

# OUR CLIMATE IS CHANGING

**Climate change or global warming, is the process of the earth heating up.**

Observations and data show the earth has warmed by an average of 1°C in the last century. Each of the past four decades has been warmer than the previous one. As recent as 2016 was the warmest year on record, and the five warmest years have all been since 2010.

Scientific evidence paints a clear picture, climate change is happening. It is caused in large part by human activity, and it will have many serious and potentially damaging effects in the decades ahead.

## **Climate change – what are the impacts?**

As the climate changes, we are likely to see:

- more frequent, long running and intense heatwaves
- more extreme fire danger days
- less rain but more intense storms and flooding
- changes to the growing season
- sea levels rise, more coastal erosion and storm surges

These trends are expected to continue. More frequent and extreme weather events will most likely result in greater impacts on communities and our economy.



Photo by Jason Hywood.



## Adaptability/sustainability – what can individuals do to make a difference?

Australia's households are responsible for around 12% of emissions.

The majority of household-related emissions are associated with heating, ventilation and air conditioning, lighting and hot water systems.

Many households have reduced their electricity consumption over the past 7 years by using appliances that are more efficient in homes and increasing uptake of rooftop solar systems.

A world-leading 15% of Australian households now have rooftop solar installed.

Good orientation of a house provides the potential to achieve substantial energy savings when combined with appropriate design. It also enables householders to achieve these savings for minimal capital investment.

Other actions individuals can take:

- check with your local council for information on hazards in your area
- prepare an emergency response plan
- check with your local council for green building programs
- add trees, vegetation and water into your garden design
- use solar-passive design principles in your home
- install a rain water tank
- install insulation, blinds and awnings
- select fuel efficient cars and appliances
- reduce gas and electricity use
- support companies that have cut greenhouse gas emissions
- consider buying products that are locally made.



**“The link between extreme weather and climate change is a critical area for public understanding.”**

**Professor Tim Flannery**



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