



Australian Government
AusAID



CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER: AN AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

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THE CONTEXT

- Climate Change a major challenge for global community
 - At least 2°C and possibly much more
 - Depends on the concentration stabilisation level
 - Impacts are likely to be significant (water/food/biodiversity/health)
- Global Community struggling with the issue: both on the mitigation and adaptation fronts
- Significant uncertainty remains about the magnitude and timing of these impacts
- Climate change will have a significant influence on the future direction and financing for development assistance



What we know already

- Impacts on the water sector will be significant – even at low levels of warming
 - Annual/seasonal distribution, floods/droughts, energy, ecosystems
- Impacts will vary between locations and adaptation will be largely a local response – we can't adapt to everything
- There is a significant adaptation deficit already (\$30-40b/yr)
 - Competition for water will increase (agriculture/urban/industry)
 - Have yet to adapt to current variability – vulnerability already high
 - Integrated approach to water sector management is essential
- Many actions are worthwhile now even in the absence of certainty over adaptation needs

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What is AusAID doing?

- Climate change programming response is growing but still very recent consideration
 - Adaptation initiative (\$150m), forest carbon (\$200m), and sectoral infrastructure support
- Water sector adaptation
 - Several major initiatives are in the pipeline
 - CSIRO Alliance
 - Water and Sanitation Initiative (\$300m)
- Future programming in the water sector will be guided by experience with current activities but is likely to grow