

A framework for a considered and appropriate response to the impact of climate change on water safety and lifesaving organisations

Greg McLennan^{1,2}

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia¹, Department Of Sport and Recreation, Western Australian Government²

Background/introduction

Water safety and lifesaving organisations must have the necessary planning framework/reference points to effectively deal with the impacts of climate change. In this presentation, Greg McLennan, Principal Policy Officer with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Western Australian Government, will introduce and explore the framework his organization, in partnership with the sport and recreation industry in Western Australia, has constructed to address the impact climate change has on sport and recreation provision. He will outline the potential impact on the services and products you, as water safety and lifesaving organizations use, how this framework, 'Adaptive Scenario Planning' is applicable to you and some of the results since its introduction and implementation in the industry.

Aims/Objectives Learning Objectives:

- The findings and learning's from the project
- The recommended future policy approach for government and service deliverers
- An exposure to and an understanding and knowledge of the 'framework' entitled Adaptive Scenario Planning
- Some practical examples emanating from the project

Target

Planners and decision makers in water safety and lifesaving organizations.

Methods/Implementation

Full analysis of potential impacts and potential adaptations that need to be considered to make informed decisions regarding climate change and its impacts.

Results/Evaluation

A fully developed framework has been developed that water safety and lifesaving organisations can utilise at the strategic through to the local level when considering the impact of climate change on their operations.

Discussion

The project has led to the development of some comprehensive analysis of various scenarios in and on the impact of climate change in Western Australia. The framework is 'transferable' to any geographical location in the world as the scenarios are developed based on local impacts and adaptations.

Conclusion

The project has led to many sport and recreation, Local Government and Water Safety and Lifesaving organisations developing comprehensive planning regimes in regards to the perceived impacts of climate change. This has equipped them to be able to deal effectively internally and externally within and to their operations.

Acknowledgements

The Department of Sport and Recreation Western Australia, Parks and Leisure Australia Western Australia Branch (Inc.) and Dr David Deeley, E.D. Arcacia Springs PTY LTD.

References

'Climate Change – its more than a Concept', The Department of Sport and Recreation, Western Australia, 2008

Corresponding Author

Greg McLennan
Royal Life Saving Society National Sport Committee
Royal Life Saving Society – Australia
PO Box 558
Broadway NSW Australia 2007
Email: gamclennan@hotmail.com