



Introduction to Climate Change



Climate Change - Issues

Changes in volume, intensity and seasonality of precipitation
Changes in temperature and evapotranspiration
Changes in land use

Changes in hydrology
 Flooding, droughts, groundwater recharge

Changes in water quality
 Dilution, erosion, leaching

Changes in ecology

>Thermal, habitat, quality, morphological

Climate Change Systems Approach



THE MACAULAY



Climate Change Catchment Management Studies

•Relationships between stream thermal regimes and ecology

•Historical evidence for changes in runoff and water quality

•Space for time assessment of surface water recovery from nutrient enrichment

 National assessment of hydrological impacts and implications for nitrate risk

 Integration of hydrology, land capability, land use and water quality



Climate Change

Water balance and N leaching risk

Mean annual effects		Seasonal effects	
Precipitation	Decreases	Precipitation	Drier spring / summer
Runoff	Decreases more	Runoff	Reduced in spring / summer
Potential leaching	Variable	Potential leaching	Reduced in autumn
Pollution vulnerability	Little change	Pollution vulnerability	Seasonal shift to peak later
	Winter	Spring	Summer Autumn
Change in vulnerability to N pollution from baseline to 'high' scenario large decrease decrease no change increase large increase			