bullmore	Norton Rose Fullbright	<a href="mailto:rosemary.bullmore@nortonrosefulbright.com">rosemary.bullmore@nortonrosefulbright.com</a>
Geoff Withycombe	SCCG	<a href="mailto:geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au">geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au</a>
Fabian Sack	Sustainably	<a href="mailto:fabian@sustainably.net.au">fabian@sustainably.net.au</a>
Nicola Faith	Willoughby Council	<a href="mailto:nicola.faith@willoughby.nsw.gov.au">nicola.faith@willoughby.nsw.gov.au</a>
Mark Lyster	Net Balance/Ernst and Young	<a href="mailto:mark@netbalance.com">mark@netbalance.com</a>
Monique Cornish	Net Balance/Ernst and Young	<a href="mailto:monique@netbalance.com">monique@netbalance.com</a>

## Where to from here

Another meet-up in October/November to:

1. Continue the discussion
2. Facilitate networking and knowledge sharing
3. Review outcomes of the NCCARF conference, particularly in relation to interest areas identified above.



# Agenda

## Breakfast and Networking

All

---

## Welcome

Mark Lyster | Director, Regional Manager NSW | **Net Balance**

---

## Using Multicriteria Analysis to Assist Local Government Prioritise Coastal Adaptation Development Options

Stephen Summerhayes | Manager Projects and Programs | **SCCG**

---

## Evaluating adaptation practice in Local Government

Emma Norrie | Coastal Projects Officer | **SCCG**

---

## Outcomes from the International Adaptation Futures conference held in Fortaleza, Brazil in May 2014

Alianne Rance | Associate | **Net Balance**

---

## Group discussion on adaptation challenges and opportunities

Facilitated by Alianne Rance

---

## Networking

All

---