

CASPI, the Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative, is a cross-disciplinary initiative at the University of Melbourne that aims to connect science and public policy to meet the local and global challenges of climate change.

The threat of climate change impinges in different ways upon every dimension of the natural world, and affects every dimension of humanity's economic and social relationships. Adaptation to this threat is a colossal task. It is also unprecedented in the time scale in which the social and institutional change must take place. This task will have to be led by government, but all of society's institutions will need to be mobilised for this task, including universities and research institutes. Australian governments, as well as international agencies and philanthropic institutions, we believe, will increasingly channel research funds into this area.

CASPI has brought together researchers at the University of Melbourne to develop appropriate projects in science, engineering, architecture and medicine that can be applied to the systematic development and evaluation of feasible public policy responses through the perspectives of the economic and social sciences, innovation studies, political economy, and law. CASPI has completed a number of such projects and is opening up new opportunities for collaborative research.

In addition to research projects and consultancy reports, CASPI has conducted workshops and has an ongoing seminar program.

Further details regarding the activities of CASPI can be viewed at the website:
<http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au>



Alpine river (R Bodman)

Research Strengths

CASPI has identified a number of areas in climate change research that the University of Melbourne has particular strengths in:

1. Climate and climate impact science
2. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
3. Biodiversity
4. Water
5. Social and economic impacts of climate change
6. Urban transport & the built environment
7. Energy - efficiency, renewable and alternative
8. Data and communications infrastructure
9. Decision making and support



CASPI

CASPI is an initiative of Professor Jim Falk, Director of the Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society (ACSIS), in conjunction with a steering committee comprised of people from across a broad spectrum of the University.

CAPSI has a Project Research Officer, Domenica Settle.

A **network** of over 101 research associates at the University of Melbourne has been built through a process of actively engaging with the capabilities of relevant staff, centres, departments and faculties. Details are tabled on the CASPI website.

CASPI provides an important interface between the expertise and research capacity of the University and other organisations, institutions and the community in order to address critical issues relating to climate change and climate adaptation.



CASPI

Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative

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Front image courtesy of NASA Visible Earth



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