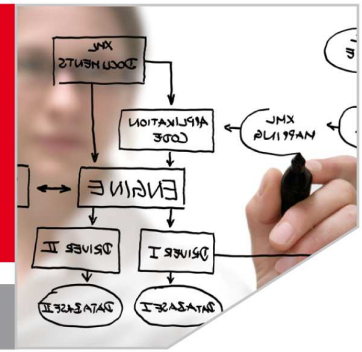


Eminent Speaker:

Assoc Prof Ron Cox, FIEAust CPEng

Sir John Holland Civil Engineer of the Year 2008



CIVIL COLLEGE

“Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation for Settlements & Infrastructure – including responses to extreme weather”

FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2009

Old Woolstore Theatre, Macquarie Street, Hobart – 12.30pm

RSVP: Catherine Reading 6234 2228 or creading@engineersaustralia.org.au

About the Topic:

In 2008 the Australian Government committed funding of \$10 million over four years to establish eight national research networks investigating the effects of climate change on areas such as water resources, human health, emergency services, settlements and infrastructure, primary industries, biodiversity and social, economic and institutional reform. The Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure (ACCARN SI), hosted by UNSW and led by Ron Cox is bringing together researchers and stakeholders with an interest in the impacts of climate change on coastal settlements, public and private infrastructure, the built environment and urban/regional planning. Engineers Australia is a founding member of ACCARN SI and continues to play a major role in the incorporation of Adaptation themes and workshops in various EA conferences.

Nine out of ten Australians live within 50kms of the coast in the area most vulnerable to predicted climate change in temperature, rainfall, sea level and extreme weather. The presentation by Ron Cox will focus on climate change impacts and adaptation issues related to coastal settlements and major infrastructure (including energy, water, stormwater and flooding, transport and communications) – providing an update for professional engineers on the status of research and the development of appropriate adaptation responses.

The recent bushfires in Victoria and floods in Queensland are indicative of future impacts of climate change predictions for more extreme weather – the need for improved adaptation strategies is evident and urgent. Ron is presently updating the relevant chapter of Australian Rainfall and Runoff in regard to flood hazard and people safety. Ron will present latest international developments in the delineation of flood hazard (also relevant to cyclone, tsunami and bushfire), inclusion of population demographics, warning and evacuation modelling to assist in emergency management, education and strategic planning.



Gold Coast – settlement & infrastructure highly vulnerable to climate change

About the Speaker:

Ron Cox was awarded Engineers Australia’s prestigious Sir John Holland Award for Civil Engineer of the Year 2008 in recognition of his long standing and continuing contribution to the profession and community, particularly in the field of coastal engineering.

Ron has been associated with the Water Research Laboratory at University of NSW since 1973 and held senior positions for more than half of his 34 years at the Laboratory. He was Director from 1993 to 2006 for many years before that was the Projects Manager. As a practicing coastal engineer, as a leader of Australia’s foremost coastal and water engineering organisation, and as an inspirational academic, Ron has led research, investigation and design teams for projects in every state and territory in Australia and many others around the world.

During his time on Engineers Australia’s National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering -including his four years as President- Ron was involved in developing coastal engineering response to climate change (one of the first Australian engineering organisations to take this issue seriously) co-authoring several important Engineers Australia publications such as Guidelines for Working with the Coast in an Ecologically Sustainable Way, and Guidelines for Responding to the Effects of Climate Change in Coastal and Ocean Engineering.

In January 2009 Ron took up a new position at UNSW as the National Convenor for the Federal Government funded Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure and is presently a member of the team drafting the National Adaptation Research Plan for Settlements and Infrastructure.



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