



## SOLGM's Sector Futures Working Party Newsletter

The SOLGM Sector Futures Working Party met on 22 September, in this (belated) edition

- Managing Retreat from Natural Hazards
- Managing Under Fiscal Constraint
- Have you seen our climate change adaptation report?
- Local Government and Emergent Technology: Coming Ready or Not!
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### **Managing Retreat from Natural Hazards**

Natural hazards are a fact of life. Although sometimes cost-effective solutions can be found to mitigate or avoid the risk of natural hazards - the increasing frequency and severity of adverse weather events, projected sea level rise and post quake lessons in Canterbury show that sometimes retreat can be the only sensible option. These conversations can be amongst the most challenging for local authorities to have.

The Working Party has approved a terms of reference for a project that will come up with guidance to help those local authorities that are managing retreat from natural hazards and their consequences. The project will be looking at overseas and local practice for areas that have conducted a successful conversation with the community (including defining success in this context).

We intend that the report be completed in April 2016.

If you would like to be involved in this project please contact Raymond Horan at [raymond.horan@solgm.org.nz](mailto:raymond.horan@solgm.org.nz)

### **Managing Under Fiscal Constraint**

Did you know local government in the United Kingdom has experienced a cut in funding of 23 percent *in real terms* since 2010?

We've started a project that will examine whether local government in the United Kingdom has adapted to 'austerity' and if so what strategies they used that might translate into New Zealand. Depending on what we find we might also add in the United States, Canada and, just for kicks, Greece.

SOLGM's new Adviser, Sector Improvement, Shivani Makwana will be presenting on the results from our review of the UK literature at SOLGM's Funding and Rating Forum on 19 November. This part of the seminar will be worth the price of admission by itself!

### **Have you seen our climate change adaptation report?**



The 5th report of the International Panel on Climate Change was the most unequivocal yet in its finding that climate change is a real phenomenon and that human activity is affecting the world's climate, atmosphere and oceans.

Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to adapt to, and help the community to adapt to the effects of climate change. Regardless of any legal obligations the potential impacts of climate change on the frequency of adverse events, water security, coastal communities and natural ecosystems are serious enough that shutting our eyes to the effects of climate change would represent poor stewardship on our part.

On 1 October we released *Climate Change: Local Government Can Make a Difference* to local authorities. The report surveys the action that local authorities can and are taking to adapt, and help their communities adapt to the effects of climate change. It is intended to serve both as a reminder and a stimulus for your own thinking. We deliberately kept the discussion that follows short and practical, and have steered away from an in-depth discussion of the science.

If you haven't seen it already you can find the report [http://www.solgm.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category\\_id=1186](http://www.solgm.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=1186) (no password necessary to access this).

### **Local Government and Emergent Technology: Coming Ready or Not!**

We released our report on local government and emergent technology, *Fit for the Digital Future* at the end of August. On 23 and 28 October, three of the contributing authors (Blair Dickie, Mike Manson and Raymond) will be presenting a pair of webinars on the issues and opportunities raised in this report. Technology does not stand still and in one final part – we'll talk about some of things that have 'popped to the surface' since we wrote the report such as the block chain.

To register for the webinar please go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1239189555861307649>

### **What We're Reading**

Resilience is often interpreted to have an emergency management or disaster recovery context. We've been made aware that the Rockefeller Foundation has undertaken research into a wider concept of resilience together with a set of indicators informed out of research in 66 cities (including Christchurch and, more recently, Wellington). The result is a resilience framework which can be found at

<http://www.google.co.nz/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&sqi=2&ved=0CBsQFjAAahUKEwjJheOH8qzIAhUFL6YKHbYmDoE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.100resilientcities.org%2F&usq=AFOjCNHVkLRzEw8z3sKUc1FEPyLYNUoxHg&bvm=bv.104317490,d.dGY>

We'll be thinking more about this at future meetings



Localis, *Public Land Public Good* discusses strategies through which local authorities in the UK are able to unlock the potential of surplus Crown land. The report suggests rather than selling outright that local authorities think systematically about using land for developments that add to the local economy, or work with central government and others to use the land to enhance services to the community. The report argues local authorities and the sector generally develop a systemic approach. The working party thanks Jane Turnbull of Otago Regional Council for drawing this to our attention. You can find the report at: <http://www.localis.org.uk/article/1781/Public-Land-Public-Good.htm>