

Getting involved

The NCCARF Networks extend their reach into each state and territory through inter-connected regional or themed nodes.

Each Adaptation Research Network is convened by a national leader in climate change adaptation within each sector. Networks have their own websites and a dedicated coordinator. Visit each network site for a complete theme and contact list.

Contact the Networks

Terrestrial Biodiversity

Hosted by James Cook University
 Convened by Professor Stephen Williams (JCU), and Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie), coordinated by Yvette Williams.
 Contact: yvette.williams@jcu.edu.au
 Website: <http://nccarf.jcu.edu.au/terrestrialbiodiversity>

Water Resources & Freshwater Biodiversity

Hosted by Griffith University
 Convened by Professor Stuart Bunn, coordinated by Sam Capon.
 Contact: climate.water@griffith.edu.au
 Website: www.nccarf.edu.au/water

Marine Biodiversity & Resources

Hosted by the University of Tasmania
 Convened by Associate Professor Neil Holbrook, coordinated by Clare Brooker.
 Contact: arnmbr@arnmbr.org
 Website: www.nccarf.edu.au/marine

Human Health

Hosted by the Australian National University
 Convened by Dr Liz Hanna, coordinated by Peter Thomas.
 Contact: arn.humanhealth@anu.edu.au
 Website: <http://climatehealthresearch.org>

Settlements & Infrastructure

Hosted by the University of New South Wales
 Convened by Associate Professor Ron Cox, coordinated by Tamara Rouse.
 Contact: accarnsi@unsw.edu.au
 Website: www.nccarf.edu.au/settlements-infrastructure

Primary Industries

Hosted by the University of Melbourne
 Convened by Professor Snow Barlow, coordinated by Alison Kelly.
 Contact: piarn-coordinator@unimelb.edu.au
 Website: www.piarn.org.au

Emergency Management

Hosted by RMIT University
 Convened by Professor John Handmer, coordinated by Frank Yardley.
 Contact: frank.yardley@rmit.edu.au
 Website: www.emergencymanagement.org.au

Social, Economic & Institutional Dimensions

Hosted by the University of Melbourne
 Convened by Associate Professor Jon Barnett, coordinated by Tina Soundias.
 Contact: tinas@unimelb.edu.au
 Website: www.nccarf.edu.au/social-economic-and-institutional-dimensions

'Governments, civil society and businesses will increasingly be required to make decisions about responses to future climate risks.'



Image: Ben Houdijk

NCCARF Highlights: Promoting excellence in adaptation

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The NCCARF Adaptation Research Networks

About the Networks

NCCARF has eight Adaptation Research Networks, one for each of its themes:

- Water resources and freshwater biodiversity
- Marine biodiversity and resources
- Terrestrial biodiversity
- Primary industries
- Settlements and infrastructure
- Emergency management
- Human health
- Social, economic and institutional dimensions (including climate change adaptation as it relates to Australia's Indigenous communities)

NCCARF has committed \$10 million over 5 years to its Adaptation Research Networks. Networks receive varying amounts of financial support, depending on an evaluation of the need to develop capacity. The financial allocations are shown in Figure 1.

Network statistics

The Networks now connect over 4800 people across Australia interested in climate change adaptation including researchers, policy makers, professionals, land and water managers and community leaders.

Forty-six percent of network members describe themselves as working in a research institution; the next largest category is State and Territory government, with 20%. Over half of the Network membership is employed in government, the community and business. The largest network is Terrestrial Biodiversity, with over a thousand members.

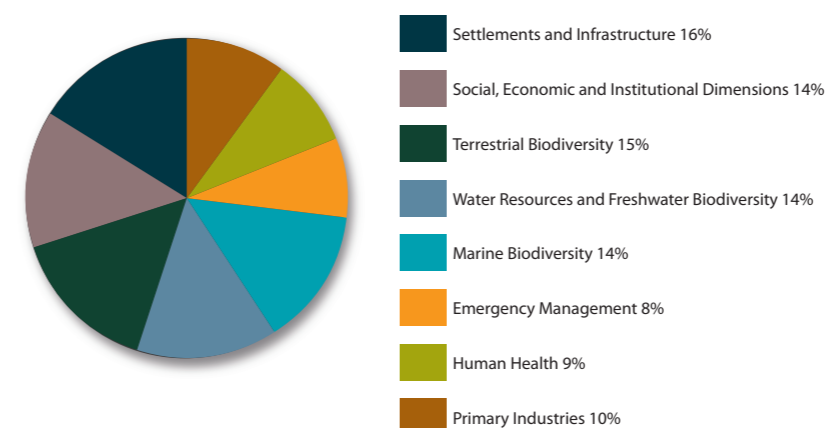


Figure 1: Financial allocations to the Networks

Network performance

Prior to NCCARF, there were no Australian networks to link the research and practitioner communities in climate change adaptation.

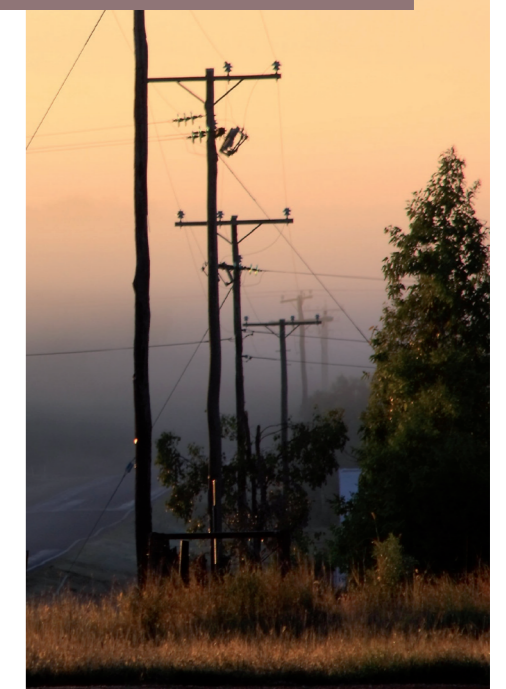
The strategic significance of this cannot be overstated: governments, civil society and businesses will increasingly be required to make decisions about responses to future climate risks, and these networks provide a strong foundation for these decision-makers to access information about adaptation, and to share knowledge and build relationships.

We outline on the following pages some of the particularly significant achievements of the networks.

Note that many of the networks are carrying out similar activities around capacity building through early career researcher workshops and top-up grants, and communication through newsletters and presentations at conferences.

For further information, please refer to the NCCARF web page.

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NCCARF Highlights: Promoting excellence in adaptation

Network achievements

A selection of highlights from each of the eight NCCARF Adaptation Research Networks

Primary Industries Network (PIARN)

Stimulating, leading and coordinating national discussions on climate change adaptation research: Members have developed synthesis papers, hosted sessions at key conferences and participated in national and international research and policy discussions, taking prominent national roles in research and analysis to inform policy.

Stimulating engagement and participation in climate change adaptation research: The Network assisted in developing the Primary Industries NARP¹ and driving its implementation through workshops, webinars and consultations and through engagement with the CCRSP² initiative.

Developing new capacity in primary industries climate change adaptation research: PIARN recruited students into climate change adaptation research through scholarships, supported current students to attend key conferences and facilitated conference sessions to provide students with access to international research leaders.

Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions Network

A Network of 500 people from research institutions, different levels and sectors of government, civil society, and the private sector: The Network provides a foundation for decision-makers to access information, share knowledge, and build relationships. Uniquely among the largest social science networks in Australia, it includes research end-users.

The Adaptation College: A group of 18 emerging leaders working in research, government, and civil society observes climate change adaptation issues and processes across Australia, and shares their experiences with each other and people in the places they visit.

Development of two national adaptation research plans: Network members led the writing of the NARPs for both the Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions, which attracted 193 expressions of interest, and more recently for Indigenous Communities.

Marine Biodiversity and Resources Network

Focused strategy meetings with high level marine stakeholders: The Network surveyed targeted marine stakeholders and held a series of focused strategy meetings in each state capital and identified priority issues for government, peak bodies, industry and NGOs across five marine sectors.

On-line toolkits: Tools have been developed for industry and community. The Markets Toolkit³ is web-based and provides decision-makers and researchers with an overview of market-based instruments and policies to provide incentive for private sector adaptation to climate change. The Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Toolkit⁴ outlines research as an equal partnership between traditionally trained 'experts' and community members in projects that start with the community.

Graduate schools: The Network delivered the first National Marine Climate Change Adaptation Graduate School in 2009 and a second in 2011. The School attracted 30 early career researchers from around Australia focused on resilience of the marine social-ecological system and on conducting vulnerability assessments.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Network

Community engagement: The Network brought together 1100 members, 60 per cent stakeholders and 40 per cent researchers from across Australia. Members are connected through quarterly news bulletins, information sheets, online delivery of relevant literature and databases, compilation of case studies, and expert workshops.

Network roadshows: The Network held events in each state and territory, which brought

together researchers and stakeholders. The events attracted 370 participants and significantly increased stakeholder knowledge about the potential of adaptation to reduce negative impacts on terrestrial biodiversity.

Capacity building: The Network has built capacity in the research community by funding 25 PhD travel scholarships and supporting 19 Honours and Masters research students.

Freshwater Biodiversity Network

National science synthesis and translating science to policy workshops: Network workshops synthesise current knowledge and provide policy recommendations in briefing papers for research users on adapting water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation.

Building research capacity: The Network supported 6 student scholarships, 3 summer scholarships and 3 PhD top-up scholarships in climate change adaptation in water resources and freshwater biodiversity and hosted an early career researcher workshop on water governance adaptation. These generated reports and published papers that attracted international media attention.

Synthesis of water scenarios knowledge: The Network partnered with CSIRO Land and Water to synthesise projections for future water scenarios across river basins and develop a national catalogue of hydrologic projection data sources.

Settlements and Infrastructure Network (ACCARNSI)

Early Career Researcher forums: Network forums provide a unique opportunity for researchers in engineering, science, urban planning, built environment, social sciences, economics and business to exchange ideas, highlighting the range of current climate change adaptation research and influencing its future direction.

Discussion papers: Draft papers promote discourse around climate change adaptation research for the sector and are released to Network members for comment. ACCARNSI connects interested stakeholders with the authors to maximise each paper's relevance and coverage. These papers have highlighted gaps and the potential for leadership in key areas.

Conference and workshop support and presentations: The Network collaborates with stakeholders to include climate change adaptation sessions in relevant conferences. These include the Engineers Australia Climate Change Adaptation conferences; the State Of Australian Cities conferences; the Australian Transport Research Forums. The EIANZ NSW/ACCARNSI Learning to Adapt Professional Development seminar series has committed to promote adaptation to 1000 professionals including all levels of government.

Human Health Network

Documenting and synthesising current knowledge and identifying research priorities: The Network made a significant contribution to a dedicated Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health supplement about human health and climate change adaptation.⁵

Building knowledge and decision-making capacity including government agencies and professional societies: These include the Public Health Association of Australia, Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Australian Health Promotion Association.

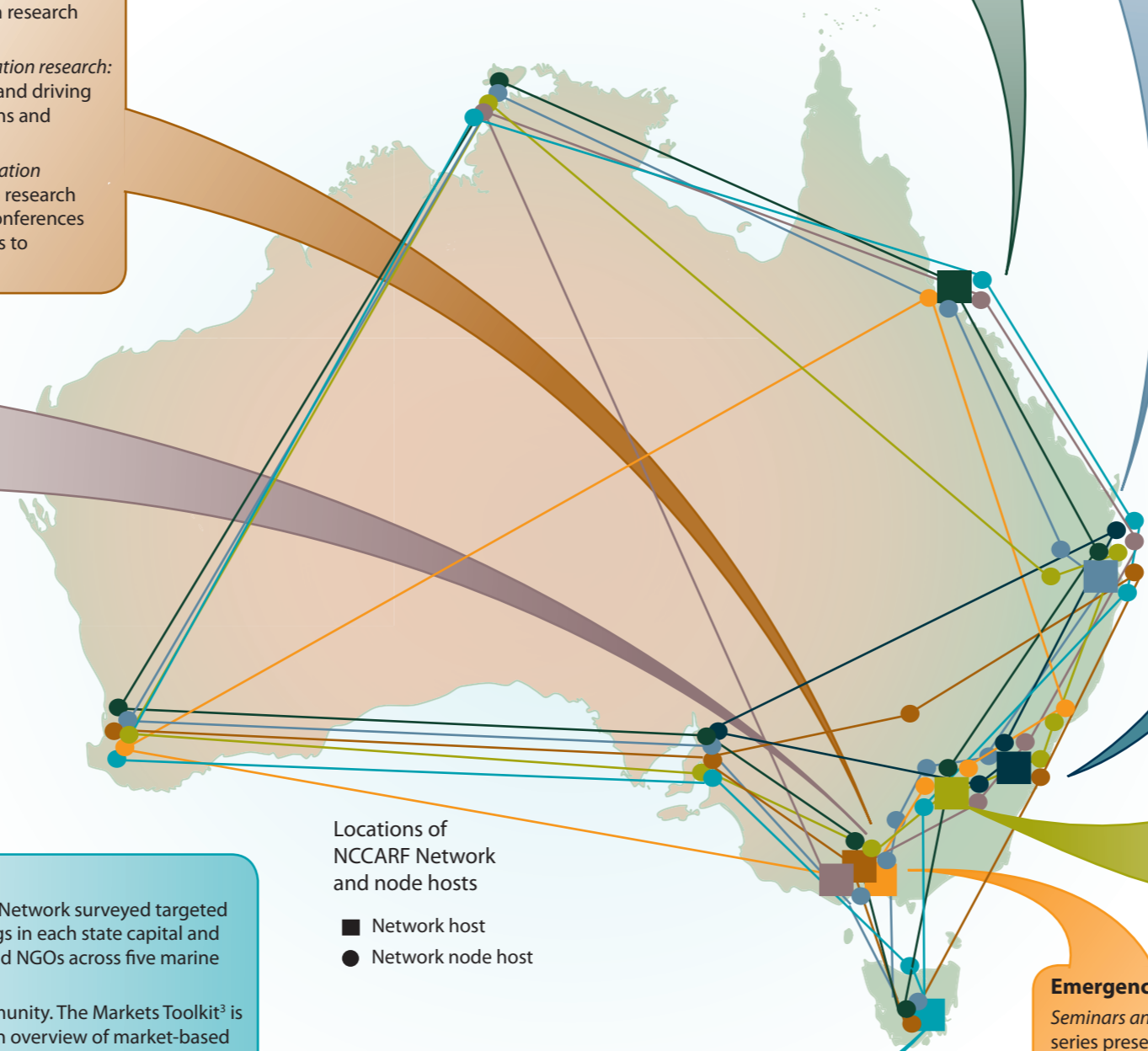
Influencing policy: The Network promoted co-benefits for health from action on climate change in the research and policy agenda through the 2010 Australian Academy of Science Fenner Conference on the Environment and papers in the NSW Public Health Bulletin.

Emergency Management Network

Seminars and workshops: By implementing a research and policy seminar and workshop series presenting new practice and research, the Network has built adaptation knowledge and capacity in emergency management policy makers and agency personnel as well as researchers. Including presentations from 10 international agency and research leaders, these events have been held in eastern, western and northern Australia.

Website and newsletter: Facilitating the sharing of ideas, events and opportunities through the Network newsletter, information 'alerts' and website. The ten editions of the newsletter have been circulated among 650 Network members and colleagues.

Mentoring and supporting researchers: The Network has enhanced research capacity by publicising research grants and helping researchers address assessment panel concerns to substantially improve their proposals. Students and early career researchers have been assisted to attend conferences and workshops around Australia.



Locations of NCCARF Network and node hosts

- Network host
- Network node host

¹ National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan

² Climate Change Adaptation Research Strategy for Primary Industries

³ http://arnmbr.org/content/index.php/site/market_theme/

⁴ <http://arnmbr.org/content/index.php/site/cbpr/>

⁵ Asia Pac J Public Health, March 2011; vol. 23, 2 suppl