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Adaptation challenges facing the State of Victoria, an exploration of the institutional response

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Current day impacts

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Victoria – future climate risks

Factor	Change	Impacts
Water availability	Rainfall↓ Evaporation↑ Changes in seasonal distribution	Potable water supply Agricultural sector Fire risk Natural systems Rural communities
Coastal inundation	Sea level ↑ Storm surges ↑ Changing currents	Infrastructure Insurance Lifestyle
Temperature	Average temps ↑ Extreme temps ↑ No extreme days ↑ Minimum temps ↑	Human health Infrastructure Natural systems Agriculture and forests Fire risk

Adapted from Pearman G. 2009.

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Adaptation policy goals

- Enable Victoria's regions, industries and communities to capture opportunities and adapt to a changing climate
- Promote resilience and improve the management of Victoria's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity
- Manage the risks to Victoria's infrastructure, built environment and communities through good planning and emergency response systems

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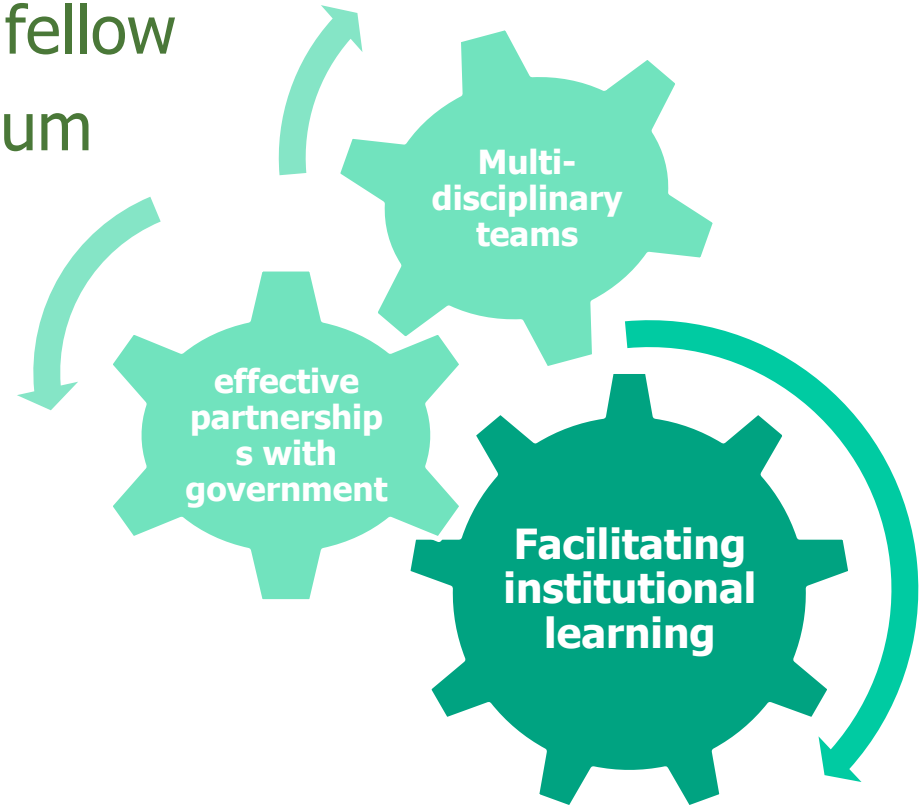
Role of Government

- Provide an enabling environment for the private and community sectors to respond (such as providing information and putting in place price signals for water consumption)
- Ensuring regulatory structures allow a flexible individual response (such as via the planning system)
- Providing adaptation as a 'public good' where it would not otherwise occur (such as protection of public assets, including natural resources, essential services and emergency response strategies)

From Victorian Government 2009. Climate Change Green Paper

VCCCAR: research in support of policy

- Funding of research projects targeted to State priorities
- Regional think tanks
- International research fellow
- Annual stakeholder forum



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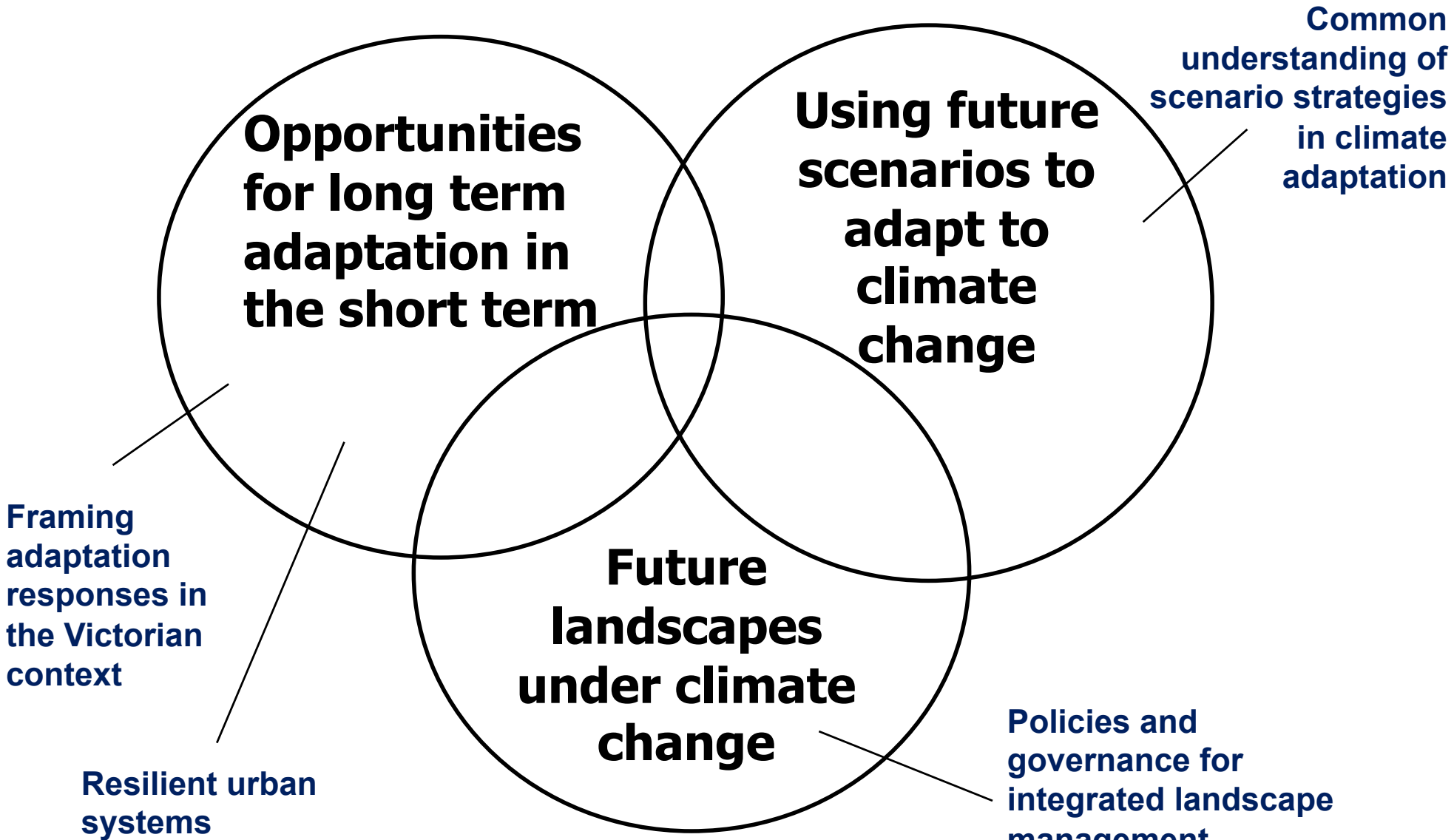
Research priorities and initial projects



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The Victorian experience

- Driver: recent experience of extreme events
- Importance of State being seen to lead
- Evidence-based approach – consolidation of research outputs
- VCCCAR encouraging collaboration and multi-stakeholder approach to knowledge generation and sharing
- Coping with extreme weather v preparing for future climate change
- Key future challenge: vertical integration