

Climate Change in Australia website: a comprehensive resource to support adaptation

Summary

The Climate Change in Australia website is the most comprehensive site for climate projections information ever developed for Australia. It is the principal means of delivering the latest (2015) national climate projections undertaken by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. It provides data, information and guidance about Australia's future climate under a range of different scenarios. Information and data can be tailored to fit the needs of users.

Keywords

Climate change, Australia, impacts, adaptation, projections

The [Climate Change in Australia website](#) provides extensive information on climate change science, climate projections, and data sources in addition to regional impacts and adaptation resources (Figure 1). It disseminates up-to-date climate change projections undertaken by CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and overseas modelling groups.

The website is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of users. To this end, it includes broad narratives about Australia's future climate, information resources (such as downloadable reports, videos and images), guidance on using climate change projections for research, tips for users who are involved in communicating about climate change within regional communities, tools to support planning and climate decision making, and data mining interfaces to enhance the discoverability of national and regional climate change projections.

More than a dozen online tools provide interactive access to a broad range of information and data on past and future climate change. This is particularly relevant to users who want to explore multiple future time periods, require detailed information about changes to a variable of interest, or require access to the underpinning climate data.

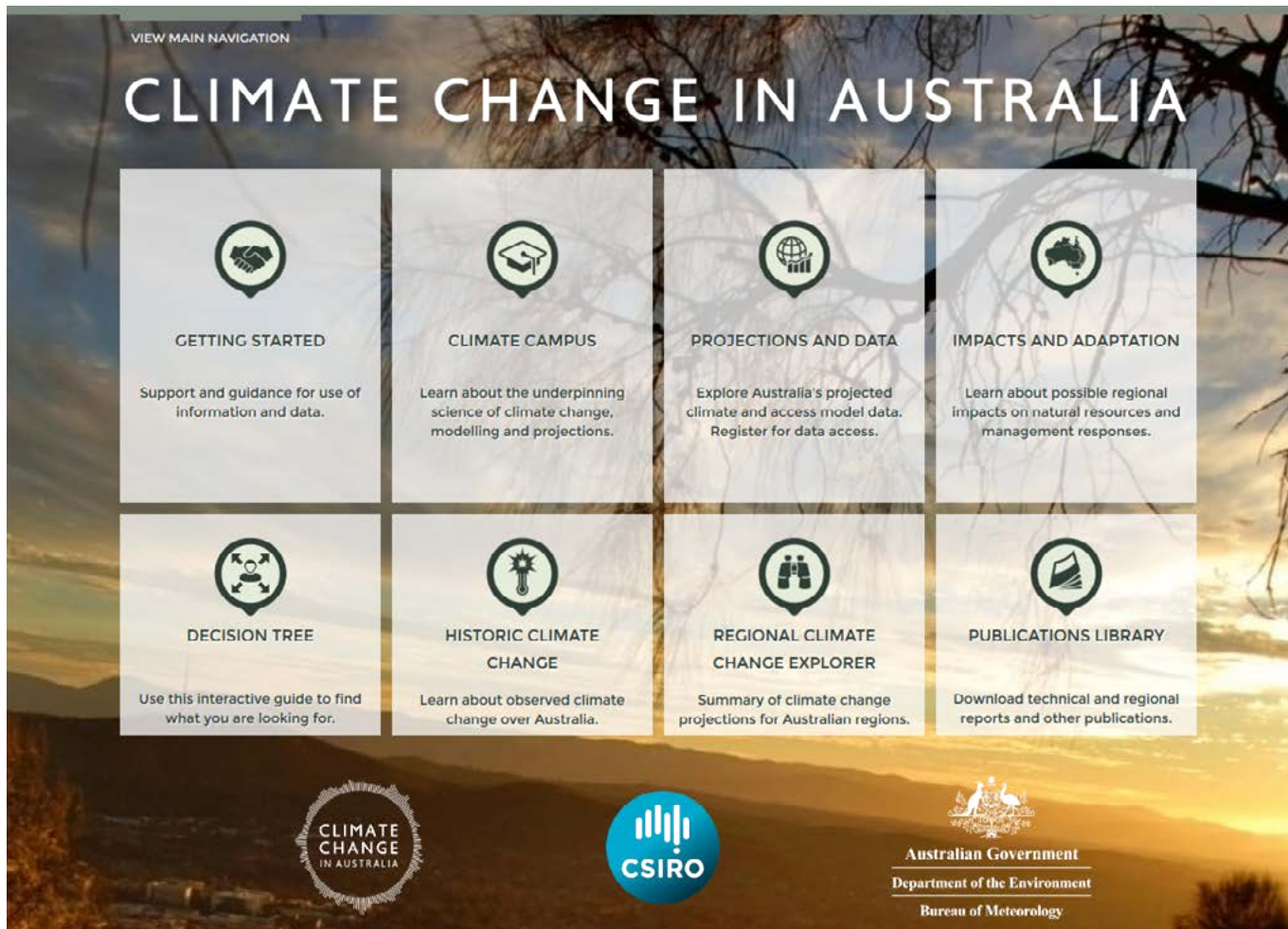


Figure 1: Home page of the Climate Change in Australia website. Source: Climate Change in Australia website. © CSIRO 2016.

Data exploration interfaces include the ability to look at selected climate thresholds (Figure 2), regional climate analogues, data tables, map-based information, as well as the opportunity to download climate change data (relative to a 'present' baseline) and application-ready data for impact studies.

Australia is a large and climatically diverse country. To deal with this, regionally-averaged projections can be obtained at three different spatial scales: four, eight or twelve regions. The regionalisation is based on 'clusters' of existing Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions. However, as the website is deliberately designed to be a 'living' resource that can be readily updated, additional regionalisation schemes can be added over time.

In addition to the projections information and data, the website also provides access to regional climate change impacts and adaptation information through linking with relevant Australian research projects. These projects are focused on providing resources to assist in the development of natural resource management plans.

The website is being accessed by a variety of users from state government, NRM groups, local government, business and industry sectors and more.

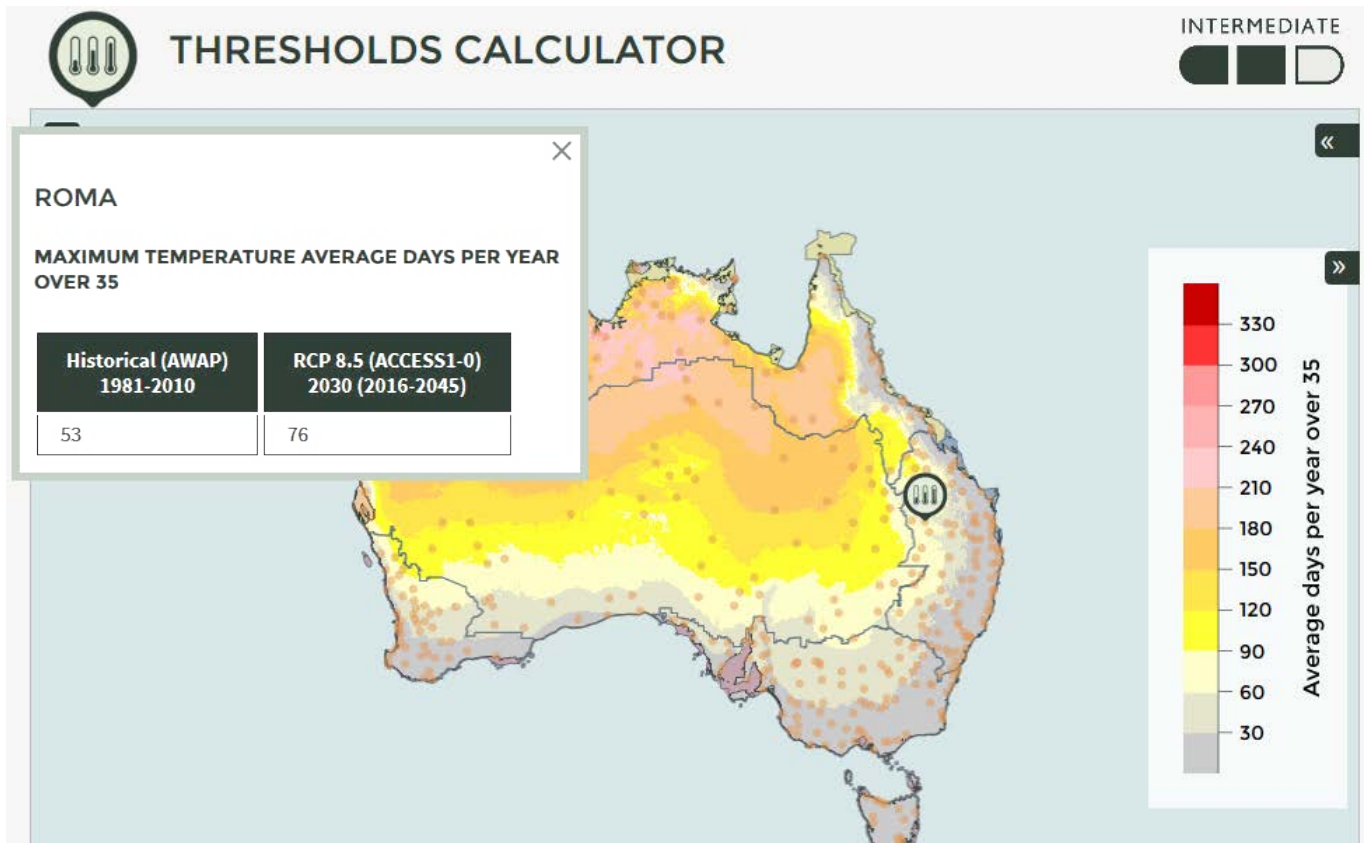


Figure 2: The Threshold Calculator tool allows users to explore temperature extremes in terms of the current and projected number of days above or below a threshold of interest. Source: Climate Change in Australia website. © CSIRO 2016.

Further reading

Visit the Climate Change in Australia website: <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au> (accessed 31 May 2016).

Download the Climate Change in Australia Cluster (regional) reports, the Technical Report, brochures and other resources from: <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/publications-library/> (accessed 31 May 2016).

This Snapshot was prepared by John Clarke from CSIRO. Please cite as: Clarke, J., 2016: Climate Change in Australia website: a useful resource to support adaptation. Snapshot for CoastAdapt, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Gold Coast.



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