

Climate change knowledge and responses

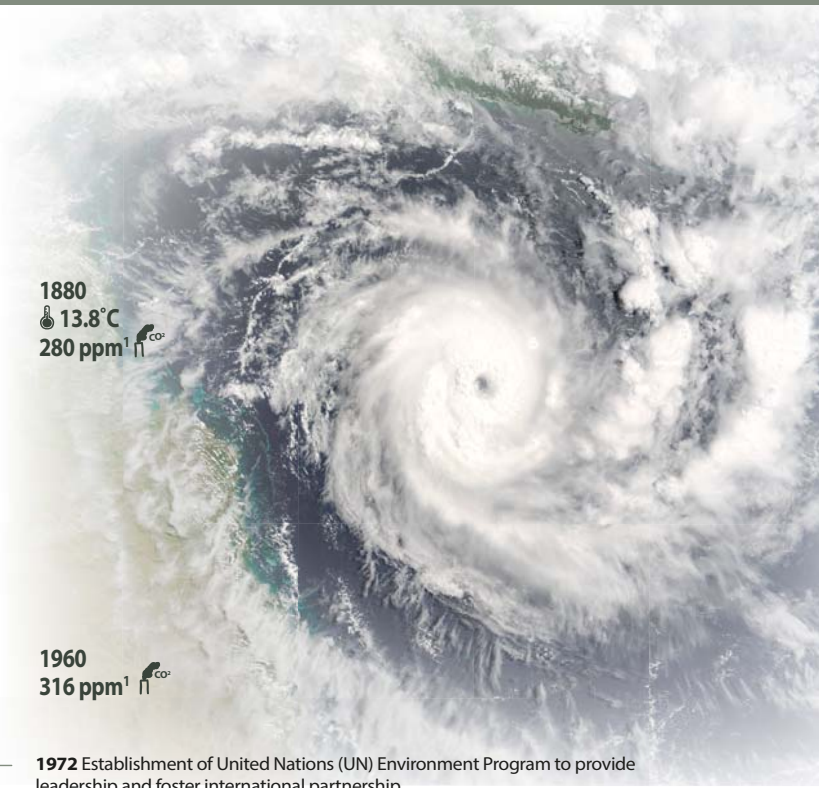
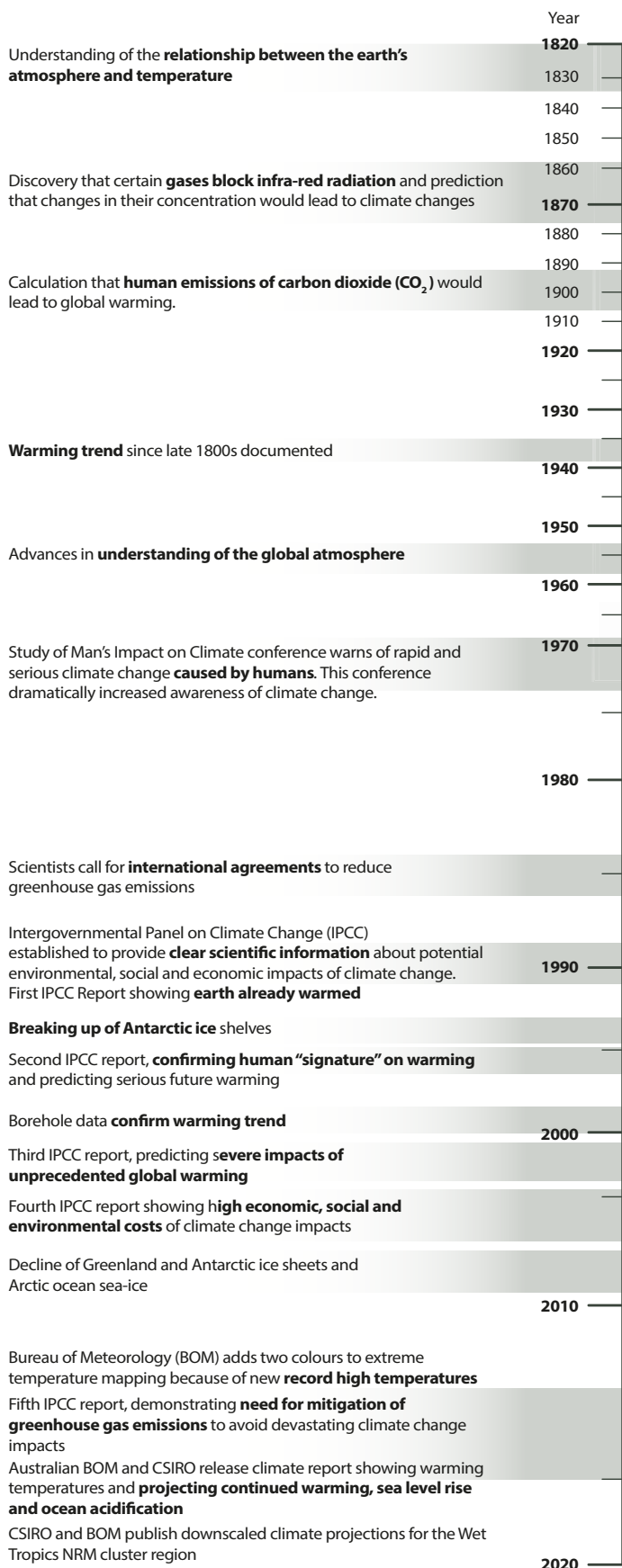
A timeline



IMPACTS & ADAPTATION
INFORMATION
FOR AUSTRALIA'S NRM REGIONS

Milestones in Understanding Climate

Global and Australian Responses



1880
13.8°C
280 ppm¹

1960
316 ppm¹

- 1972 Establishment of United Nations (UN) Environment Program to provide leadership and foster international partnership.
- 1978 US National Climate Program Act to co-ordinate climate programs and policies
- 1979 Scientific knowledge and concern building. World Climate Program launched within World Meteorological Organization to urgently improve understanding of global climate system.
- 1987 Montreal Protocol enables successful international action on reducing global emissions of ozone-damaging gases
- 1988 Scientific understanding being transformed into a policy issue. Toronto conference calls to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% by 2005. UK conservative Prime Minister Thatcher calls for action on climate change.
- 1992 Framework for Convention on Climate Change signed by 154 countries. A legally binding agreement on the need to stabilise levels of greenhouse gases.
- 1997 Kyoto protocol negotiated; 84 signatories.
 - 1997 Australia chooses not to ratify Kyoto protocol
 - 1997 Australia establishes Australian Greenhouse Office
 - 1998 Australian National Greenhouse Strategy
- 2005 European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) commences. A market-based approach to controlling emissions of greenhouse gases which provides economic incentives to reduce emissions.
 - 2007 Australia ratifies Kyoto protocol
- 2009 Copenhagen Conference achieves an agreement on a two degree guardrail and 30 billion dollars in commitments from developed countries.
- 2011 Canada withdraws from Kyoto Protocol.
 - 2011 Australia introduces carbon price
- 2012 Doha Amendment adopted, starting the second commitment period of Kyoto protocol 2013-2020
- 2014 UN Climate Summit, New York.
 - 2014 Australia repeals carbon price legislation
 - 2015 Australia introduces Emissions Reduction Fund
- 2014
14.6°C
398 ppm¹

Information Sources
<http://www.aip.org/history/climate/timeline.htm>; www.skepticalscience.com; Edison M Salas (unpublished, James Cook University); http://climate.nasa.gov/climate_resources/28/; ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/products/trends/co2/co2_annmean_mlo.txt; http://www.noaa-ews.noaa.gov/stories2011/201111109_greenhousegasindex.html