

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Understanding climate risks and opportunities for primary industries

The changing climate brings with it many risks for primary producers in New South Wales and, possibly, new opportunities. Primary industries need information about these risks and opportunities to guide planning for the future. Through a consistently applied approach and industry engagement, the Vulnerability Assessment analyses potential climate change impacts and adaptation for a range of primary industries important to New South Wales.

The impacts of climate change are likely to disrupt primary industries in many ways, including changes to agricultural productivity, crop yields and pasture availability, and changes in the spread of pests, weeds and disease.

Understanding the extent of these changes and the associated vulnerability of primary industries is critical for managing risks and making sound adaptation decisions.

At the same time, climate change may offer new opportunities that producers can take advantage of. Understanding the timing and nature of potential opportunities is essential if producers are to be prepared to maximise any benefits.

At present, the evidence basis for making planning and adaptation decisions is neither comprehensive nor readily accessible. This makes it difficult for policy makers and industry to make fully informed choices about what is required to build a resilient future for primary industries across NSW.



Goal

Deliver high quality research to better understand the vulnerability and adaptability of our primary industries to a changing climate.

Benefits

- Enable key primary industry sectors like agriculture to better plan and respond to a changing climate by adopting new practices or technologies.
- Provide the evidence base for increasing the adaptive capacity of NSW primary industries, supporting industry and government decisions.
- Reduce risks associated with the early adoption of adaptation options in primary industries.

Deliverables

Strategic planning tools for primary industries in New South Wales, including:

- spatial analysis of vulnerability to climate change that can be used to identify adaptation gaps, risks for future attention and potential opportunities.
- economic analyses to highlight the risk of climate change and the value of adaptation.



Assessing industry vulnerability

We're undertaking a comprehensive assessment of primary industry vulnerability to climate change for New South Wales. The assessment will fill in gaps in our knowledge about climate change impacts for the state's primary producers in five industry sectors:

- extensive livestock
- broadacre and irrigated cropping
- horticulture/viticulture
- forestry
- fisheries

We will also look at biosecurity risks relevant to each industry sector.



The Vulnerability Assessment project of the NSW Primary Industries Climate Change Research Strategy will provide an evidence basis for primary industries to better plan for and respond to climate change, leading to a more resilient New South Wales.

The assessment is being conducted in four stages:

- identifying industry needs for, and current activities in, climate change risk and adaptation
- reviewing previous climate change impact and adaptation research and current activities for each industry
- developing a vulnerability assessment to capture climate change exposure risk and sensitivity of key primary industries
- conducting spatial and economic analysis to evaluate climate risk and adaptation options for primary industries across NSW.

Industry engagement

We're engaging with industry stakeholders in each stage of this project to ensure that the information produced in our vulnerability assessment can be used by industry for strategic planning.

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