



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Frameworks for Assessing and Improving Urban Water Supply Security Planning under Climate Change

by

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Abstract

There exist large uncertainties in projecting future climate and understanding how climate change projections relate to water supply. Non-traditional water sources (e.g., stormwater harvesting), which are emerging as adaptation options to augment stressed water supply systems, further complicate the simulation of these systems. However, in assessing a city's water supply security, there is no framework explicitly acknowledging and accounting for both the additional complexities and uncertainties associated with non-traditional water sources and climate change impacts. Furthermore, mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change should be considered. However, minimising GHG emissions (and thus considering mitigation) is likely to conflict with other objectives of water supply system planning. Hence, a multi-objective evolutionary algorithm (MOEA) approach is necessary to balance multiple objectives, as well as to efficiently search many feasible alternatives to find Pareto-optimal solutions. However, for cities, MOEA studies incorporating GHG emissions and thus focussing on both mitigating and adapting to climate change do not exist.

The main aim of this thesis is to develop methods for assessing and improving urban water supply security planning under climate change to better understand: (1) the relative magnitudes of uncertainty sources in assessing climate change impacts; (2) enhanced simulation complexity of non-traditional water sources and increased uncertainty of climate change impacts; and (3) adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change. Consequently, major contributions of this research include: (1) developing a scenario-based sensitivity analysis to understand the relative magnitudes of uncertainty sources in assessing the impacts of climate change on water supply systems; (2) developing a generalised framework for a city's water supply system that outlines the additional complexities due to the incorporation of non-traditional water sources and the additional uncertainties due to climate change impacts; and (3) incorporating GHG emissions as an objective function within a MOEA framework to take into consideration both adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change. Furthermore, while these frameworks could readily be applied to any

city, Adelaide's southern water supply system is used as a real-life case study to illustrate the practical management implications.

The methods developed in the thesis were found to be effective when applied to Adelaide's southern water supply system. Results indicate that studies analysing the impact of climate change on water supply security should consider uncertainties other than those associated with climate change and hydrological modelling, as these could have as great, if not greater, impacts on water supply security projections. Furthermore, trade-offs exist between cost and supply security for solutions that use desalination and harvested stormwater to augment water supply; however, use of rainwater tanks is undesirable, as they are an expensive source. In terms of the trade-off between economic cost and GHG emissions, the main drivers are the presence of rainwater tanks and the desalination plant – rainwater tanks are an expensive option, while desalination is a GHG emission intensive option. Consequently, while desalination may be a good adaptation option, other water sources may be better mitigation measures. Accounting for GHG emissions is thus important to ensure mitigation measures are considered.

Statement of Originality

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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List of Acronyms

AIC	Akaike Information Criterion
ASR	Aquifer Storage and Recovery
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
Cdf	Cumulative distribution function
CFF	Climate Futures Framework
CMIP	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	(Australian) Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
FFCEF	Full Fuel Cycle Emissions Factor
GA	Genetic Algorithm
GCM	General Circulation Model
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Lcd	Litres per capita per day
LOS	Level Of Service
MBO	Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga
MOEA	Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm
MOGA	Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithm
MOO	Multi-Objective Optimisation
MSCL	Mild Steel Cement Lined
NS	Nash-Sutcliffe
NSGA-II	Non-Sorted Genetic Algorithm 2
PPD	Patched Point Dataset
PSHV	Port Stanvac Happy Valley
PV	Present Value
RCF	Representative Climate Future
RDM	Robust Decision Making
RMSE	Root Mean Squared Error
RRO	Rainfall-Runoff Model
SCL	Stochastic Climate Library
SD	Standard Deviation
SRES	Special Report on Emissions Scenarios
UWOT	Urban Water Optioneering Tool
UWSS	Urban Water Supply System
WaterCress	Water – Community Resource Evaluation and Simulation System
WSMGA	Water System Multi-objective Genetic Algorithm
WTP	Water Treatment Plant