



University of
South Australia



Barbara Hardy
Institute

Jacqui Balston

Research Profile

Research Area Specialisation

Jacqui's area of research focuses on climate change and its capacity to affect each and every one of us in a multitude of ways: from the environment in which we live, the type of house we live in, the foods we are able to grow, the health and wellbeing of ourselves and our communities. As the weather changes due to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, we will need to identify the key risks to our environmental, economic and social systems and develop ways to adapt.

In this matter, Jacqui's work considers the risks, impacts and capacity to adapt to both climate variability and climate change now and over the longer period. By researching what the likely changes in the climate will be for our region and what we might be able to do to reduce those impacts, she will have the capacity to affect policy and to influence research for a better future.

Contributing to a better and sustainable environment

The process of developing a climate change action plan will both raise awareness of how changes in the climate will affect us, how we might reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and how we might adapt to the changes that are already occurring. Maladaptation occurs when actions implemented in one sector or region to reduce the impacts of climate change affect other areas in a negative way.

By developing integrative processes that bring a wide range of stakeholders to the table, Jacqui considers that we can plan for adaptation as a community and reduce the chance of maladaptation and further problems in the future. Both the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and a planned, integrative process for implementing climate change adaptation actions will ensure that we reduce our negative impact on the environment, economy and communities in general.

The goal of integrated climate change research is to integrate the process of mitigation and adaptation into the everyday business across all levels of government, industry and the community.



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*Great Research
into Sustainability*

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People

- Our researchers are scientists, engineers and social scientists
- We work collaboratively on real-world issues
- Over 100 researchers and 130 research students

Projects

- Multidisciplinary projects focused on sustainability
- We work in partnership with government, industry and academia
- Extensive testing and evaluation services and consultancy expertise
- Our work is underpinned by community participation and education

It is hoped that climate change will one day also become part of common culture. In the future, Jacqui's research will continue along a path that enables this vision and provides support to those decision makers who now have to consider climate change in their business.

Research Abstract

Jacqui has been working with state and local governments to develop a methodology for councils and industries state wide that provides advice on how to develop a climate change action plan and undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment. The output from each of these processes is a list of climate change adaptation actions that can be implemented at the regional, sectoral, business or community scale.

With ongoing research into how these climate change adaptation actions should be implemented Jacqui's ultimate goal is to change the culture of government, business and communities so that they learn how to integrate climate change into their core business and all decisions that they make.

Research areas of interest

- Climate variability and change risk
- Impacts and adaptation
- Climate science
- Climate policy

Barbara Hardy Institute

The Barbara Hardy Institute gives its members the credibility earned for working with a well-respected Research Institute and provides highly valuable networking and collaborating opportunities that make a difference.

Keywords to describe Jacqui's research

- Climate centred
- Collaborative
- Environmentally and socially focussed



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"Processes such as risk and vulnerability assessments are used to identify key areas for climate adaptation."