

# Policies, Institutions and Governance in Natural Hazards ...

Dr Michael Eburn  
ANU College of Law and  
Fenner School of Environment and Society

# PIGS in Natural Hazards ..



Dr Michael Eburn  
ANU College of Law and  
Fenner School of Environment and Society

## Three themes

- Understanding ‘community’;
- Insurance as a signal of risk;
- Post event learning.

## Who we were ...



### **End users**

Chris Irvine

Christine Roach

Ed Pikusa

John Schauble

Monique Blason

Samantha Ward

Sandra Whight

# And who we've become...



and Varun Sundar (no picture)

## How we're going...

- We're doing things a bit out of order:
- Lots of work on theme 3;
- Working well on theme 2;
- Sue Hunt and Ignatious Cha working on issues to do with theme 1 but the outputs from that will come at the end rather than start of the project.



# Outputs

1. Ignatius Cha, a student in the Fenner School of Environment and Society completed an individual research project comparing the findings of the McLeod Inquiry, the Doogan Inquest and Inquiry and the Supreme Court litigation arising from the 2003 Canberra fires. Ignatius presented a poster on his research at the 2014 Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research and was invited to present his poster at 'Posters in Parliament: Celebrating Undergraduate Research' (Parliament House, Canberra, 22 September 2014, see [http://www.mq.edu.au/lrc/altc/ug\\_research/2014/posters/Ignatius\\_Cha\\_ANU.jpg](http://www.mq.edu.au/lrc/altc/ug_research/2014/posters/Ignatius_Cha_ANU.jpg)).
2. Steve Dovers served on the Expert Reference Group that assisted with review of Victoria's Bushfire Management Reforms.
3. Michael Eburn gave a presentation to the National Security and Emergency Management Knowledge and Lessons Management Workshop. His presentation was entitled: *Learning lessons from disasters: alternatives to Royal Commissions and other quasi-judicial inquiries*.
4. Michael Eburn gave an invited presentation on 'Emerging legal issues for the sector' at the *Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference*, 'Earth Wind and Rain', on Queensland's Gold Coast. Whilst there Michael attended the BNHCRC display to discuss the work of the CRC with interested delegates.
5. Michael Eburn presented the annual Drummond Memorial Lecture at Drummond College, the University of New England, Armidale NSW. The theme of his lecture was '*Disaster Resilience: Making the National Strategy Local*'.
6. Steve Dovers co-presented an AFAC professional development course (with Prof David Pannell) entitled *Firefighting with economics*. This communicated results from previous Bushfire CRC work, which included discussion relevant to the governance and 'shared responsibility' themes of the new research.
7. Michael Eburn sat on the selection panel for a researcher to be employed by the University of Western Sydney as part of the project team working on the BNHCRC project 'Scientific diversity, scientific uncertainty and risk mitigation policy and planning'. This project is being led by Dr Jess Weir and is the other project in the *Economics, Policy and Decision-Making* research cluster.
8. The Fenner School of Environment and Society and the project team hosted Sam Chard from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and a project end user, for morning tea. Sam met the project team as well as other interested colleagues to discuss the Productivity Commission's inquiry into National Disaster Funding Arrangements as well as giving an overview of the Commonwealth's arrangements in this area.
9. Michael Eburn was invited to present at the joint Emergency Management Australia/Australian Maritime Safety Authority Executive Masterclass, held in Darwin.
10. Michael Eburn gave a presentation to the Australian Government Exercise Coordination Group in Canberra.
11. Michael Eburn, along with Blythe McLennan and Barbara Norman took part in a webinar on our Bushfire CRC research.
12. Michael Eburn was invited by Mark Crossweller, Director General of Emergency Management Australia, to take part in a workshop at the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Mt Macedon, on planning for a catastrophic disaster.
13. The ANU College of Law held an intensive course on Australian Disaster Law. This course is offered as part of various masters degrees but was also opened up as professional development opportunity for industry. Representatives from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Victoria's Country Fire Authority, South Australia's Country Fire Service and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre attended. Having a mix of practitioners and students helped ensure a lively discussion. The course was convened by Michael Eburn and included presentations from Steve Dovers and Sue Hunt.
14. Michael Eburn travelled to Perth to talk about emergency management arrangements to various stakeholders, including Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Service, at Perth Airport (11-13 August) and then to Albany to give a presentation to Albany Council volunteer bush fire brigades (14 August).
15. Sue Hunt gave a presentation on her PhD research and her continued candidature in the program was confirmed.
16. Jamie Pittock hosted Brigadier General Gerry Galloway from the US Army Corps of Engineers who gave a public lecture and then a closed forum looking at flood management. Michael Eburn, Sue Hunt and Caroline Wenger attended those functions along with Sam Chard a project end user and others including representatives from NSW SES. Although this was not an event conducted under the auspices of the CRC it related to our work and was useful for our researchers.
17. Steve Dovers was a keynote speaker at the BNHCRC sponsored forum on 'Disasters: the challenges for Australia and the region' held at the ANU's University House, Canberra. Posters from Sue Hunt and Caroline Wenger were displayed at the event.
18. Michael Eburn attended a meeting of the AFAC AIIMS Steering Group to provide advice based on the next iteration of AIIMS doctrine; and
19. Jamie Pittock and Michael Eburn were invited to join a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop to advise the ACT government on developing links between government, industry and researchers;
20. The research team met with Desiree Beekharry to discuss further developing end user engagement.
21. Steve Dovers has been contracted to produce, with Alan March of the University Melbourne, a chapter on disasters for a new Australian urban planning textbook.

## What we've done...

- 'Are we learning anything? Non-judicial inquiries and post disaster learning' has been submitted to the UNSWLJ.
- Eburn travelled to Sendai for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



## What we are doing next

- Dovers has been contracted to produce a chapter on disasters for a new Australian urban planning textbook.
- Eburn's going to the US to do a course on 'Learning from Unintended Consequences', attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildland Fire Litigators' conference and visit the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre.

# Questions, Comments?

- Copies of our:
  - Annual Report; and
  - Paper ‘Learning Lessons from Disasters: Alternatives to Royal Commissions and other Quasi-judicial inquiries’ *AJPA Online*are available.
- E: [michael.eburn@anu.edu.au](mailto:michael.eburn@anu.edu.au)  
P: 6125 6424