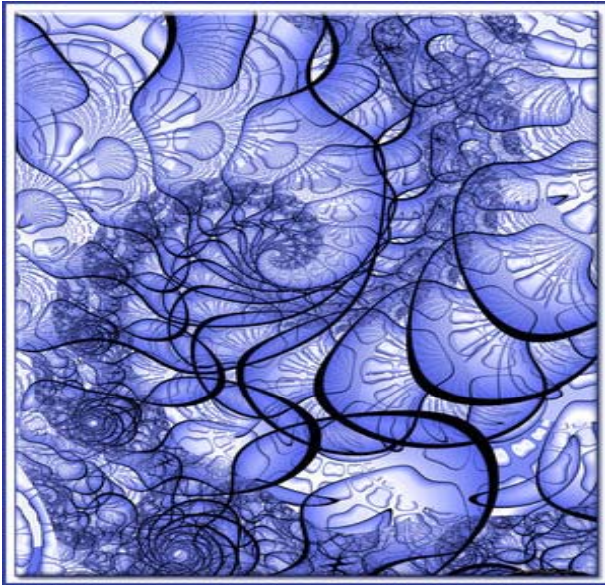bushfire CRC

A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE?
Adaptive capacity of the fire management sector

Karyn Bosomworth and John Handmer
Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT, Victoria


http://th07.deviantart.net

Fire management - nexus of disaster risk reduction (DRR) & sustainable land mgt

DRR & sustainability are key climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies

Vulnerability & 'resilience' central to CCA, DRR & sustainability

Brings in numerous players, values, uncertainties & complexities

Depends not only on scientific research but on value judgements & trade-offs

Not just complicated but COMPLEX

CCA for fire management = Interacting "wicked problems"

Adaptive Governance seen as addressing such challenges

Influenced by institutions - formal & informal 'rules'

Including those of policy administrators / bureaucrats

Relies on collective, systemic – "double-loop" learning in policy, organisations AND institutions (incl. amongst organisations)

Reflection on values, assumptions & even sectoral purpose

Bureaucratic institutions are *pivotal* to adaptive governance

Learning, networks & institutions – social phenomena

Influence & influenced by "the rules"
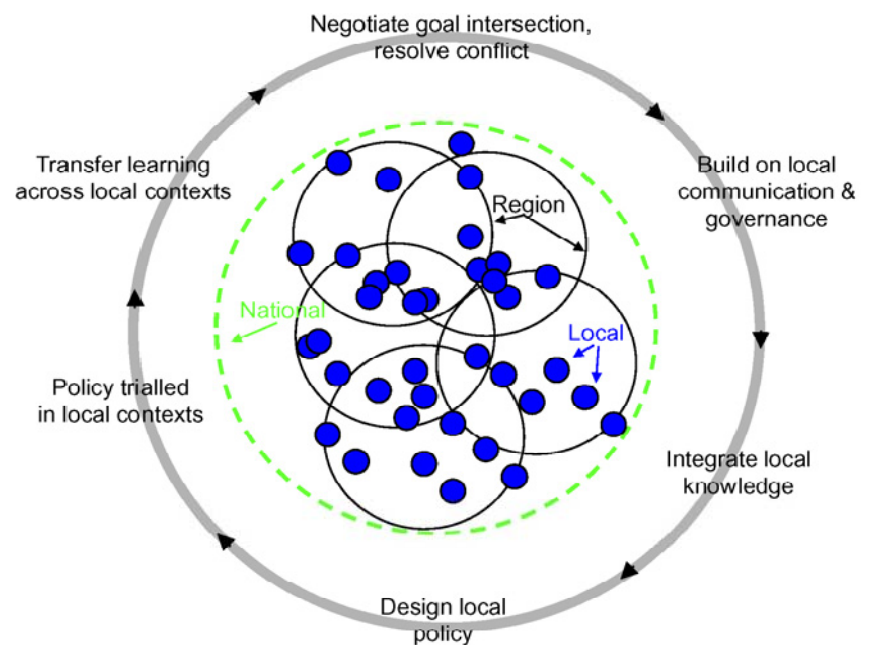
From: Nelson, R., Howden, M. & Stafford-Smith, M. (2008)

From http://socialnetworking.lovetoknow.com

Using **institutional and network analysis** with a view to:

• providing agencies some insights into institutional factors that may influence the sector's capacity to adapt to climate change (case study of Vic)

• Elucidating the institutions and networks;

• Appreciating how those settings may influence learning; and

• Ultimately **to inform future efforts aimed at climate change adaptation** in the sector

50+ interviews conducted and the survey is ongoing.

Analysis continues..............

CRC AUSTRALIA

Victoria The Place To Be — Department of Sustainability and Environment

RMITUniversity

CFA