

Exploring leadership for local government climate change adaptation

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Research context

Local government climate change adaptation

- Municipal councils are undertaking climate change risk and vulnerability assessments and the development of adaptation plans.
- Global literature > **major break downs** in councils being able to move from **planning to implementation** of climate change adaptation responses.
- Implementation gap an outcome of two key factors: limited institutional capacity; and absent or ineffective political leadership.



My research focus

- To explore the role and influence of council **elected and executive leaders** in the mainstreaming of climate risk and adaptation responses in local government.

Methods

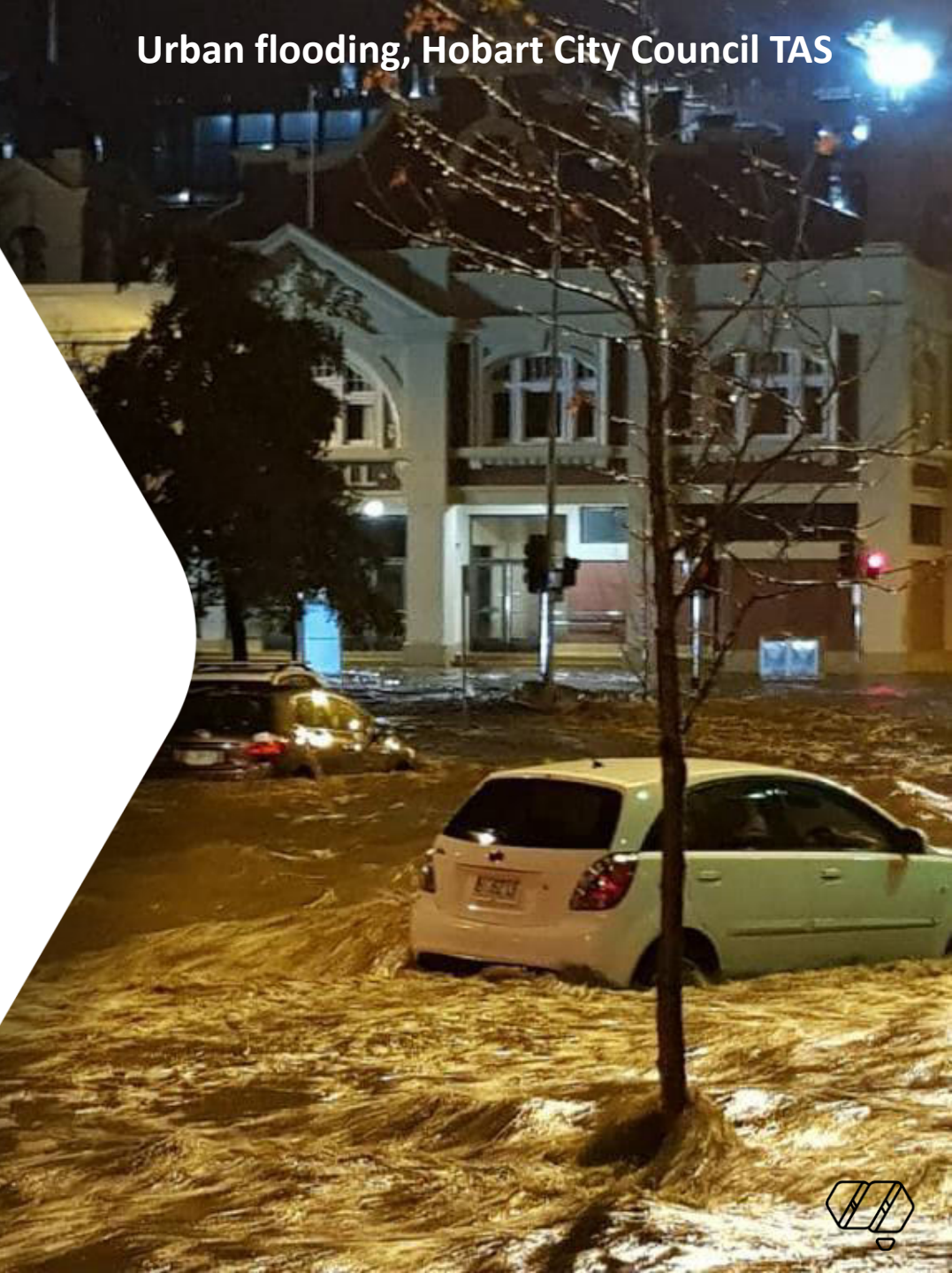
- Qualitative data collection > **25 in-depth interviews** with local government elected and executive leaders (completed 2022)
- **Thematic data analysis**> NVivo (deductive analysis) and Leximancer (inductive analysis) (January to May 2023)



Research outcomes

- Applied, inter-disciplinary research with scholarly and practical resonance and benefit
- ‘PhD by Publication’
 - Systematic quantitative **literature review** (submitted to journal mid-2022, accepted for publication - *Climate Policy*)
 - Three further manuscripts, to be compiled as a thesis (July 2024)
- Presentations and briefings
- ‘Summary for Policymakers’ - to convey the practical implications and opportunities arising from the research.

“The responsibility of dissemination”



Thank you!

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Three key research questions

1. In what ways do local government **elected and executive leaders** influence climate change adaptation **planning and implementation** within their organisations?
2. How do issues of **authority and capacity** interact and influence each other as determinants of local government climate change adaptation outcomes?
3. Which elements can be considered key to advancing the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in local government policy and practice?



Definition of key terms

Adaptation mainstreaming (within local government):

The process of integrating climate change adaptation considerations into the established functions, policy, and practice of local government.

This includes a council's vision statements, budget and policy planning processes, project management and reporting tools, working structures, and human resource allocations.

Governance:

Purposeful means of intra-organisational coordination, cooperation, and collective decision-making to achieve stated policy goals. Comprises three core dimensions: power/authority, decision-making, and accountability.

