

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Work

Citation: Kinnear S, Patison K, Mann J, Malone E & Ross V (2013) 'Network governance and climate change adaptation: Collaborative responses to the Queensland floods', National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast, Qld., <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/publications/network-governance-climate-change-adaptation>

Research Background

Field: disaster/emergency management, social networks, urban and regional studies,

Context: using case studies, this research explored social network analysis as a tool to understand linkages between stakeholders responding to natural disaster events

Research Question: this research question was focussed on whether differences exist in the social networks formed amongst disaster management stakeholders in regional and metropolitan settings.

Research Contribution

- **Innovation:** this project was innovative in comparing social networks across a range of different geographical; functional; and institutional and regulatory contexts.

- **New Knowledge:** The network analyses examined collaboration and communication patterns; changes in the network structure from routine management to flood operations; similarities and differences between the geographic regions, and whether collaboration was correlated with trust. A cultural values analysis was then performed to identify the key values of the network actors in each region. This study has demonstrated that a network governance approach can provide new ways of understanding the core elements of adaptive capacity, in areas such as enablers and barriers to adaptation, and translating capacity into adaptation. The key implications for policy and practice include the need for stakeholders to drive adaptation to climate change through collaboration and communication; the need for stakeholders to share a common goal and language; the need for better engagement with community, diversity and Indigenous organisations; the need to establish collaboration outside of disaster events; and the need for network governance systems to play an important role in helping to facilitate climate change adaptation.

Research Significance

- **Evidence of Excellence:** This research has been published as per the citation below and other manuscripts are also in preparation.

Malone, E. and Kinnear, S., 2014, How and why: Complementary analyses of social network structures and cultural values: improving flood response networks in Queensland, Australia, *Quality and Quantity: International Journal of Methodology* Volume 49, Issue 1 (2015), Page 203-220. DOI 10.1007/s11135-013-9982-6.

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