

Victoria University and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC have great pleasure in inviting you to  
**Understanding our values at risk and risk ownership workshop**

Date and time: 7 August, 10.00am – 5.00pm

Venue: State Control Centre, Level 4, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne  
(Bogong & Baw Baw Rooms)

RSVP by 7th of July to Vaia Smirneos email: [vaia.smirneos@bnhrc.com.au](mailto:vaia.smirneos@bnhrc.com.au)



*“Value is not a logical process because value is not just about what something costs, it is about what we as individuals and communities hold as precious to us.”*

*Participant ‘Beyond the Mean’ Workshop 2012*

Values underpin the foundations of decision making, shaping the choices we make. Yet often they only become visible when they are lost. They can be social, environmental or economic and can be measured as tangible (monetary) or intangible (non-monetary). To date there has been little clarity as to the worth of different types of values and the role that they play in decision making. Preventing future loss of values and the associated costs from uncertain but potentially severe natural hazard events can be difficult but is necessary in order to make the case for investment. It is also important for understanding more fully the implications of the trade-offs associated with different mitigation options to improve strategic decision making.

Values affected by natural hazards exist within a system that links people with their environment. Damage to one value can impact on another. For example, extensive wildfire damage to a forest in a tourist area is likely to directly affect the local community and economy. The increasing intensity of some natural hazards and changing demographics is placing many of these values at greater risk. This is driving the need to better understand which values are most vulnerable; also to identify who has ownership of these values and the risks that threaten them to ensure effective management.

This series of workshops are part of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project *Mapping and understanding bushfire and natural hazard vulnerability and risks at the institutional scale* that aims to develop:

- An economic geography of values at risk.
- A framework to assist development of governance around risk ownership.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore how values and risk ownership currently inform decision making through a series of structured exercises. We will also be testing aspects of the newly developed draft values-at-risk map to ascertain gaps in the values currently represented and explore risk ownership at an institutional level.

Key questions for these workshops are:

- How are the values at risk represented in the draft maps currently understood? What other values should be represented in the geography and how?
- What types of decision-making structures apply values at risk in strategic planning of natural hazard risk management?
- What are the current strengths and gaps in risk ownership at an institutional level?

For any inquires please contact Celeste Young, phone: 03 9919 1347 or email: [celeste.young@vu.edu.au](mailto:celeste.young@vu.edu.au)

**Understanding values at risk and risk ownership with natural hazards workshop**  
**Draft Workshop Agenda**  
 Date and time: 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 10.00 - 5.00pm  
 Venue: State Control Centre, Level 4, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne  
 (Bogong & Baw Baw Rooms)

<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
10.00 am	Workshop introduction
10.10am	Welcome
10.20	Stakeholder overview
10.30am	Project overview
10.45 am	Values at risk and risk ownership presentation
11.15 am	Group activity and discussion
<b>11.40</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
12.00am	Exercise 1 Values at risk map exercise, gaps and understandings
<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
1.45pm	Exercise 2 Allocation of risk ownership
2.15 pm	Exercise 3 Ownership interactions
3.50	Exercise 4 Needs, barriers and opportunities
4.30pm	Observations
4.50	Workshop Summary
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Close</b>

## Facilitators

**Professor Roger Jones** is a Professorial Research Fellow at the Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies (VISES) at Victoria University, Melbourne. He applies a transdisciplinary approach to understanding and managing climate change risk that bridges science, economics and policy, and is building a portfolio of research on the economics of green infrastructure. He previously worked for Australia's CSIRO for 13 years, developing methods for climate risk assessment. Qualified in earth science, he has since worked on urban ecology, been a museum curator and technical essayist, public radio host and researcher working on past, present and future climates and their impacts.

Roger's methods for assessing climate risk have been used widely in Australia and internationally. He was Coordinating Lead Author on the chapter *Foundations of Decision Making* in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II Fifth Assessment Report, released earlier this year. He was also Coordinating Lead Author on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and a lead author on the Third Assessment Report. In 2005, he was awarded with the Burton Award, for Adaptation Research by Ian Burton, the first recipient of the eponymous award. He has published over 50 chapters and refereed papers in a total of over 140 publications.

**Dr John Symons** is a Research Fellow at the Victorian Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University. He has worked extensively in the area of sustainability and climate change. John was originally trained as a scientist and subsequent qualifications in environmental planning and environmental economics where his PhD examined the business case for voluntary emissions reductions using robust optimisation mathematical modeling techniques. He has worked on projects with Professor Peter Sheehan for the CRC for Rail Innovation examining the role rail can play in the transition to a low carbon economy. This work also included examination of the environmental and social externalities of different transport modes.

Prior to working in his current role, John worked extensively in the sustainability and education areas. He has worked as a practitioner and consultant for the Sydney Olympic Coordination Authority and ARUP engineering in the sustainable development of their projects. He has also worked in the areas of strategic development for planning consultants in the delivery of sustainable cities and suburbs. John also has extensive experience with local government and schools in the UK with the Environmental Actions Plans for Schools project in the London Borough of Barnet. John also has wide-ranging experience in education, training and communication experience in Sydney, London and Melbourne.

**Celeste Young** is a Collaborative Research Fellow at Victorian Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University whose works in the area of climate change adaptation with a particular focus on using a transdisciplinary approach to bridge the gap between theory and practice. In particular she uses innovation, creative and business methodologies to assist this process. She has extensive experience working with stakeholders in diverse sectors such as government (all levels), research, community, arts and industry sectors. Much of her research to date has focused on industry and local government adaptation and she has produced a number of working papers and reports in this area. She was also a Contributing Author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II Fifth Assessment Report Chapter on the *Foundations of Decision Making*, (2014).

Prior to working in her current position, Celeste worked extensively as a practitioner and consultant in the areas of strategic development, communication and implementation in the sustainability and climate change area. She has worked for organisations such as BAE Systems, the Western Alliance For Greenhouse Action (WAGA), the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR). During this time she has developed and instigated a number of successful programs including: Smart Sustainable Secure (BAE Recognition Achievement Award), Council Connections (featured in the Victorian State Adaptation Plan 2012) and a communication framework which was presented in poster form at the NCCARF Conference 2012, (Won best overall poster prize and is used by researchers and practitioners in the adaptation sector globally and has been translated into Spanish). The engagement program she played a key part in developing whilst at VCCCAR was awarded the University of Melbourne, Vice-Chancellor's Staff Engagement Excellence Awards 2014.

# Bush Fire & Natural Hazards CRC Project

## Mapping and understanding bushfire and natural hazard vulnerability and risks at the institutional scale

### Background of project

This research project is funded by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC. It is led by the Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University who are collaborating with key stakeholders in the emergency services sector.

Currently, government spending on responding to disasters rather than preparing for them is estimated as a 20 to 1 ratio. As most climate-related risks are increasing, and more people are living in areas where natural hazards are known to occur, it is important to rethink how resources are allocated and used. This project will investigate vulnerability and risks to natural hazards at the institutional scale in order to gain a better understanding of resilience.

### Key terms for the project

Institutions are groups of people who develop and share common values and rules that shape how they think and behave. These rules and values can constrain and direct a group through specific controls or by providing incentives and benefits. They can be formal, such as laws and policies, or informal, such as social norms and conventions and provide the framework for the group interaction. Examples of institutions are organizations – such as parliaments, regulatory agencies, private firms, and community bodies.

Values are things considered important because they are useful or appreciated for their existence. Values can be tangible: good and services with a direct monetary value; or intangible: values that do not have an explicit monetary value but are still considered important. Intangible values include environmental and social values such as community connectivity, beauty of a landscape and environmental services such as clear air and water. These values also help to support the economy and enhance resilience.

### How the project will work

The project will look at institutions involved in natural disasters such as local government, state government, federal government and the community and private sector. We will look at how their values and rules interact with the values affected by natural disasters.

In first part of the project we will develop an economic geography of values at risk at geographic and institutional scales. This requires an understanding of values at risk and includes the direct impacts of hazard along with indirect impacts on the communities, their economy and environment, linking those to the institutions responsible for managing those values.

This map will show diverse values at risk in specific areas from natural hazards. Some values will be costed in terms of dollars, others will reflect certain qualities such as ecosystem and population health. The map will also show which institutions are at risk and identify the hazards that pose those risks. For example, a local community may be vulnerable to bushfires because it is surrounded by forest. Its local economy is sustained by tourism, but it also has an ageing population that limits people's capacity to act. A fire could have direct impacts on local infrastructure and the bushland environment that sustains tourism. Secondary impacts that follow the initial event may include a decline in incomes to local businesses and lasting social impacts within the community. It will also identify institutions responsible for recovery which include the community, local and state government and the private enterprises within that community.

Small communities may have limited resources and capacity to stage a sustained recovery, increasing social, economic and environmental vulnerability.

The aim of the map is to assist better planning and decision-making in advance of hazard-related events. It will also help support the development of business cases to obtain the investment needed to support resilience, by looking at financial and social returns of being proactive in the face of changing risks.

The second part of this project will focus on governance. We will develop a governance framework to support the institutional understanding and management of these values at risk. This task will examine current governance before and after disasters, looking at the emerging and future needs shown in the values at risk map. It will produce a process-based framework that aims to provide guidance and the 'thinking frameworks' needed to improve governance with respect to risk ownership of natural hazards. It will ask key questions such as who is responsible, how they are responsible and what they are responsible for?

The project team will work closely with end users and stakeholders to produce outputs fit for purpose as defined by end users. Ongoing consultation, evaluation and response to feedback are built into the research process to support this aim.

### Who will it benefit?

This project aims to benefit decision makers in institutions such as local, state and federal government, the community and private sectors to better identify:

- What social, environmental and economic values are at risk of from these events
- Where different institutions are at risk and how they are at risk.

It also aims to help practitioners define what type of governance arrangements are needed to support the long-term management of natural hazard risk and assist the building of greater resilience.

### Who is involved in the project?

Our collaborative end users are:

- Emergency Management Institute Australia, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, South Australia
- Rural Fire Service, New South Wales
- Emergency Management Victoria
- SAFECOM, South Australia
- State Emergency Services, Tasmania
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria