



## Turning climate change adaptation into action – what can local planning instruments realistically achieve?

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## Today's workshop.....

- Introduction
- Hypothetical



# Climate Change Adaptation

- Climate change is no longer a new concept for local governments
- Many examples of strategies and programs that have been developed or are being developed
- Councils already addressing a range of climate-related natural hazards through land use planning approaches
- Flood, bushfire, storm surge, erosion etc
- Climate change expected to increase frequency and intensity



# Climate Change

- Local government planning schemes and other planning mechanisms are very powerful tools for addressing climate-related hazards
- Few examples of where these have been designed to specifically address climate change
- What can they realistically achieve?
- How can we use existing approaches for addressing natural hazards in order to avoid reinventing the wheel?



# Local Government Planning Mechanisms

- Zoning
- Overlays
- Performance-based codes
- Planning scheme policies
- Development assessment and conditions



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## Local Government Planning Mechanisms

- Ensuring that land is not zoned for urban development in areas at unacceptable risk of natural hazards
- Using map overlays to identify areas that may be at risk of natural hazards and therefore subject to particular code requirements
- Codes with detailed measures to ensure development is designed and located to minimise natural hazard risks to the community e.g. building set backs, minimum floor heights
- Planning scheme policies that state the information required from an applicant e.g. technical requirements for flood studies

# Hypothetical

- Coastal town that borders the neighbouring state to the south
- Almost all the coastal zone has been earmarked for development in the Council's Strategic Plan
- Legacy of planning decisions that didn't adequately consider the impact of coastal hazards – let alone future climate change – has resulted in houses being built on the dunes along the beach



# Hypothetical

- Recent severe storms have resulted in serious erosion that threatens the collapse of several dwellings
- Concerns that more storms may result in breakthrough of dunes by sea water causing flooding of the landward side of the dunes
- Greenfield site behind dunes for which council is currently considering development options



## Hypothetical

- Projected sea level rise and more severe storms as a result of climate change are expected to seriously exacerbate the situation
- State government has recently released draft coastal planning policy recommending sea level rise figure of 0.8m by 2100
- Neighbouring state government has planning policy in place recommending a sea level rise figure of 0.9m by 2100
- Opportunity to review the existing planning scheme



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## Questions

- **How can Council use local planning mechanisms to ensure that residential development along the beach is not at an unacceptable risk from the impacts of climate change?**
- **How can Council use these same mechanisms – or different mechanisms – to ensure that new development on the greenfield site is not at an unacceptable risk from the impacts of climate change?**
- **What are the barriers to effectively addressing climate change through land use planning?**

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## Question 1 (15 mins)

- **How can Council use local planning mechanisms to ensure that residential development along the beach is not at an unacceptable risk from the impacts of climate change?**



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## Question 2 (15 mins)

- **How can Council use these same mechanisms – or different mechanisms – to ensure that new development on the greenfield site is not at an unacceptable risk from the impacts of climate change?**



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## Question 3 (15 mins)

- **What are the barriers to effectively addressing climate change through land use planning?**



## Thank you....



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