

## EXCERPT FROM CLIMATE COUNCIL WEBSITE

The following frequently asked questions are included on the Climate Council website <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/faqs>

### ***What is the Climate Council?***

The Climate Council is a non-profit independent organisation which aims to provide clear, independent information on climate change to the Australian community. We are fiercely independent and apolitical.

### ***Why is it important?***

**Information:** information is the currency of democracy, and Australians deserve to have independent information on the state of our climate. Similarly, emergency services, health professionals, local government and journalists need accurate information about a changing climate.

**Action:** Last year, 2013, was the hottest on record, breaking hundreds of extreme weather records. This is the critical decade for tackling climate change and reducing our emissions. But we can't tackle climate change without a well-informed public – and that's where we come in. Our expert reports help journalists and the public, with timely, expert, and independent information about climate change and its effects on our economy, environment, security, and health.

### ***How will the Council make a difference?***

We'll continue to provide journalists and the public with authoritative independent reports. This will be accompanied by a range of communications materials relevant to different audiences, videos, infographics, fact sheets, and other resources. Similarly we will continue to provide information to the community directly through speeches, community forums and briefings.

### ***How do you plan to cover operating costs?***

Thousands of Australian's have become Founding Friends of the Council, together raising more than \$1 million. As far as we know, it is the biggest crowd-funding campaign in Australia's history. This extraordinary generosity has put the Council back in business. The Council is completely independent and relies on donation from the public. We hope that members of the community will continue to support the Council on a monthly basis to power our on-going work. You can do so here: <http://climatecouncil.org.au/donate/>

### ***What will the donations go towards?***

The Climate Council is a not-for-profit organisation and does not receive any money from the Government. We rely on donations from the public. We appreciate your contributions and will use them as efficiently as we can. Your contributions fund a small team of staff and volunteers who power our work, including expert researchers to help produce our reports. Your donations will also help fund the design, printing and distribution of our reports, and core overhead expenses for the organisation.

## APPENDIX 3 – ABC MEDIA ARTICLE EXCERPT – 23 MARCH 2014

# UN climate change report card: Scientists predict Australia will continue to get hotter

*By Jeanavive McGregor and environment reporter Jake Sturmer*

The latest United Nations report card on the impacts of climate change predicts Australia will continue to get hotter.

The ABC has obtained drafts of the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Scientists believe the world is still on track to become more than two degrees Celsius warmer - and that potentially means whole ecosystems could be wiped out.

Chapter 25 of the IPCC's report has identified eight potential risks for Australia:

- The possibility of widespread and permanent damage to coral reef systems - particularly the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo in Western Australia.
- Some native species could be wiped out.
- The chance of more frequent flooding causing damage to key infrastructure.
- In some areas, unprecedented rising sea levels could inundate low-lying areas.
- While in others, bushfires could result in significant economic losses.
- More frequent heatwaves and temperatures may lead to increased morbidity - especially among the elderly.
- And those same rising temperatures could put constraints on water resources.
- Farmers also could face significant drops in agriculture - especially in the Murray-Darling Basin.

### Worst-case scenario could see 40 per cent drop in production

The report said the worst-case scenario for the Murray-Darling Basin, south-east and south-west Australia would mean a significant drop in agricultural production.

### The rigorous report process

The upcoming report includes 310 lead authors from 73 different nationalities.

Australian scientists are heavily involved as authors and reviewers of the Working Group reports.

Lesley Hughes, the lead author of the paper on Australasia, says Australia "punches above its weight".

"We are disproportionately a larger group than you might otherwise think based on our population in the IPCC authorship team," she said.

"We have a lot of scientists working on climate change issues and that is because we see Australia as being particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."

The reports take up to five years to produce, undergoing a rigorous review process.

For example, 48,000 review comments were received on the upcoming report.

Professor Hughes says the process is not really a matter of achieving consensus, but rather is about evaluating the evidence.

The Australasia chapter alone has 1,000 references.

"They are certainly the largest reports ever produced on climate change and its associated risks but I think probably some of the most careful documents put together anywhere," she said.

"I rather naively thought that eight people and 25 pages to write, how long can it possibly take to write three-and-a-bit pages?"

"The answer to that is about three years. There is much discussion about the weight of evidence so it's a very long, detailed and careful process."  
CSIRO chief research scientist Mark Howden said the latest science predicts production could drop by up to 40 per cent under a severe drying scenario.

"At current rates of emissions, we are likely to go past two degrees," Dr Howden said.

"There are various analyses that indicate it's highly unlikely that we'll stay below two degrees in the absence of major activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The longer we delay activities to reduce those ... emissions, the more likely it is we're going to go above two degrees.

"Higher degrees of temperature change also carry with them higher degrees of rainfall change, both in terms of their average rainfall and likely increases in rainfall intensity.

"Both of those have implications for agriculture and both of those aren't necessarily good."

Despite forecasts of less rain and hotter temperatures, irrigators maintain they have a central role to play in the nation's future.

"That is why you have irrigation. It evens out those severe weather events such as a drier climate," National Irrigators Council chief executive officer Tom Chesson said.

"People forget that Australia is so far ahead when it comes to water management. We are the cutting edge of water management in the world.

"It would be a [mistake] to think that we have been sitting on our hands and doing nothing. Necessity is the mother of all invention."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-23/ipcc-working-group-ii-report-climate-change-australia/5339654>