Leadership Issues in Climate Change

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Presentation to ILWS Advisory Board
8 June 2010
Climate Change Leadership

- Project on leadership & public policy implications of Climate Change is a new exciting area for ILWS
- One of most pressing & complex areas facing public policy – implications for generations (Nordhaus, 2008)
- Complexity - “wicked” “complex” “multidisciplinary” “vested interests”
- Equity – rich & poor; north vs south divide; inter-generational vs present needs
- Possibility that the intractability of problem will lead to “policy failure” (Fenna, 2004)
Traditional Approaches

• Australia’s responses are predictable within 30 year framework (Fenna, 2004)

• Hotham (2010) is more optimistic

• Framed in discourse of economics ignoring complexity of problem

• Science is overwhelming but is paralysing if it leads to no action (Monbiot, 2007)

• Policy response is reductive & ignores full complexity of problem e.g. Stern (2007); Garnaut (2008); Nordhaus (2008)
Australian Leadership & Policy

- Reflects international agendas rather than original approach suited to local needs
- Problem with political cycle – short-termism, un-strategic, sound bites - media
- Fits within the dominant strands “mitigation” or “avoiding the unmanageable” or “adaptation” “managing the unavoidable” (McDonald, 2009)

Requires ‘new’ leadership models

- outside current status quo, i.e. relational
- ethical
- inter-generational
- management of innovation & technology and…
- acknowledgement of social & economic aspects of climate change
Initial Framework

1. Initial scoping of research on new models of leadership & policy implications – local, regional, Australian & global. Across all SRAs
2. Literature review Australian & global
3. Preliminary focus group with policy leaders & stakeholders in Canberra
4. Definition of research questions
5. Scoping, exploratory paper
6. Mixture of quantitative & qualitative – focus group, survey, across local, regional, international policy framework
Expected Contribution

- Critique of existing policy framework & leadership approaches

- Exploration of “new” leadership models – relational (Fletcher, 2004; Sinclair, 2008) vs “heroic” – transformational – which is the dominant paradigm. Cooperation rather than assertiveness

- Current policy is dependent on sacrifice & compromise – open to capture by vested interests – economic down turns & cycles, national interests & political agendas. Can this be avoided? Is it realistic? Possible to implement in the long-term?

- Complex management of ‘risk’ balanced with investment in new technologies & science coupled with new policy frameworks to encourage cooperation & commitment. How can this be achieved?

- Extremely complicated issues which impact across multi-disciplinary frameworks – economics, sociology, politics, management, environmental science, technology & public policy

- Focus group for initial exploration & then refinement to incorporate consultation to encourage multi-faceted approach