



HIA and non-health sector collaboration in Western Australia

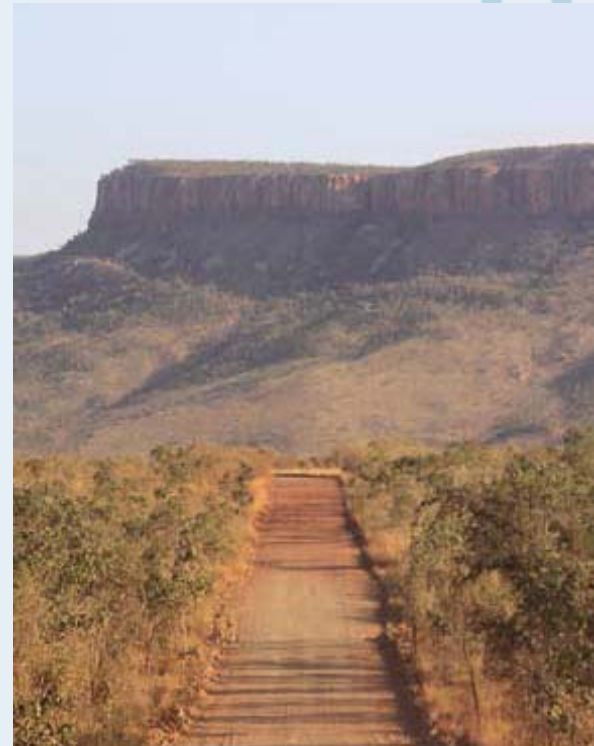
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Introduction

- Western Australia
 - Area of 2.52 million (m) square kilometres (1/3 of Australia)
 - Approx 12.5m km coastline
 - Population approx 2.08 m (1/10 Aus)
 - 1.5 m in Perth and South West



HIA in WA

- In Australia, National Environmental Health Strategy (1999) endorsed inclusion of HIA in EIA
- *Health Impact Assessment Guidelines* released in 2001
- Still fairly new to WA
- Establishment of HIA unit in Department of Health (DOH) in response to “development events”:
 - Actual or potential adverse health outcomes



HIA in WA



- Original intent to include HIA only in EIA
- In WA, Environmental legislation has supremacy over other Acts
- EIA restricted to major industrial projects and Town Planning Schemes
- Impacts to people only considered indirectly
- DOH not an approving agency



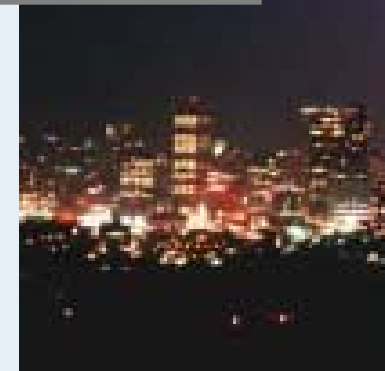
HIA in WA

- DOH environmental health advice provided only on request from EPA
- Usually towards end of EIA process
- May not actually be used
- DOH often seen as obstructionist and cause of delays



HIA in WA

- Identification that HIA requires:
 - Application to full range of proposal types
 - Broad range of health criteria
 - Legislative support within public health and other legislation
 - Allocation of DOH decision-making authority status
 - Potential to delegate authority for HIA to LG
- New PH legislation expected in 2008



Intersectoral Collaboration

1. Resource Developments
 - 2002 review of approvals processes for proposals under State Development Portfolio
 - These include the major mining, gas and petroleum development projects
 - Rapid world growth:
 - Need for resources
 - Need for more streamlined approvals processes
 - Most generate \$ABillions/year



Resource developments

- New process established:
 - Integrated Project Approvals System (IPAS)
- Overseen by IPAS Management Group:
 - Made up of senior representatives from approving agencies (environment, conservation, OSH, heritage, planning, industrial devel, mining)
 - Work together on screening and scoping processes
 - Content of scope broader than just environmental issues



Resource developments

- Recognition by new IPAS Management Group that people issues not addressed
- DOH/HIA invited to participate
- Required changes to practices and methodologies within DOH
- Seen generally as positive move



Resource developments

- Consequently:
 - Environmental health criteria included in screening tools
 - Impacts to people considered and thus more balanced outcomes
- No resistance by proponents to consider health impacts
- Proponents willing to broaden scope to include social determinants of health



Resource developments

- The IPAS collaboration across agencies has provided for:
 - Identification of duplication
 - Better understanding of other sector issues
 - Avenues for complementing other sector activities
 - Enhancement of Sustainability
 - Identification of whole of government requirements and shortfalls
 - Development of cross government policy
 - Better and more transparent decision making



Government Policy



1. Climate Change

- SW WA has experienced reduced rainfall in recent decades (10 - 20% decrease)
- Significant impacts on stream flow, water availability and soil moisture
- More frequent and more intense storm events
- NW experiencing more severe cyclones
- These extending further south and inland
- Gradual increase in average temperatures



Climate Change

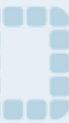


- WA established Greenhouse Strategy in 2003
- Australia produces approx 1.4% of total world GHG
- Adaptations to climate change will be as significant as mitigation
- DOH committed to assess impacts of climate change on population of WA
- After initial investigations undertook HIA of climate change (2007)
- Used scenario of probable circumstances in WA in 2030
- Did not assess impacts from mitigation



The scenario for WA

- Expected average temperature increases of 0.5°C to 2°C
- Increases in the number of days over 35°C in:
 - *South West* of +1 to + 20 days (now 27 in Perth)
 - *North West* of +10 to +90 days (now 54 in Broome and 156 in Halls Creek)
- Rainfall changes in:
 - *South-West* of 2 to 20% reduction in annual rainfall with a 17% reduction in winter rain days and catchment runoff decreases of 5 to 40%
 - *North-West* of annual rainfall decreases of 1.5 to 3.5%
 - Sea-Level increases of 3 to 17 cm by 2030 and 25 to 75 cm by 2100
- For Extreme Weather Events the following are generally accepted:
 - Heatwaves - more per year
 - Droughts - more frequent and severe
 - Bushfires - increased risk
 - Flooding - increased intensity
 - Storms - increased intensity
 - Tropical Cyclones - increased intensity and more frequent



Climate Change

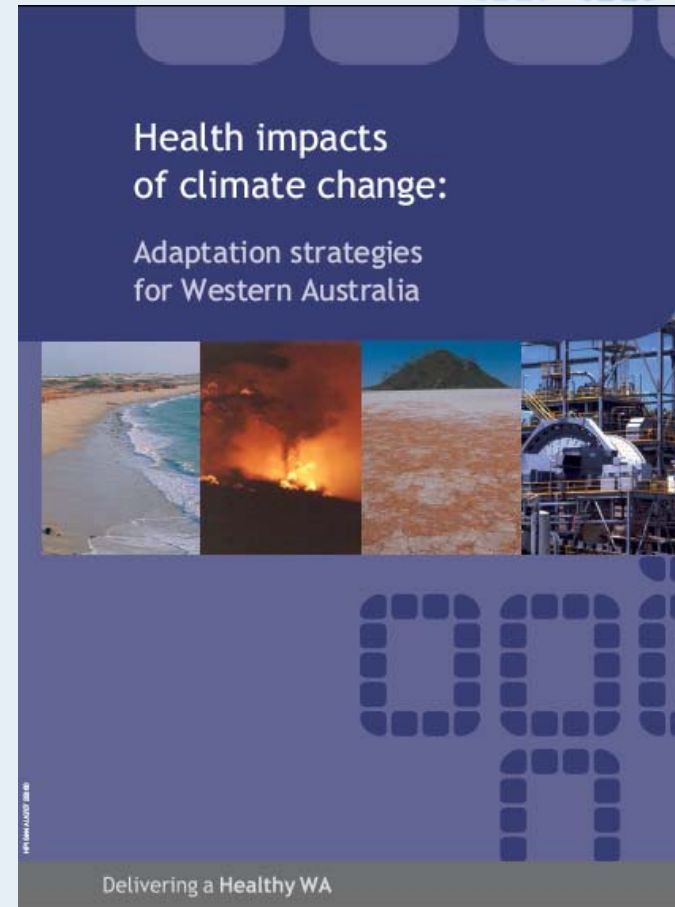


- Participation by stakeholders from across Government, NGOs and industry
- Significant components:
 - Identification of health impacts linked to environmental changes and infrastructure requirements
 - Assessment of current coping capacity
 - Assessment of vulnerability
 - Risk assessment by health and other experts
 - Development of appropriate adaptations



Climate Change

- Outcomes for the areas of:
 - Extreme events
 - Temperature related events
 - Air quality health impacts
 - Water-borne disease
 - Vector-borne disease
 - Food-borne disease
 - Food production health impacts
 - Social/community/lifestyle impacts
 - General principles
- Results published
- Public invited to comment and volunteer input to future activities



Climate Change

- Adaptation strategies will be used for:
 - Further support in assessments of specific sector vulnerabilities
 - Formulation of priorities for action by Government
 - Development of appropriate policies
- Further collaboration will be undertaken in whole of Government responses to implement strategies



Improving non-health sector collaboration: Health initiated proposals

- Demonstrate that other sector involvement is of high value
- Engage positively during proposal initiation stages
- Engage with all sectors
- Relinquish own silo mentality and encourage others to do so too
- Build formal and informal partnerships
- Accept limitations



Improving non-health sector collaboration: Non-health initiated proposals

- It can be argued that almost all activities can have an influence on health outcomes
- Need to demonstrate the value of health outcomes to support non-health activities
- Lead by example



Take Home Messages

- Health sector provides:
 - Relevant messages for decision makers
 - Support for and enhancement of other sector activities
- Don't forget objectives of HIA:
 - Better health outcomes for communities
- Collaboration provides for overall net benefits for proponents and communities



Further information and downloads:

- Department of Health WA
www.health.wa.gov.au/envirohealth
- IPAS information
www.odac.wa.gov.au
- IAIA conference in Perth, May 2008
Includes forum session on climate change and health
www.iaia.com



Thank you

