Challenges for policy makers dealing with climate change adaptation for biodiversity

Eliza Murray
Reform our management of biodiversity

Strengthen the national commitment to conserve Australia’s biodiversity

Invest in our life support systems

Build innovative and flexible governance systems

Meet the mitigation challenge
Uncertainty: A challenge for policy makers

- Uncertain timing, scale and direction of changes in the climate
- Uncertain responses of ecosystems
Decision making with uncertainty

- More research = less uncertainty
- Precautionary approach
- Adaptive management
- Risk management
- Options approach
- Insurance
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Multi-criteria analysis
Mainstreaming and embedding

- Information and capacity building for decision makers
- Incorporation into existing processes
- Embedding in policies and programs
- New approaches to biodiversity conservation
  - Landscape scale and connectivity
  - Ecological function and ecosystem services
- Markets
Planning and forward thinking

- National Adaptation Research Plan for Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Parks strategic plans
- Murray Darling Basin Plan
- Regional planning and spatial optimisation
- National Green Corridors Plan
Resilience

- Resilience Thinking for NRM project
- Resilience for policy makers:
  - Regional planning and investment through a resilience prism
  - Challenge: redundancy versus efficiency
Research challenges for biodiversity adaptation policy

- Landscape resilience and adaptation
- Role of corridors and connectivity
- Frameworks for prioritisation and risk management
- Ecosystem function analysis: what is critical?