

Special Issue

Recent Climate Change Impacts in Australia

Message from the Guest Editors

The main threats of climate change in Australia, as elsewhere, resulting from the increase in temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans, include ecosystem collapse, more frequent severe weather, longer and more frequent droughts, and rising sea levels. The increasing temperatures at the poles are amplified by warmer oceans causing ice melt and rising sea levels, leading to lower oxygen in ocean habitats and killing coral reefs. The extreme coral bleaching event of 2016 resulted in a loss of approximately one-third of shallow-water coral cover in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The combination of warming atmosphere and oceans is altering rainfall patterns, affecting the sustainability of a wide range of ecosystems. Dry rivers and streams in Southeast Australia during a recent drought resulted in mass fish deaths in Southeast Australia, and further fish deaths occurred in recent river surges from flooding rains that mixed with toxic water caused by algal blooms. This Special Issue welcomes all studies related to climate change impacts in Australia.

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