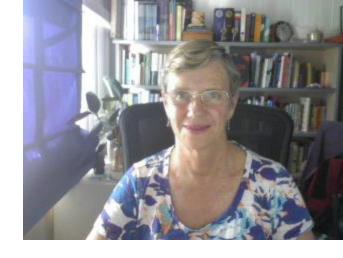


#iaia21

# Psychosocial impacts of climate change: South-East Queensland community perspectives



#### **Helen Ross**

Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland

Australia

Helen.Ross@uq.edu.au

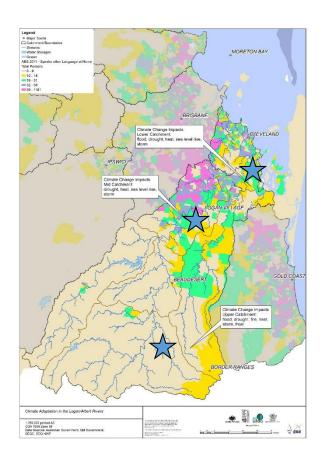


https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-ross-b2aab22/?originalSubdomain=au; Twitter: Helen\_Ross\_Aus

#### Question

# How do environmental impacts affect psychosocial impacts?









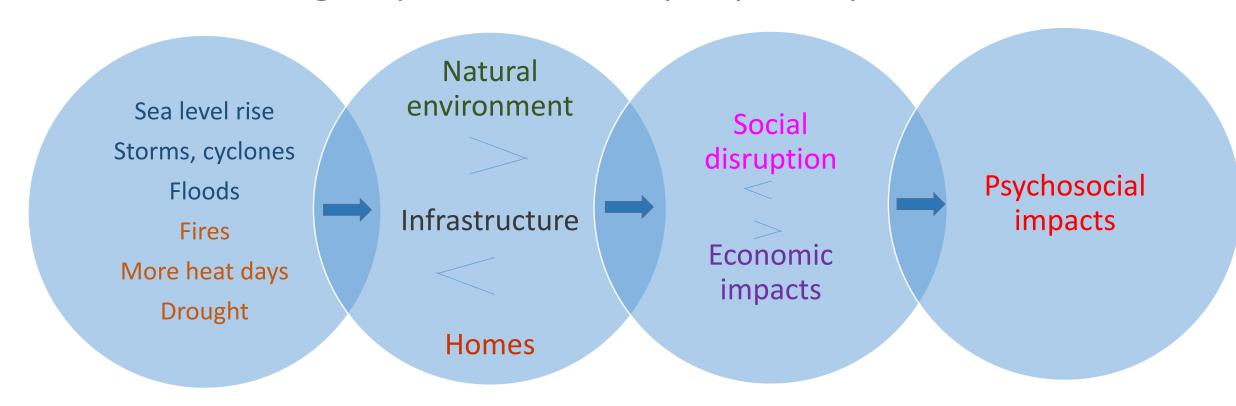
#### Climate 'Roundtables'

### *Influence diagrams*

- Sea level rise
- Storms, cyclones
- Floods
- Fires
- More heat days
- Drought

# **Findings**

Each climate change impact leads to complex pathways of effects



# Some interesting pathways

#### **Drought** (rural area)

'Psychological stress' arising from

- Reduced water quality worry about selves, plants, animals
- Seeing biodiversity effects
- Loss of recreation opportunities
- Dealing with the 'politics of drought'
- Economic impacts, loss of tourism, financial stress

#### Flood

- Depression, suicide
- Damage to swimming holes 'no reason to go to the river any more'

#### Sea level rise

Change in community dynamics as people migrate

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#### Severe storms

'Stress, mental health issues' related to

- People becoming stranded children unable to reach homes after school
- Distress over missing pets
- Overloaded help phone lines
- Loss of electricity, reduced access to food and transport especially for the vulnerable
- Financial stress from cleanup and repairs
- Exacerbated by media reporting alarmist or sceptical



#### **Conclusions**

Environmental impacts lead to psychosocial impacts (directly and indirectly)

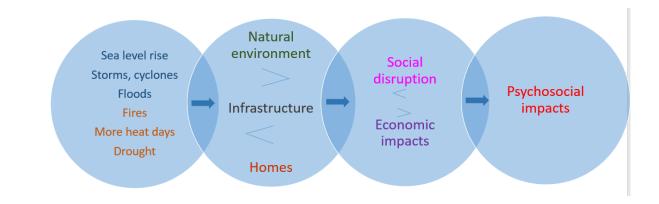
Pathways of impact can be complex

Natural environment and built environment both relevant

Differential effects across society

Coping mechanisms are highly relevant

- Natural environments, places to go, recreation
- Social supports (can be disrupted)
- Government services (stretched)



# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.



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http://www.uq.edu.au/agriculture/

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