

Australia's Country Towns and Climate Change: Moving from Vulnerable to Adaptable

Professor Andrew Beer
University of Adelaide

Date: Thursday 26 July, 2012
Time: 4.30pm-5.30pm followed by refreshments
Venue: The Science Exchange, 55 Exchange Place, Adelaide.
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Australia's country towns face a new set of risks as both the direct and indirect impacts of climate change threaten their livelihoods, challenge existing social structures and impose additional burdens on government services.

Research shows that smaller and more remote communities tend to be more vulnerable to the effects of climate change when compared with the total population of settlements.

Many social factors including the structure of local industries, education levels within the workforce and the size of the settlement will play an important role in determining which centres are likely to survive beyond 2050.

This seminar will consider research outcomes and examine the implications for planning and service provision now and over the coming decades.

About the speaker:

Andrew Beer is Director of the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning and Professor of Geography at the University of Adelaide. He has published widely on issues of regional development in Australia and on the operation of Australia's housing markets.

He is known for the books *Developing Australia's Regions: Theory and Practice* (UNSW Press, 2003) and *Developing Locally: An International Comparison of Local and Economic Development* (Policy Press, 2003).

Current research projects include work on adaptation to climate risk in regional Australia, rural and regional housing markets and the human dimensions of environmental decision making.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility leads the research community in a national interdisciplinary effort to generate the information needed by decision-makers in government and in vulnerable sectors and communities to manage the risks of climate change impacts.

Photo: Mel Schein

