

# A CLIMATE FOR *Change*

## Issue and Impact

## Action

	<b>COASTAL ZONES:</b> As an island continent, Australia is highly vulnerable to sea-level rises and storm surges resulting from climate change, with significant coastal erosion and damage to infrastructure anticipated.	<b>In Australia, 80% of the population live close to the coast and may need to update their building or contents insurance.</b>
	<b>DROUGHT:</b> An increase in the frequency and severity of drought conditions will reduce the availability of water. The frequency of drought may increase by up to 20% over most of Australia by 2030 – and up to 40% in south-east Australia and 80% in south-west Australia by 2070.	<b>As part of adapting to climate change, we need to adopt farming systems based on perennial plants that can make farms, local landscapes and catchments more sustainable.</b>
	<b>WATER RESOURCES:</b> Changes in rainfall combined with increased potential evaporation are expected to result in reduced runoff across most of Australia. In some cases reductions could be severe.	<b>As part of adapting to climate change, we need to change the way we think about and use water.</b>
	<b>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION:</b> The changing climate will threaten agricultural production. Irrigated agriculture in the Murray-Darling Basin could decline by up to 92%. If the temperature rises by 2 degrees, our national livestock carrying capacity is projected to decrease by 40%.	<b>Some farmers may need to adjust their cropping calendar, fertiliser application or varieties of crops to cope with climatic changes.</b>
	<b>HUMAN HEALTH:</b> Climate change is expected to cause more heat-related deaths and a higher incidence of disease from flood and water-borne contaminants. Temperature rises, combined with an ageing population, are projected to see 3000-5000 more people die each year from heat-related illnesses by 2050.	<b>We must act now to reduce our greenhouse pollution to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and to protect our health, environment and way of life.</b>
	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE:</b> When combined with expected population growth and internal migration, changes in temperatures and rainfall are expected to increase road maintenance costs by 30% by 2100.	<b>We can all travel less. Plan ahead so you can combine several reasons for each trip, saving time, money and fuel. Short car trips with a cold engine use more fuel and cause more wear-and-tear.</b>
	<b>FLORA AND FAUNA:</b> Australia's native plants and animals are likely to suffer with a drastic reduction of the extent and quality of their habitats. A temperature rise of 2.1 degrees to 2.19 degrees could see the geographical ranges of 83% of species reduced by at least 50%.	<b>We can all increase areas that are planted with local native vegetation and local native habitat. We can also protect indigenous vegetation from removal and increase habitat for animals.</b>