

Recent trends in preparedness for extreme weather events

David Cummings (17 January 2013)

I wish to comment on the concept of preparedness as it relates to coping with extreme weather events.

The concept underlines the entirety of this enquiry. Further, it will pervasively determine the impact of all significant changes (biodiversity, biosecurity, food security, water availability, cultural and religious zealotary) which are bearing down on society over the next 50 years or so.

First, preparedness must not be about making arrangements to lock-down our current behaviours, enjoyments and serendipitous advantages. It must be about preparation for the future, not locking in the past.

I would suggest that society has to embrace a more flexible attitude to place, to assets, and to expectations as we get inexorable growth in societal pressures associated with the growth of human population, and its associated activities.

Society needs to be much more magnanimous, less individually focussed; more curious, less reactionary; more rational, less mislead.

So what might all this mean for the more pragmatic requirements of your Committee? In my mind it is about how society should work, and consequently deal with the future, rather than working to build a protective shell about our current societal structures and behaviours.