

# 6

# Rules of using climate models

1

## Don't rely on a single model run

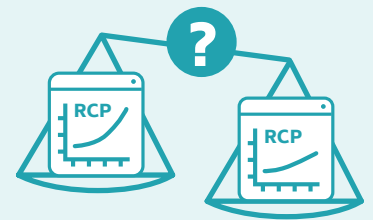
Use an array of model runs as the basis to identify a 'best-guess' scenario, or use a resource such as the Climate Change in Australia website which has gone through this exercise for you. See [www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au).



2

## Make a reasoned choice of greenhouse gas scenario

Perhaps RCP8.5 to be risk averse, or RCP6.0 as the likely best guess if progress is made in the international negotiations on emissions reduction. Unfortunately a lot fewer model runs are currently available for RCP6.0.



3

## Remember, models are **not** predictions

Always keep in mind that models only provide a scenario – a likely or plausible future – and not a prediction. The reality maybe be better, worse, or just different.



4

## Use model output accordingly

Use model output as a basis to explore system sensitivities and vulnerabilities, and to identify appropriate low-regrets adaptation options and their timing.



5

## Models can't predict sudden shocks

Keep in mind the things the models can't help you with – sudden shocks such as rapid sea-level rise and the impact of events occurring simultaneously (for example, wind storm and catchment flooding). These could happen – would your system be able to cope?



6

## Precision does not equal accuracy

Finally, always remember, precision does not equal accuracy!

