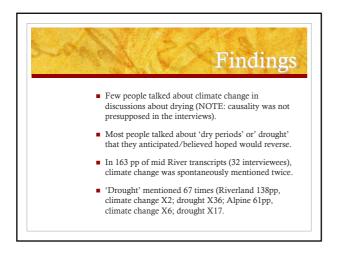


Literature on climate change

- Without firm evidence climate change risk remains hypothetical & easy target for climate change sceptics.
- Climate (and drought) had been considered natural; now perceived as systems and phenomena with which humans have interfered.
- The battle over climate change occurs 'as much in the cultural and individual imagination' as in the atmosphere ... and has more to do with 'science, government & the civil society than it does about a physical reality' (Hulme 2007)
- A 'Super wicked' problem (multidimensionality, scientific uncertainty, value conflict, mistrust, urgency).
- Individuals need the right incentives, resources, knowledge & skills to adapt efficiently.



Positions on climate change

once the word was introduced into the interview

- Acceptance: but possibly natural cycles, which human influence might be 'speeding up; a need to counter widespread 'gloom and doom'
- Uncertainty and vacillation: over-reactions to climate change and equivocation
- Total denial: based on personal recollection and narratives of similar cycles or reversion to persistent myths.

Dryland Farmer 4, Booligal

- Climate change has been happening for how many millions of years and will continue to happen. I am sure we have increased carbon dioxide production ... all the fugues are there [1]... It's in cycks and I hope we go back into a wet cycle, whether we do, who knows? We don't know. We could be sitting here in five years time and we could be all stuffed. I don't know ... but it is [3] and we nort? stop it [4]. Whether there are things yee can do to slow it down or push it one way or the other, I don't know. The strings is a string that that [5]... that information wise, read, listen, radios... [6] I listen to ABC radio and there is always something on there conce a week about climate change, there's plenty of stuff to read on the] Internet. There we are sufficient [7], we are in the worng game arent we [8]... but I think it will rain [9]. It has been tough before and it will be tough again [8].
- This arrative includes evidence about: long-term climate change [1], a perception of definite cycles [2], change over long periods of time [3], doubs about humans being able to influence change [4], deferrat to scientific option [5], the need to be informed [6], the sufficing being experienced [7], a recognition that they may be in the wrong business if climate change is a reality [8] and perptend and optimistic hope [9].

Perceptions of government responsibility

- Very few spontaneous mentions about causality of drying
- Overwhelming concern about short-term water 'allocations' (X113) by governments as a percentage of 'entitlements' during the 'drought'.
- Upstream X4; Downstream X2.
- Environment X 24, typically in a disparaging way, linked to the term 'frog's and Peter Garrett.

Most adults in this highly water-dependent site remain ignorant or dismissive of the big picture problems in the Murray-Darling Basin. Most remained hopeful & optimistic that the 'drought' would break.

- Most were dismissive or sceptical of climate change: this was simply seen as an extended, natural, cyclic drought.
- There was a strong sense of entitlement and minimal perceptions of responsibility.
- Government department (and EC funding) still regarded this as an exceptional drought.

Implications for adults

- Adults in this highly water-dependent site were unable or reluctant to think seriously about the longer term responsibility of sharing and conserving much-reduced allocations of irrigation water.
- There was minimal thought or consideration of this being an inter-connected Basin.
- Adults did not understand or accept the real risks of climate change.
- There is a need for a newer area of adaptation for all adults, beyond scientific and technical reports that has a communication and education focus.