



Timber Communities Australia Limited

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Timber Communities Australia

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Climate Change Outcomes for Australian Communities

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Outcomes for Australian Communities

Threats

Opportunities

- Environmental
- Economic
- Social



Threats – Environmental

- Rising sea levels
- Prolonged drought periods
- Reduced rainfall
- More frequent and increasingly severe weather events
- More severe wildfire events
- Higher and lower temperature extremes
- Species distribution impacts



Threats – Economic

Potential economic consequences of the environmental threats

- Loss of assets due to rising sea levels
- Displacement of communities due to rising sea levels
- Reduced agricultural production due to reduced rainfall
- Displacement of agricultural systems due to reduced rainfall, prolonged drought and shift in temperature regimes especially frosts.
- Asset damage and insurance costs due to increased occurrences and severity of extreme weather events and increased construction costs.
- Asset damage and loss including natural assets due to extreme wildfire events and associated management and control costs.
- Economic impacts of Climate Change policy.
- Loss of natural assets



Threats – Social

Potential impacts on the community urban and rural resulting from the economic and environmental threats.

- Community displacement – climate change refugees
- Community dislocation.
- Loss of Business profitability – increased costs - reduced margins.
- Business closure and displacement – carbon leakage



Opportunities – Environmental

Primarily these are the potentially favourable environmental outcomes that are potentially available through Australia's successful contribution to domestic and international Climate Change policy.

These may include;

- The achievement of domestic emissions targets.
- Influence in the successful regional international adoption and implementation of emissions targets.
- Avoidance or minimisation of environmental threats.
- Impetus to explore alternate technologies.



Opportunities – Economic

These are opportunities for economic activity arising from the implementation of climate change policy and from economic activity imposed as a consequence of the economic threats or impacts of climate change.

These economic opportunities may include;

- Opportunities arising out of the impetus to develop new technologies, eg. clean coal, solar, nuclear, plug-in cars, and in the forestry context bio-fuels and bio-energy.
- Opportunities arising directly out of Climate Change policy. eg. sequestration opportunities. Potential increased investment in plantations.
- Opportunities to review current unsustainable practices. eg. Some irrigation practices.



Opportunities – Social

Primarily these are opportunities arising to communities that benefit from the economic activity and environmental benefits arising from climate change and policy decisions around the management of climate change.

These opportunities may include;

- Increased employment opportunities arising from increased economic activity in response to climate change itself or policy intended to manage climate change. Examples may include increased activity in carbon sequestration activities such as plantation and wood product processing, as well as in new technologies such as bio-fuels and clean coal technology.
- Increased investment in climate change minimisation activities may also achieve positive environmental, economic and social outcomes across the Australian economy (community).



Climate Change Outcomes for Australian Communities

1. The potential outcomes can be viewed as either potential threats or opportunities.
2. These threats and opportunities can be considered as environmental, economic and social.
3. These threats and opportunities can be viewed as arising both from climate change itself and from policy designed to manage climate change.
4. Whether many are either permitted to remain as threats or to become opportunities for Australian communities will depend on getting the design and associated rule sets of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme correct for Australian businesses and communities.



**Australia, only 2% of
Global emissions!!**

