



LIVING WITH FLOODS: LESSONS FROM AUSTRALIA AND ABROAD

Synthesis of findings from...

1. Brisbane City Council's Flood Response Review Board report (Brisbane Review)
2. Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry (QLD Inquiry)
3. Victorian Review of the 2010-11 Flood Warnings and Response (VIC Review)
4. Parliament of Victoria's Environment and Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure in Victoria (ENRC Inquiry)

Finding 1: Climate change not covered in flood reviews

The reviews varied greatly in their scope, but one of the most notable findings was that Australian reviews virtually ignored the issue of climate change and its impact on flooding; some reports didn't refer to it at all.

That is a lost opportunity to account for future risks in current reforms...

Finding 2: Deficiencies, inconsistencies and perverse incentives are rampant

- Governance
- Coordination
- Integrative policies, strategies and management
- New management tools
- Robust standards
- Planning
- Legislation
- Accountabilities and oversight
- Communication
- Resourcing
- Risk assessment
- Education and training.

Finding 3: Australian approach very different to international best practice

In contrast to the Australian reviews, climate change was a driving force behind the international reviewers, and all three international reviews overwhelmingly pointed to a need for ecosystem approaches to flood control.

3 particular lessons to learn from overseas

Australia would benefit from exploring...

- structural versus non-structural measures to provide greater resilience
- the role of disaster relief funds and flood insurance – *conditionality is vital*
- the use of mitigation measures such as voluntary land purchase and relocation.