

*Building the Skills & Capabilities
of Environmental Professionals*

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Your uni. Your life.

What we are going to cover

What are our skill sets and experiences that position us well to address climate change impacts?

- Setting the scene
- Who is leading now and who will be the future leaders?
- Responding to a need

Setting the Scene

- Increasing understanding that we are both the source of the problem and the key to the solution to global warming and climate change
- Australia has been there before with ***climate change*** but we did not get a chance to lay the foundation to build capacity through professional development programs
- What have we learnt over the past 35+ years with respect to professional development to meet the challenges of the environment industry?

Who is leading now and who will be the future leaders?

Historic and demographic realities:

- Age does weary them...
- Where have the first and second wave practitioners gone/going?

Succession planning:

- Proselytisation of the next generation
- Recruitment from the emerging workforce
- Training and retraining of the current practitioners
- Mobilising the productive aging

New careers for new players:

- Identifying professional development needs for the 21st century
- Role of universities, technical institutes etc?

Responding to a need

Role of Environmental Professionals...

Focus in USA and Australia on whether climate change was real or not, still coming to grips with impact?

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of data/observations
- Risk analyses required – insurance industry
- Going from global – national – regional – local scale
- Needs - planning and response

Perceived weakness of “environmental” studies = strength.

- Cross disciplinary & mix of general and specific knowledge.

Responding to a need

A blatant commercial

- *The University of the Sunshine Coast is currently offering a limited number of professionals and students the opportunity to become established in the forefront of the Climate Change industry. There is a growing demand for qualified professionals to manage the impacts of Climate Change.*
- *The University of the Sunshine Coast is currently the only university in Australia offering post graduate degrees by course work in Climate Change Adaptation.*

Providing a focus

Meeting the challenge:

- Education and/or professional development for the future leaders

Learning by doing:

- Articulated university accredited post graduate programs and undergraduate courses

Keeping up to date:

- Short course professional and technical training for practitioners

Articulated Professional Development Programs

Graduate Certificate in Climate Change Adaptation	Graduate Certificate in Coastal Zone Management	Graduate Certificate in Wetlands Management	Graduate Certificate in Environmental Change Management
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ENS710 Adaptive Assessment A and ENS711 Adaptive Assessment B

PLUS

Two courses from the *Professional Development Programs* list,
but not EDU750 Research Paradigms or Methods of Enquiry or EDU756 Thesis, or WPL730 Workplace Learning III

Graduate Diploma in Climate Change Adaptation	Graduate Diploma in Coastal Zone Management	Graduate Diploma in Environmental Change Management
<p>Graduate Certificate in either Integrated Coastal Zone Management or Climate Change Adaptation or Environmental Change Management PLUS Four courses from the list of courses for the <i>Professional Development Programs</i></p>		

Master of Climate Change Adaptation	Master of Coastal Zone Management	Master of Environmental Change Management
<p>Graduate Diploma in either Integrated Coastal Zone Management or Climate Change Adaptation or Environmental Change Management PLUS Four courses from the list of courses for the <i>Professional Development Programs</i></p>		

Program structure

- Courses are delivered in a '*Flexible Mode*' with work being done off and on Campus.
- Courses are run intensively over a seven day period with many courses offered as back to back pairs over a two week period.
- Typically pairs of courses consist of a theoretical component and an applied project
- Work Place Learning consists of paid or unpaid work experience in a relevant field and can count as 1, 2 or 4 courses.
- Half of the courses in the programs are practical project based

Entry Qualifications

- An undergraduate degree in any discipline or the equivalent from a recognised higher or further education institution

OR

- Relevant governmental or industry experience as approved by the Dean

'Lessons Learnt'

- Four years to get to first graduate - 2008
- Not “climate change”, not “carbon trading” but climate change adaptation
- Recognition of experience – cross cutting/disciplines. Weakness and strength
- Time frames – urgent need, role of environmental professionals?
- Backdrop of the decline in science and environmental science enrollments...

Summing up

- Climate change affects everyone and adaptive responses need to be understood and adopted by communities to deal with the challenges presented by climate change, confronting us now and into the future.
- In response to this urgent need, the University of the Sunshine Coast has developed professional development programs in the areas of Climate Change Adaptation, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Environmental Change Management and Wetlands Management.
- These unique programs emphasise “learning by doing” and provide participants with a variety of delivery modes suitable for professionals already in the field, rather than traditional program.
- Education and/or professional development for future leaders needs to have a broad demographic range from senior levels of secondary schools to the productive aging.

Questions and Hopefully some answers...

Thank You

