**Communicating the limits to adaptation:** **How do we change our current economic, political and legal systems to create human societies that live in a harmonious relationship with the Earth community?**

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Abstract

How do we communicate our current understanding of the limits to adaptation to climate change in key ecosystems to engender informed governance? Through the Synthesis and Integrative Research Program, the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) funded a suite of research projects which addressed the limits to adaptation. The research spanned key ecosystems in the Great Barrier Reef, Australian alpine areas, the Macquarie Marshes, the Coorong Wetlands, The Torres Strait islands and small inland communities in the Murray-Darling Basin. These projects engaged stakeholders from the outset, involving them to increase understanding of practicable and legitimate climate change adaptation options and their effective time scales. The research considered how people respond to the threat of loss of highly valued natural resources, and discussed prioritising adaptation strategies and which communities of interest they will serve. To communicate this information NCCARF disseminated research final reports and policy focused summaries for each project. In addition a brief synthesis document was published which captured overarching themes that featured across all projects and highlighted implications for decision makers. This presentation relates to key findings from the six Limits to Climate Change Adaptation projects. Complete reports are available at [www.nccarf.edu.au](http://www.nccarf.edu.au).

Author Biography

Liese Coulter has managed communication for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship and consulted with government departments and universities to bridge knowledge gaps around adapting to climate change. Currently a PhD Candidate at Griffith University researching personal stories of resilience, she worked as a communicator for the Global Carbon Project while completing a MSc Communication at ANU, focused on global environmental change.