

AILA (VIC) TALK SERIES- 10/09/09

Topic:

Climate change and coastal landscapes: research, policy and practice

Coastal landscapes, especially low-lying areas, are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and changing weather intensity. Policy and landscape architectural practice rely on research to identify likely scenarios and solutions to protect vulnerable property, including infrastructure and residential development, and natural ecosystems. Understanding climate change and its reflection in policy and practice is essential for every landscape architect.

The knowledge and experience that each speaker brings to the evening are considerable. Their contribution to landscape architects will be invaluable. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long, allowing 10 minutes for questions after each. There should be an opportunity for further discussion at the end of the evening.

The impact of climate change on weather intensity and coastal landscapes

Presenter: Dr Kathy McInnes is a researcher with the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Research Co-operative Centre and CSIRO, where she works on risk assessment approaches to determine the impact of climate change on storm surge frequencies and intensities around Australia and in the south Pacific. She is a member of an expert advisory group convened by the Australian Greenhouse Office to advise on a National Coastal Vulnerability Assessment and the Technical Risk Assessment Advisory Group for Geosciences Australia. She has been a contributing author to the assessment reports prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Policy development on climate change and coastal landscapes

Presenter: Virginia Brook is a landscape architect, who has worked in both public and private practice, developing her interests in environmental conservation, public landscapes and community education. She has lectured at the University of Melbourne and RMIT in landscape architecture, urban design and coastal planning. She is currently working in coastal policy and planning with the Victorian Department of Sustainability & Environment.

Case studies - Southport, Qld, Lonsdale Lakes, Vic., and Blackpool, England, by Aecom/Edaw

Presenters: Dr Peter Breen, a Principal of EDAW's Ecological Engineering in Melbourne, has long held an interest in the integration of water science with the management of urban and rural catchments, driving his focus on environmental planning, urban design and landscape architecture. He is widely published in the fields of aquatic botany, wetland, stream and lake ecology, stormwater and wastewater treatment, water quality management and restoration ecology. He established and led the urban ecology group in the Co-operative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology at Monash University from 1992 to 2001, and developed best-practice stormwater management objectives and guidelines on the design of constructed wetlands, waterways, bioretention systems and lakes. He was a founding director of Ecological Engineering, and remains a director of The Facility for Advancing Water Biofiltration, a joint venture between Ecological Engineering (now EDAW) and Monash University.

Tim O'Loan is an Associate Director of Landscape Architecture at Aecom/Edaw. Acquiring experience as a landscape architect and urban designer in the UK and Australia, he has implemented best-practice environmental sustainability and water-sensitive urban design solutions and undertakes research to inform future projects.

The Details - Date: Thursday 10 September '09 - Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Venue: Lecture theatre, RMIT, building 8, level 11, room number 68
Cost: \$5 student \$15 member \$20 non-member Drinks and nibbles will be provided

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