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Enhancing adaptive capacity in South East Queensland

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This paper presents the findings of the Adaptive Capacity theme of the South East Queensland Climate Adaptation Research Initiative (SEQCARI), Australia’s largest single investment in a regional adaptation research initiative that ran over 3-years. While many adaptation plans have been (and are being) developed, often little consideration is given to the various factors (adaptive capacity) needed for their successful implementation. This paper presents an assessment of adaptive capacity across a range of sectors in South East Queensland. A multi-method approach was adopted for the research, including an historical assessment of adaptive capacity, analysis of socio-economic trends affecting the region, participatory systems workshops, and Bayesian Belief Network (BBN) analysis. A number of recommendations will be presented to build adaptive capacity in the region based on the findings. We conclude that the major issue impacting adaptive capacity is not the availability of physical resources but the dominant social, political and institutional culture of the region.