

Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Program

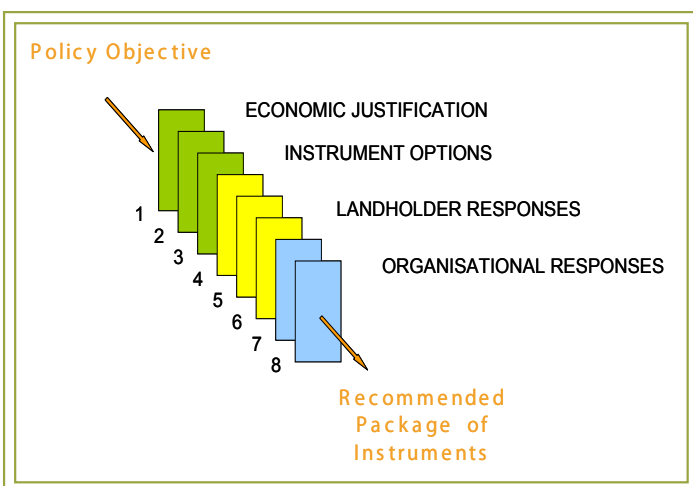


Research Theme



Policy Research

The DPI Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Program (VCCAP) policy research team is developing a Policy Choice Framework (PCF) to help policy makers choose policy instruments to assist Victorian primary industries to adapt to climate change. In developing the PCF, the team has drawn together recent developments in adoption, compliance, institutional and economic research. The PCF has eight components for systematically predicting the critical issues that will need to be dealt with to achieve a policy objective. This will help policy makers to choose a package of policy instruments.



The Policy Choice Framework

The first component clarifies the economic justification for government intervention underpinning a given policy objective, e.g. assisting primary producers to adapt to climate change. The form of government intervention and the appropriate choice of policy instruments depend on

this justification. The second component identifies the category of instruments that will efficiently deliver on the policy objective. The third component identifies technically feasible instruments. At this point, policy instruments may be eliminated from consideration if they are not technically feasible.

The fourth, fifth and sixth components predict the responses of primary producers to the technically feasible policy instruments. The fourth component predicts the responses of primary producers according to their involvement with the policy issue and the policy instrument. The fifth component predicts whether primary producers will comply with the policy instruments in ways that are counter-productive to the policy objective. The sixth component predicts whether the policy instruments will change the behaviour of primary producers enough to achieve the policy objective. These components provide an opportunity to refine or supplement the choice of policy instruments to account for the likely responses of primary producers.

The seventh and eighth components forecast how the organisations responsible for implementing government policies are likely to respond to the policy instruments. In the seventh component, the policy instruments are compared with those already in place. If there are large differences then successful implementation may require major changes in the way that implementing organisations operate. In the eighth component, factors that influence relationships among implementing organisations are examined. These components provide an opportunity to refine or supplement the choice of instruments to account for the likely responses of implementing organisations.

Achievements

- A review of national and international climate change policies that can be used to inform climate change policy in Victoria.
- Sandall, J., Johnson, F., Kaine, G. and Higson, M. (2007) A Review of Climate Change Policy United Nations, Australia, New Zealand, China and Brazil. Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.
- The policy research team is finalising a concept paper to describe the Policy Choice Framework and to highlight its potential to predict the critical issues that will need to be dealt with to assist primary industries to adapt to climate change in Victoria.
- One-on-one and group meetings, formal presentations, workshops and newsletter articles to communicate the findings of the research to policy makers and other key stakeholders.

Next Steps

The policy research team is applying the Policy Choice Framework to Climate Change policy objectives in Victoria to illustrate the role of different policy instruments in assisting adaptation. It will also illustrate the role of different types of research (e.g. biophysical, social and policy) in assisting adaptation to climate change and illustrate why the types of policy instruments needed to assist adaptation are likely to differ from those needed to achieve other policy objectives, such as abatement of greenhouse gases.

This application of the Policy Choice Framework helps to integrate the biophysical and social research being undertaken by DPI VCCAP to ensure that it meets the needs of policy makers.



The DPI VCCAP Policy team: Geoff Kaine, Ruth Lourey, Fiona Johnson and Jean Sandall.

Futher Information

DPI VCCAP website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/vro/vccap

Fiona Johnson
Senior Practice Researcher
Email: Fiona.Johnson@dpi.vi.gov.au
Phone: (61) 3 5833 5222

Dr Jean Sandall
Senior Subject Specialist
Email: Jean.Sandall@dpi.vic.gov.au
Phone: (61) 3 5833 5222

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186; TTY: 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Published by: Department of Primary Industries
1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. October 2008
© The State of Victoria, 2008

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

ISBN 978-1-74217-234-7 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-74217-235-4 (Online)

Authorised by: Victorian Government 1 Spring Street,
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

For more information about DPI visit the website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.