

Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program

- Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions Projects

Project title:

Every state for themselves? Learning from cross-border regulatory instruments to support and promote climate change adaptation in Australia..

Principal investigators: Dr Wendy Steele,
Lead organisation: Griffith University

Objectives:

This project focuses on learning from, and enhancing the efficacy of, the development of institutional reform that supports and promotes cross-border regulatory mechanisms for climate change adaptation within Australia. The key objectives for the project are 3-fold and include:

1. the collation and assessment of innovative cross-border regulatory initiatives, particularly focused on those within Australia at the state level (i.e. the range, type, location) (*STAGE 1*);
2. the identification and distillation of the challenges/opportunities for cross-border regulatory reform around climate change adaptation in the Tweed (NSW)/ Gold Coast (QLD) border region (*STAGE 2*); and
3. the integration and dissemination of key lessons learnt from diverse institutional practices that support or impede cross-border climate change adaptation (*STAGE 3*).

Project design and methods:

The project has been designed to build institutional learning and thus capacity around cross-border regulatory instruments that support and promote climate change adaptation through a creative two-pronged empirical approach. First, the empirical net will be cast wide to collect and collate innovative cross-border examples at the state level across Australia. This will be undertaken primarily through a comprehensive international/national literature review and desktop analysis of existing Australian case-study examples (STAGE 1). This will include: (i) the Murray-Darling Basin water strategy; (ii) the Australian Alps conservation management plan; (iii) the Cross-border sub-regional strategy between ACT and NSW; and (i) the Cross-border disaster management sub-plan 2010 between the Gold Coast City and Tweed Shire Councils. Second, the project deploys a contextualised case-study focused on the Gold Coast (QLD)/Tweed (NSW) cross-border region (STAGE 2). The use of interviews and focus group workshops will provide the basis of a co-constructed collaborative research framework focused on learning from cross-border regulatory reform mechanisms in practice. This will involve participants from all 3 tiers of government as well as community groups and the private sector. The combined learning insights to emerge from both empirical phases (1. desk-top review and 2. case-study research) will then be collated and disseminated to a wider national audience through the project website, public data base, project reports and scholarly publications (STAGE 3).

STAGE 1

Objective/aims: the collation and assessment of innovative cross-border regulatory initiatives, particularly focused on those within Australia at the state level (i.e. the range, type, location)

Deliverables (and methods):

- (i) a website presence for the project as part of the Griffith Climate Change Response Program and/or NCCARF website;
- (ii) an annotated literature review of international and national cross-border initiatives;
- (iii) an end-user project report that focuses on innovative cross border regulatory initiatives within the Australian context at the state level (i.e. the range, type, location) including the Murray-Darling Basin water strategy; the Australian Alps conservation management plan; the Cross-border sub-regional strategy between ACT and NSW; and the Cross-border disaster management sub-plan 2010 between the Gold Coast City and Tweed Shire Councils which will be sent to key stakeholders and available online;

- (iv) 1 refereed paper (* Note: abstract already accepted based on the NCCARF SEI application which is a tangible peer testament to the perceived national value of the project theme) to be presented at the State of Australian Cities Conference in Melbourne in November (SOAC, 2011); and
- (v) 3 scholarly articles based on this work which will be sent to targeted A/A* journals focused around the implications for the three priority thematic areas: natural resource management; disaster management; and urban planning and management.

Milestones:

Completion of project report (STAGE 1) – sent to stakeholders & available on project website

STAGE 2

Objective/aims:

the identification and distillation of the challenges/opportunities for cross-border regulatory reform around climate change adaptation in the Tweed/ Gold Coast region

Deliverables (and methods):

- (i) the organisation and delivery of 3 sectoral workshops and 20 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders (state and non-state) associated with the organisation and development of crossborder regulatory initiatives between the Gold Coast City Council (QLD) and the Tweed Shire Council (NSW);
- (ii) an end-user project report that focuses on the identification and distillation of the key challenges/opportunities for crossborder regulatory reform around climate change adaptation in the Tweed/ Gold Coast region (STAGE 2);
- (iii) a public seminar (in conjunction with key stakeholders) to present the findings to a wider audience; and
- (iv) 2 journal articles (1 x national, 1 x international) focused on the regulatory, legal and institutional dimensions of cross-border initiatives grounded within an empirical case-study.

Milestones:

Completion of project report (STAGE 2) – sent to stakeholders & available on project website

STAGE 3

Objective/aims:

the integration and dissemination of key lessons learnt from diverse institutional practices that support or impede cross-border climate change adaptation

Deliverables (and methods):

- (i) an end-user project report, which focuses on the integration and communication of the of key lessons learnt from project Stages 1 and 2 with an emphasis on diverse institutional practices that support or impede cross-border climate change adaptation, which will be sent to key stakeholders and available on the web;
- (ii) a searchable public database located at the Griffith Climate Change Response Program website and/or NCCARF website;
- (iii) an edited book including contributions from case-study and other key stakeholders designed for a wide audience.

Milestones:

Completion of project report (STAGE 3) – sent to stakeholders & available on project website