

# Climate change adaption: a review of local government barriers and priorities

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# Overview

- Introduction
- Context and research methodology
- Role of local government
- Governance
- Communication

# Context and research methodology

*“Why don’t those researchers just ask us?” Climate Change Officer, local government.*

WA Councils completed climate change risk assessment were invited to participate

25 Councils (regional groupings) completed survey - barriers, priorities and treatment key service delivery areas

Top 3 priorities and barriers for each regional grouping in the key service delivery areas

19 Councils (regional groupings) workshop shared position on climate change adaptation priorities and barriers

Combined with review of academic literature



**climate  
wise**

# Local government and climate change adaptation

Local government will be unable to fulfill its role without:

- A coordinated, multi disciplinary policy response across all levels of government;
- Changes to governance;
- Financial capacity;
- The provision of regional climate change scenarios and research; and
- The use of situation specific communication methodology.

# Role of local government

Rates, roads and rubbish to economic growth, community development and environmental management (Thomas 2010)

<b>Federal</b>	<b>Other</b>
Service delivery and asset management	Accessible, accountable and practically orientated
Education	Equity
Sustainable development	Feedback
	Resources

# Climate change adaptation planning

<i>Climate change impact</i>	<i>Area of local government responsibility</i>
<i>Sea level rise</i> <i>Coastal erosion</i>	<i>Land use planning and urban development</i> <i>Management of certain public roads</i> <i>Environmental conservation and support</i> <i>Support for tourism, industry and commerce</i> <i>Community information</i>
<i>Frequent storm events</i> <i>Increased intense rainfall events/cyclones</i> <i>Increased/decreased rainfall</i>	<i>Management of certain public roads</i> <i>Public health supervisory functions</i> <i>Water sewerage, drainage services</i> <i>Energy supply and infrastructure</i> <i>Support for tourism, industry and commerce</i> <i>Land use planning and urban development</i> <i>Management of certain public roads</i> <i>Community information</i> <i>Community recreation facilities</i>
<i>Increased temperatures</i>	<i>Public health supervisory functions</i> <i>Fire prevention activities</i> <i>Environmental conservation and support</i> <i>Pest and weed eradication</i> <i>Land use planning and urban development</i> <i>Community information</i> <i>Community recreation facilities</i> <i>Energy supply and infrastructure</i>

*(Adapted from Thomas, 2010, Sydney, 2008, and Patt, 2007)*

# Governance, local government and climate change adaptation

*'Governance arrangement need to ensure that local government has a seat at the table so that it can communicate its needs and understand its role in this complex environment.*

*What structures and governance arrangements are appropriate.....?*

*How will such arrangements include the full range of stakeholders, government departments and policy areas that are involved .....?*

*How will local government's and other institutions performance in this area be managed?' (local government workshop, 2010)*

# Top down

Federal



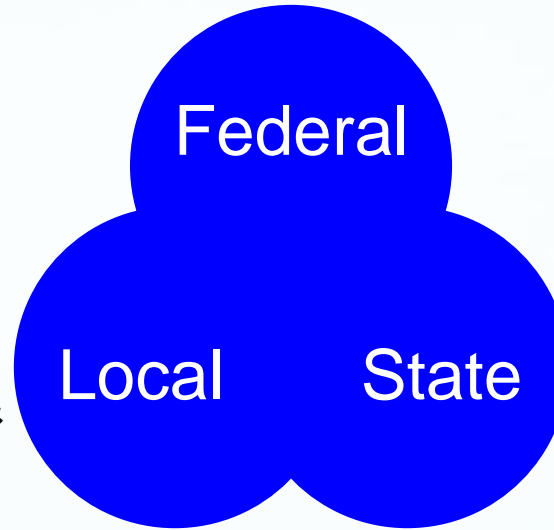
State



Local

- Regional planning approach
- Risk guidance planning & development
- Building & infrastructure standards
- Legal liability
- Research
- Assessment methods- frameworks, benchmarks

# Interconnected



- Information
- Resources
- Advocacy
- Coordinating activities
- Social capital
- Collaboration & learning



# Communication

*'There needs to be clear communication with the community regarding their role and the different levels of governments roles in adapting to climate change'* (local government workshop 2010)

- Uncertainties (CSIRO 2007)
- Lack of clear understanding scientific information, impacts and consequences for daily routines (Biesbroek et al 2010)
- Value reduction in ambiguity but consensus over ambiguity (Kandlikar et al 2004)
- Visual, experiential & storylines (Marx et al 2007, Whetton and Hennessy, 2010)
- Underestimation of personal risk and local impacts from climate change (Button, 2010) .

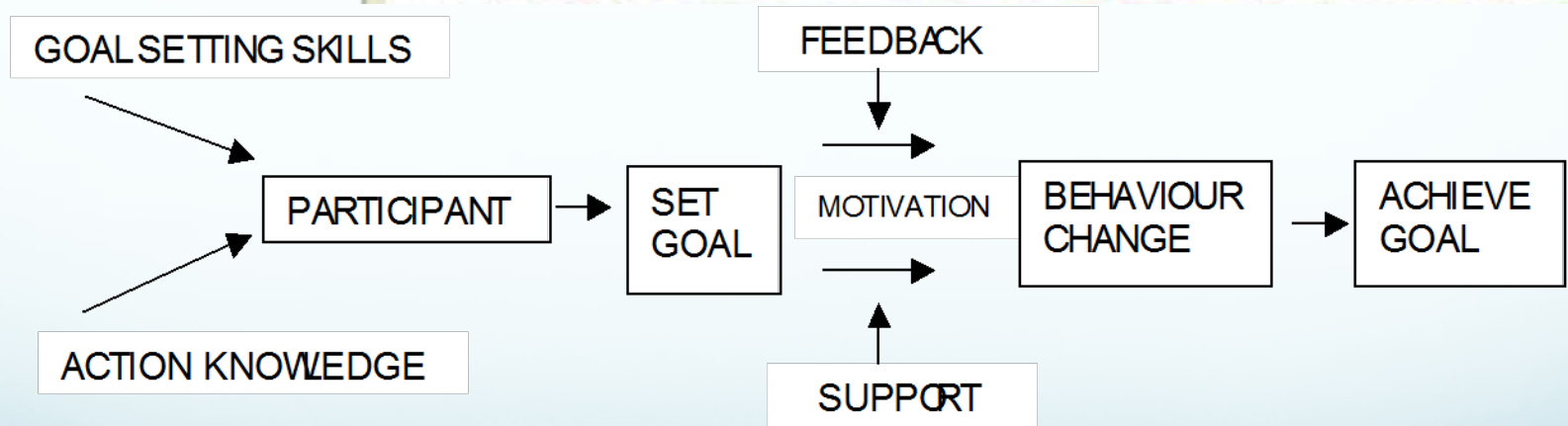
# Normal rules of communication apply

- What are your communication objectives?
- Who is your audience? Etc

Local government communication objective	Methods
<i>Emergency management and increased bush fire risks, extreme weather events and preventative measures, coastal erosion and inundation, flooding</i>	Gain frame (prevention) Loss frame (information recall)
<i>Local planning policies Changes to maintenance and type of recreational facilities</i>	Dialogue

# Resilience & transformation

Living  
Smart



Lucy Sheehy 2005