



LANDSCAPE LOGIC

is a research hub under the Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities scheme, managed by the Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts. It is a partnership between:

- Six regional organisations – the North Central, North East and Goulburn–Broken Catchment Management Authorities in Victoria and the North, South and Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management organisations in Tasmania;
- Five research institutions – University of Tasmania, Australian National University, RMIT University, Charles Sturt University and CSIRO; and
- State agencies in Tasmania and Victoria – the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries & Water, Forestry Tasmania and the Victorian Department of Sustainability & Environment.

The purpose of Landscape Logic is to work in partnership with regional natural resource managers to develop decision-making approaches that improve the effectiveness of environmental management. Landscape Logic aims to:

1. Improve our understanding of the links between land and water management and environmental condition through historical studies of private and public investment into water quality and native vegetation condition.
2. Develop better ways to represent existing knowledge and assumptions about links between land and water management and environmental condition.

How are rural landholders responding to climate change?

Background

This brief is based on a Landscape Logic report produced by our social research project. The report is a literature review relating to how Australian farmers are adapting to climate change. It presents a framework to illustrate how rural landholders respond to climate change based on Australian and overseas experiences. This research is also supported by the Natural Heritage Trust through the Victorian North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Key points

Many people don't see climate change as a personal threat, because:

- The slow and abstract nature of the risks make them difficult to comprehend
- They have not yet directly experienced its impacts, so they perceive climate change as something that is of low risk
- They may suppress consideration of the likely negative impacts of climate change in their desire to maintain the 'status quo'.

Types of strategies employed by landholders to mitigate the effects of climate change include:

- Changed land-management practices such as reducing stocking rates, adjusting planting times and using more sophisticated climate forecasting
- Financial strategies such as diversifying off-farm income and increasing insurance.

Individual landholder's ability to adapt to climate change is influenced by:

- Personal characteristics that effect motivations, intentions, decisions, and behaviours
- Access to different kinds of resources including natural (soil, water), financial (revenue), physical (equipment) and social (support networks, labour)
- The feasibility and benefits of available adaptive practices and technologies, and
- The broader operating environment (e.g. climate, economic trends, societal expectations, government policies/regulations).

Effective engagement in climate change adaptation requires:

- Clear adaption goals using inclusive and interactive approaches
- Incentives and useable practices.

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For a full copy of the report *Rural landholders adapting to climate change* go to: www.landscapelogic.org.au/Technical_reports.

