

For a copy of *Climate Change in Queensland: What the Science is Telling Us 2010*, or for further information on climate change, visit www.climatechange.qld.gov.au



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Climate change fast facts

POCKET GUIDE

10

2010

Toward 2
Tomorrow's Queensland

 **Queensland
Government**

Global facts:

1. The rise in global temperature has risen by 0.75 °C since 1900.
2. Globally, 14 of the past 15 years have been the warmest on record.
3. Ten indicators of global climate (e.g. global temperature, sea level and ocean heat content) all show a warming trend in the climate system over recent decades.
4. In 2007, sea ice was 39 per cent below the long-term average.
5. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, around 1750, the global CO₂ concentration has risen by 38 per cent.

Australian facts:

1. Since 1993, sea levels have risen by 7–10mm per year in northern Australia and 1.5–3 mm per year in southern and eastern Australia.
2. Sea surface temperatures around Australia have increased by approximately 0.4 °C in the past 50 years.
3. Since 1960, the mean temperature in Australia has increased by approximately 0.7 °C.
4. Trends over the last five decades show increasing rainfall over north west Australia and decreasing rainfall over south east Australia.
5. Average surface temperature is projected to increase by 0.6 – 1.5 °C by 2030 and by 2.2 – 5.0 °C by 2070.

Queensland facts:

1. 2000–2009 was the hottest decade on record for Queensland with average temperatures 0.58 °C higher than the 1961–1990 average.
2. Queensland regions can expect temperatures to increase by 1.0 °C – 2.2 °C by 2050.
3. A 1 °C temperature increase may lead to a loss of half the existing high altitude Wet Tropics rainforest.
4. A 2 °C increase in average sea surface temperature is predicted to lead to annual bleaching of up to 97 percent of the Great Barrier Reef.
5. Queensland regional climate change projections indicate that over the next 40 years south east Queensland can expect a three to five percent decrease in rainfall.
6. Queensland can expect more hot days and warm nights and less cold days and nights, as well as more heatwave events.
7. Queensland can expect longer dry periods interrupted by more intense rainfall events, especially in the Gulf and Cape York.
8. Queensland can expect an increased number of severe tropical cyclones with cyclones occurring further south.

