

Climate Change Adaptation in Australian Local Councils

Assessing the LAPP's contribution

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AECOM

LAPP - Introduction

Local Adaptation Pathways Program

‘funding to help councils undertake climate change risk assessments and develop action plans to prepare for the likely local impacts of climate change’

Almost \$2.4M between more than 90 councils

AECOM has delivered nine LAPP projects in five states

LAPP - Introduction

Process guided by the 'Climate Change Impacts & Risk Management - Guide for Business and Government' (2006)

Adaptation option assessment addressed in one table

Assessment of risk treatment options 'beyond the scope of this guide'

Common project methodology

Identify relevant climate scenario



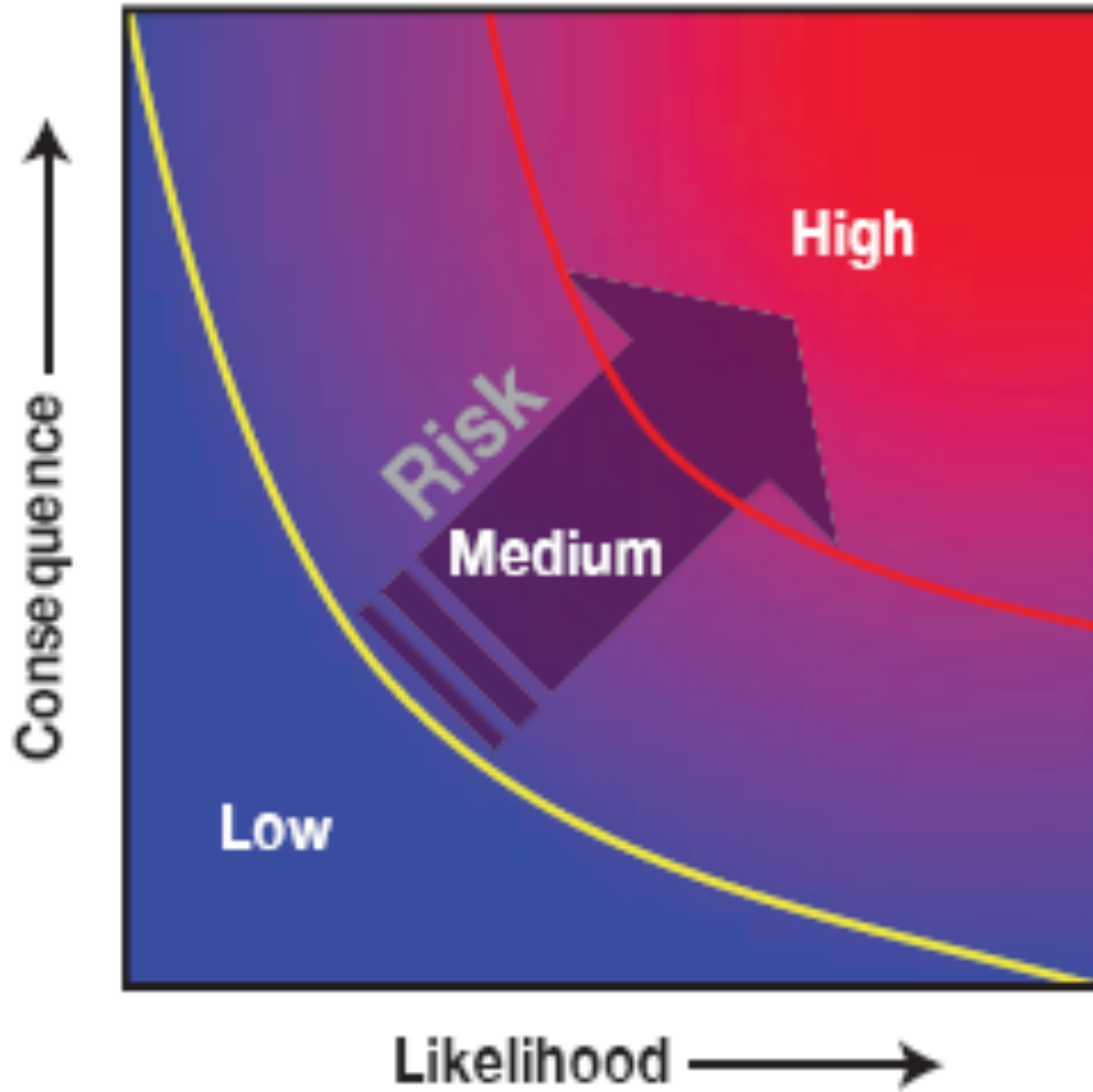
Identify risks and existing controls



Prioritise risks from Low to Extreme

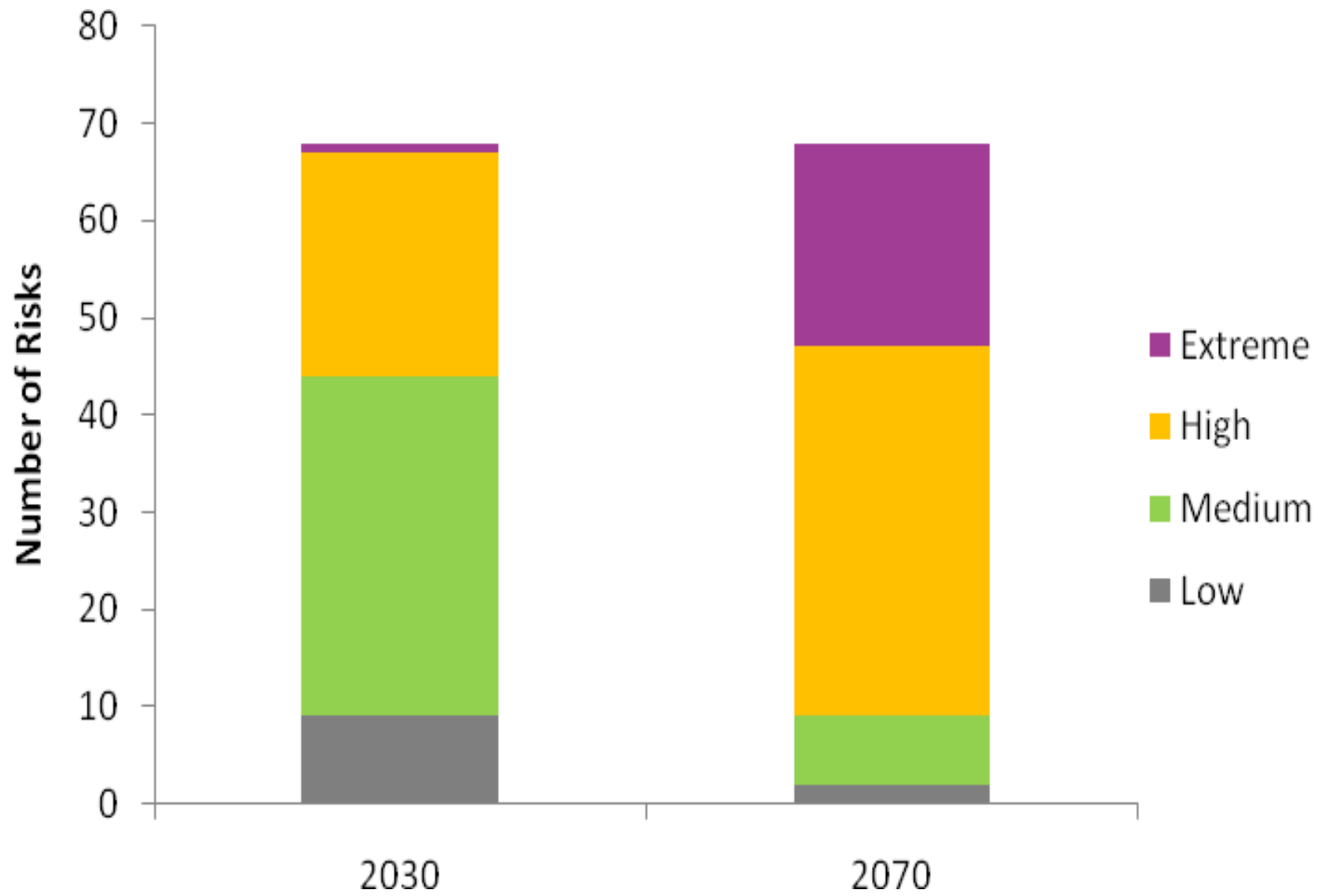


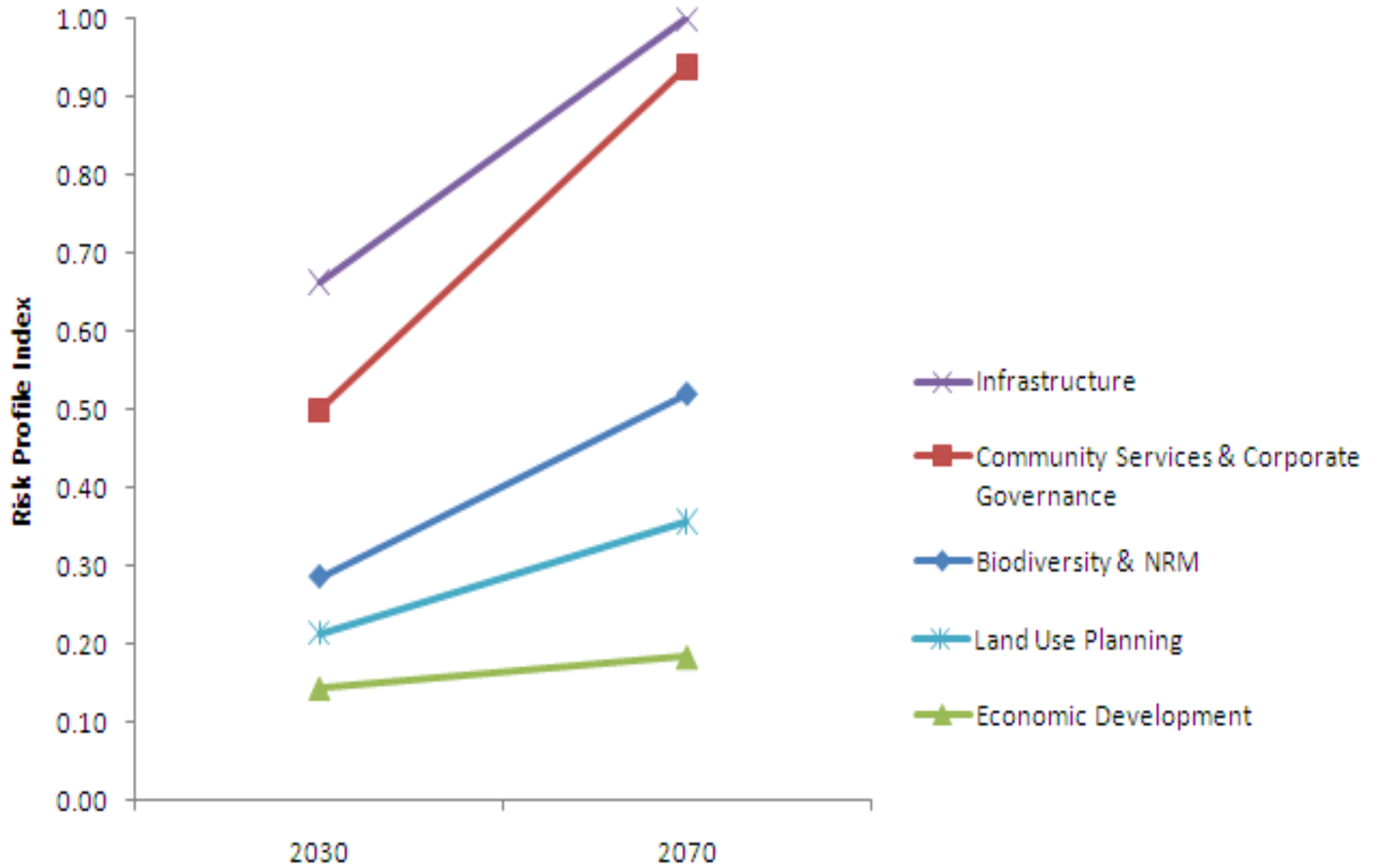
Devise adaptation actions for High-Extreme risks

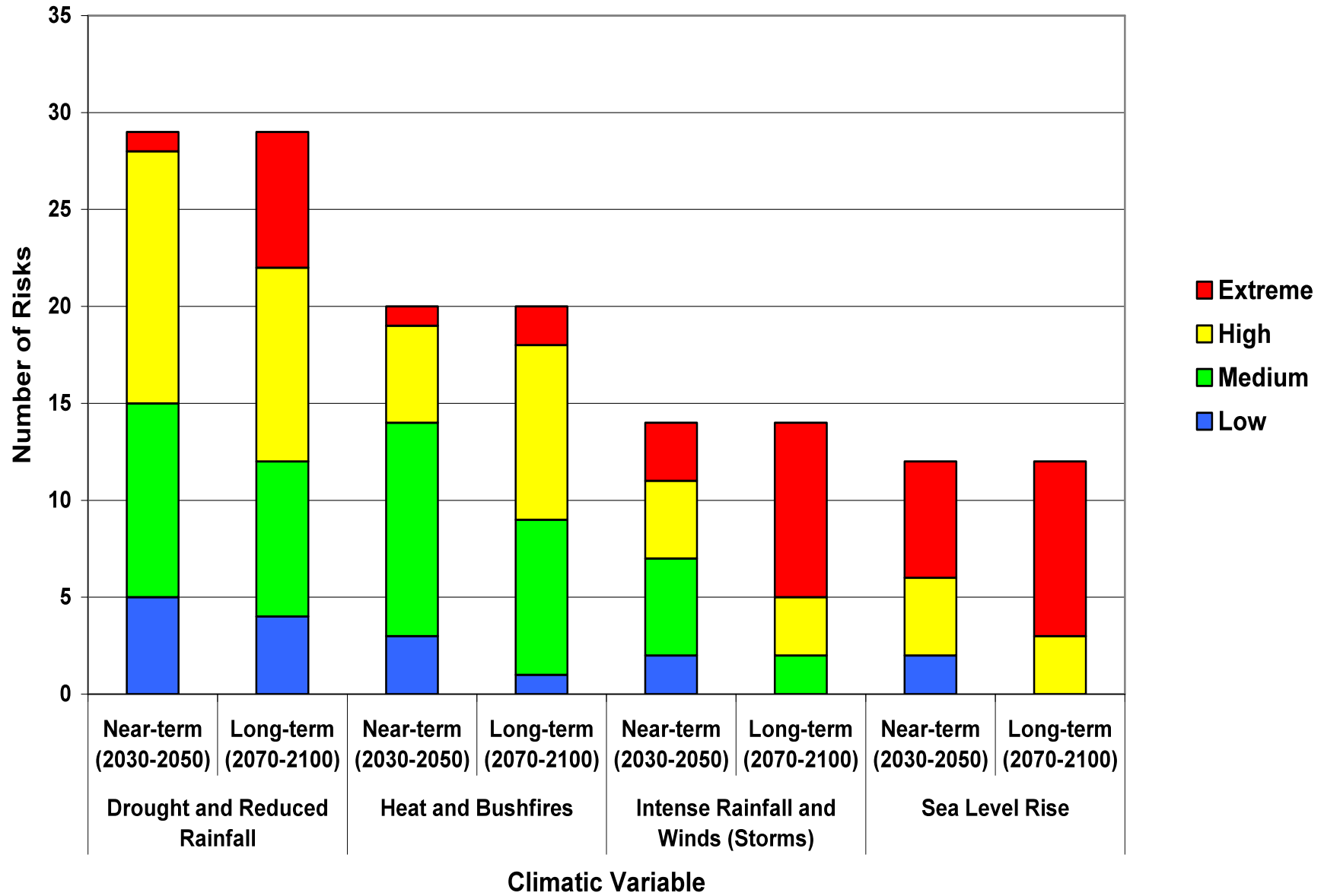


Consequences

Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium







Example adaptation actions

Establish water use targets and implement efficiency measures

Lead in the use of innovative water and energy efficiency technologies

Design coastal facilities to be easily relocated

Analyse cost-benefit to of installing rainwater tanks and pumps

Develop a region-specific methodology for appropriate coastal setbacks

Identify cool spaces to cater for increased community use as heat refuges

Identify vulnerable populations and provide support during heat waves

Example adaptation actions

More specific ones:

Review outdoor event schedule

Encourage more indoor sporting activities

Monitor related staff health and safety incidences

Benefits

Raising awareness of the issues

Engaging a wide group of people across the organisation and community

Establishing a process that can be replicated using existing risk frameworks

Demonstrating leadership to the community and stakeholders

Encouraging ownership across the organisation

Limitations

Most actions too high level to be fully understood/costed

Directions rather than actions

Capacity within councils to progress actions beyond the project's duration very limited – there are simply too many of them

Cost effectiveness (required for decision making support) hard to assess within limited scope

No clarity on level or timing of funding for implementation

Regional approach problematic as adaptation actions have to be council specific

Scope may simply be too broad – maybe should have been limited to one key factor (SLR)?

Implementation – the missing link

Compare to first round of Strengthening Basin Communities Program:

- Planning component – \$14M allocated to 98 councils (recipients announced 27 November 2009)
- Implementation component - ~ \$25M allocated (recipients announced 1 March 2010)

LAPP much broader in scope yet has no dedicated implementation funding

Conclusions

LAPP a good first step in climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning

Advantages in awareness raising, organisation-wide ownership, demonstrating leadership

Weaknesses include very broad scope, no direct link to funding, not much help with decision support (CBA)

More federal funding likely into the future, as councils now aware of their many tasks

Thank You

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