



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the Emergency Management Network

An initiative of the Australian Government, NCCARF is based at Griffith University focusing on generating the knowledge required for Australia to adapt to the physical impacts of climate change.

NCCARF has a role developing National Adaptation Research Plans to identify critical gaps in the information available to decision-makers, undertaking a program of integrative research to address national priorities and establishing and maintaining adaptation research networks to link together key researchers and assist them in focusing on national research priorities. Eight thematic networks have been established to research

and address climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation options.

The Emergency Management Network

The Emergency Management Network will work with the NCCARF Facility to foster an inclusive collaborative research environment to facilitate an open exchange of information and sharing of resources to support researchers and young investigators. The Network has developed the Emergency Management National Adaptation Research Plan and will assist the Facility in the establishment of research teams to execute the identified research priorities.



Image: Nico Nelson

Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program: Call for Expressions of Interest for Emergency Management

The Australian Government Minister for Climate Change Senator Penny Wong and Attorney General Robert McClelland have announced the release of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan (NARP) for Emergency Management, and the launch of a research grants program to address the priorities identified by the Plan.

The process for allocating funds will be in two stages: first, an open call for Expressions of Interest, and second, invitations to shortlisted applicants to prepare full proposals.

This two-stage process is designed to maximise innovation, encourage collaborations prior to the

development of full proposals and minimise researcher time spent developing full proposals.

What funding is available?

Grants totaling up to \$2million will be available in this round from the Department of Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program.

Who can apply?

Expressions of interest are invited from public or private research institutions, consortia of researchers or individual researchers. Submissions will be considered from all interested parties regardless of any participation in, or affiliation with, NCCARF or the Adaptation Research Networks.

How will the applications be assessed?

Full details of the application and assessment process and selection criteria can be obtained from the NCCARF website, www.nccarf.edu.au or the Department of Climate Change website.

All applicants should also download the NARP for Emergency Management and its accompanying implementation plan, also available on the NCCARF website.

For more information please contact David Ugalde, d.ugalde@griffith.edu.au tel: 07 5552 8247 or 0466 207 436.

Call for Research Proposals

The NARP sets out research priorities across four themes. Within each theme, specific research questions are articulated, followed by an explanation of the question and an elaboration of the research that will be needed to answer that question.

Details are included with the call documents, but there are a number of points that should be noted. These echo those required from most research grant bodies:

- Broad questions rather than narrow or local interest issues;

- Co-funding or some other form of leveraging from the funds that might be provided;
- Coalitions of researchers are desirable;
- Scientific quality will be important in the assessment of proposals.

Bushfire Workshop

The Emergency Management Network was a co-host together with a number of partner organisations of a workshop in July titled "Bushfire research after February 7: What can we expect and what's needed?"

The workshop was for researchers, fire and emergency organisations involved in all aspects of fire risk management and recovery.

The workshop aimed to provide:

- an overview of research following Victorian February 7 bushfires giving notice of potentially useful outputs
- an opportunity for agencies to set out their post-fire research priorities and
- a framework for the research community to identify research

gaps and desirable research not currently under way.

The workshop was well attended by all sectors and involved academics, agencies and community groups with over a 120 participants.

The workshop provided the basis of identifying gaps, priorities and collaborative possibilities. An issues paper is under preparation.



Image: Lan Nguyen

Synthesis of Current Research

The RMIT Centre for Risk and Community Safety is preparing an annotated literature review on climate change adaptation and emergency management. This will contribute to a major review of the area being undertaken for the Network. The resulting bibliography will also contribute to the identification of gaps in knowledge and research activity.

The literature under review is multidisciplinary and includes climate change, geography, areas of social science, and disaster risk reduction. More specifically the review will include risk modelling, insurance / re-insurance, vulnerability, community engagement, decision making under uncertainty, resilience through adaptation, extreme events, warnings, emergency recovery,

emergency organisations, coordination, engineering, economics, law, policy and policy development. It is designed to capture researcher, practitioner, and community perspectives.

This review will be completed by December 2009.

NCCARF International Adaptation Conference 2010 Climate Adaptation Futures - Preparing for the unavoidable impacts of Climate Change 29 June – 1 July 2010

This conference will be one of the first international forums to concentrate solely on climate impacts and adaptation.

The call for abstracts and registrations for the NCCARF 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference co-sponsored by the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship is now open.

Abstracts are invited for conference sessions on climate change adaptation focussing on a number of areas including, climate extremes and disaster management, human

security, risk communication and behavioural change and a number of others.

Details are available on the website www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010 along with instructions on how to submit an abstract. The closing date for submission of abstracts is Monday 18 January 2010. Registrations can also be made on-line via the website www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010

Please note that participant numbers are limited, so early registration is encouraged.



Image: Shek Graham

Core Network Partners at time of Network Formation

- RMIT, Global Cities Institute, Centre for Risk and Community Safety, School of Mathematics and Geospatial Science.
- James Cook University, Centre for Disaster Studies and the Cyclone Testing Station.
- Macquarie University, Risk Frontiers.
- ANU, Fenner School for Environment and Society.
- Monash University, Climate Centre.
- University of Western Australia (UWA), School of Earth and Environment.
- AFAC (Australasian Fire and Emergency services Authorities Council).
- NSW State Emergency Service.
- (FESA) Fire and Emergency Services, Authority of WA.
- NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Planning Institute of Australia.

Network Workshop - early 2010

We are planning a Network workshop on emergency management and adaptation for early 2010. Within this context it is likely to focus on resilience. We are examining suitable venues across Australia, and welcome suggestions. As there are many adaptation related meetings we may try to combine our workshop with relevant activities planned by others.

Employment

The Network is about to advertise for a Research Fellow based at RMIT city campus, a three year fixed term position. The position will be advertised shortly and the details will be circulated to Network members and posted on the NCCARF website.

General Membership

The Network is open to all interested. Please contact Frank Yardley (Network administrator), frank.yardley@rmit.edu.au or John Handmer (Network convenor) john.handmer@rmit.edu.au with your details including your area of interest or expertise and we will add you to the database to be included in all notifications of Network opportunities and activities.

Links, Comments and Contributions

The Network welcomes comments, links and contributions. If you wish to comment or contribute in any way please use the contact details listed above.