

Title:	More preparation needed for rising sea levels
First Broadcast:	July, 2016
Source:	ABC's The World Today
Minutes:	6:28
Audio & Script:	http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2016/s4496216.htm
Summary:	Governments are being warned that more action is needed to prepare for rising sea levels and coastal erosion.
Interviewee(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Nicholls, professor of coastal engineering at the University of Southampton in the UK Jean Palutikof, director of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility



KEY WORDS

Below is a list of words which appear in the report - which ones don't you know or you are unsure what they mean?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> recede (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> use time productively (adv) | <input type="checkbox"/> abandon (v) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mitigate (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> arrive at a consensus (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> fixate on failure (v) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adaptation (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> extensive consultation (n) | <input type="checkbox"/> innovative solutions (adj) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unimaginable number (adj) | <input type="checkbox"/> sympathize (v) | <input type="checkbox"/> harbinger (n) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> substantial risk (adj) | <input type="checkbox"/> highly vulnerable (adj) | |

DEFINITION MATCH

Can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.

adjustment, change	
considerable in size	
difficult or impossible to comprehend, unthinkable	
diminish, move back, retreat	
effectively, efficiently	
formal discussion	
general agreement	
in danger, at risk, exposed to	
indicator, sign of what is to come	
leave	
lessen, make less severe, reduce	
new, original, creative	
preoccupied with, obsessed with	
understand, identify with	

recede (v)
mitigate (v)
adaptation (n)
unimaginable number (adj)
substantial risk (adj)
use time productively (adv)
arrive at a consensus (n)
extensive consultation (n)
sympathize (v)
highly vulnerable (adj)
abandon (v)
fixate on failure (v)
innovative solutions (adj)
harbinger (n)

SUMMARY

Governments are being warned that more action is needed to prepare for rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What is coastal erosion?
- Why are sea levels rising? How will people be affected by rising global sea levels, particularly those living in coastal cities, deltas and on smaller islands? Which regions in the world are most vulnerable?
- Why is it important for governments to start preparing for changing sea levels now rather than later?
- What preparations can be made to deal with rising global sea levels? Why might governments be slow to act?

PRE-LISTENING

Before listening to the report, note down what you think the following figure from the report refers to

- Possibly between half a metre to more than a metre over the next 84 years –

LISTENING

Listen to the report and answer the questions below

- According to Professor Nicholls' research which looks at flooding in the biggest 136 coastal cities in the world, how much money might be spent globally to repair damage from floods by 2050 if there is no adaptation to sea level rise? **As much as**
- For around 17 years, Jon Barnett from Melbourne University has been studying the impact of rising sea levels on which highly vulnerable region?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After listening to the report, try to answer the following questions

1. If global sea levels do rise by between half a meter and more than a meter over the next 84 years as predicted, what proportion of Australia's population living on the coast could be affected?
.....
2. What does he expect to be happening with global sea levels in the future?
 - a. They will be stable
 - b. They will be rising more slowly
 - c. They will be rising more quickly
3. According to Robert Nicholls, what are some examples of adaptation plans that need to be looked at?
4. What does Jean Palutikof, the director of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, think about Robert Nicholls' belief that steps need to be taken now to adapt to global sea levels?
 - a. Rising global sea levels are not yet noticeable and we have at least 20 years to think about how we are going to deal with the problem
 - b. Rising global sea levels are already noticeable and there is no time left to think about how we are going to deal with the problem
 - c. Rising global sea levels are already noticeable but there is still some time to think about how we are going to deal with the problem
5. If action to deal with global sea levels is delayed for another 20 years, what does Jean Palutik say will be the main issue?
 - a. It will be too late to introduce effective plans
 - b. People will be less accepting of the action plans needed
 - c. People won't care anymore
6. If governments don't really work to keep the issue of changing global sea levels at the forefront of people's minds, what does she say will happen?
7. Jon Barnett, from Melbourne University, says the amount of action that has been taken so far to adapt to sea level rises has been pleasing. **T / F**
8. What are some plans that nations in the Pacific islands are now discussing as a result of rising sea levels?

CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

The form of the word may need to be changed

recede	mitigate	adaptation	unimaginable
substantial	productively	consensus	consultation
sympathize	vulnerable	abandon	fixate
	innovative	harbinger	

1. Although measures to reduce greenhouse gases can be in the short term, such as switching to renewable energy sources, many economists argue the long term benefits to the global economy easily outweigh the costs.
2. Although there is a lot of disagreement among governments about how much of the cost associated with reducing carbon emissions should be borne by individual countries, there is a growing that global action is needed.
3. Many people believe politicians are too on opinion polls and therefore unwilling to introduce measures to tackle climate change which are unpopular with voters.
4. Most of the man's colleagues agreed it was wrong for him to have lost his temper and shouted at the customer but they could with his frustration because the customer was being completely unreasonable.
5. Scientists say if more is not done to combat climate change, the consequences will be catastrophic for future generations.
6. Small island nations are the most to the impacts of rising sea levels.
7. Technology companies in particular cannot succeed without constant
8. The company allowed its employees to travel business class for flights longer than 8 hours because it was thought it boosted their work during the trip.
9. The excellent performance of the team's youngest players in a recent match was considered a of future success by fans.
10. The family decided to their farm after years of drought and move back to the city.
11. The government announced it would spend \$100 million building sea walls to the damage done to coastal areas from flooding.
12. The government said it would be with industry representatives and climate change scientists before deciding what its renewable energy target would be.
13. With global temperatures expected to increase, societies need to to more frequent extreme weather events such as bushfires and tropical cyclones.
14. With more rain expected in the evening, floodwaters were not expected to start for another few days.

ANSWERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly between half a metre to more than a metre over the next 84 years – How much global sea levels are predicted to rise (by the CSIRO) \$1 trillion The Pacific islands 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 85 per cent They will be rising more quickly Reserving land, building sea walls or changing house designs Rising global sea levels are already noticeable but there is still some time to think about how we are going to deal with the problem People will be less accepting of the action plans needed They will forget about it F - very, very disappointing abandoning their home
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adjustment, change	adaptation
considerable in size	substantial
difficult or impossible to comprehend, unthinkable	unimaginable
diminish, move back, retreat	recede
effectively, efficiently	productively
formal discussion	consultation
general agreement	consensus
in danger, at risk, exposed to	vulnerable
indicator, sign of what is to come	harbinger
leave	abandon
lessen, make less severe, reduce	mitigate
new, original, creative	innovative
preoccupied with, obsessed with	fixate
understand, identify with	sympathize

- Although measures to reduce greenhouse gases can be **substantial** in the short term, such as switching to renewable energy sources, many economists argue the long term benefits to the global economy easily outweigh the costs.
- Although there is a lot of disagreement among governments about how much of the cost associated with reducing carbon emissions should be borne by individual countries, there is a growing **consensus** that global action is needed.
- Many people believe politicians are too **fixated** on opinion polls and therefore unwilling to introduce measures to tackle climate change which are unpopular with voters.
- Most of the man's colleagues agreed it was wrong for him to have lost his temper and shouted at the customer but they could **sympathize** with his frustration because the customer was being completely unreasonable.
- Scientists say if more is not done to combat climate change, the consequences will be **unimaginably** catastrophic for future generations.
- Small island nations are the most **vulnerable** to the impacts of rising sea levels.
- Technology companies in particular cannot succeed without constant **innovation**.
- The company allowed its employees to travel business class for flights longer than 8 hours because it was thought it boosted their work **productivity** during the trip.
- The excellent performance of the team's youngest players in a recent match was considered a **harbinger** of future success by fans.
- The family decided to **abandon** their farm after years of drought and move back to the city.
- The government announced it would spend \$100 million building sea walls to **mitigate** the damage done to coastal areas from flooding.
- The government said it would be **consulting** with industry representatives and climate change scientists before deciding what its renewable energy target would be.
- With global temperatures expected to increase, societies need to **adapt** to more frequent extreme weather events such as bushfires and tropical cyclones.
- With more rain expected in the evening, floodwaters were not expected to start **receding** for another few days.