

Climate Change Adaptation through Sustainable Urban Development

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Urbanisation and rising resource use per person is driving increased greenhouse gases

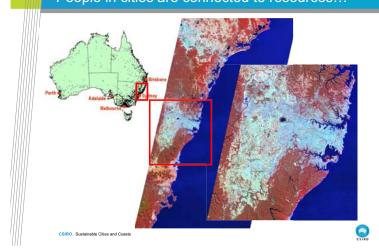


Source: NASA/GSFC (2000)

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People in cities are connected to resources...



Climate is just one of many adaptation challenges facing government, community and industry

- Energy prices
- Water shortages
- Recovery from extreme weather events
- Health effects of urban lifestyles
- Time lost through poor transport infrastructure
- Inadequate investment in urban services
- Lack of affordable and sustainable housing
- Who pays when things go wrong?

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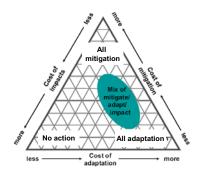
Three overall responses to climate change

- Climate mitigation "avoiding the unmanageable" eg. by using low carbon technologies at large scale
- Climate adaptation "managing the unavoidable" through better planning, risk assessment and using climate scenarios for urban and coastal development
- Climate suffering the consequences on people, ecosystems and infrastructure from not taking effective action in response to climate change and extreme events

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Impacts, mitigation and adaptation



Schematic on inter-connection between climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation (source: Parry 2009)



An opening question...

How can we live well using less materials, water and energy per person?

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