

# **Australian temperatures could reach a scorching FIFTY DEGREES by the end of the century - but first we have to survive a 'supercharged' summer with record heatwaves and bushfires**

- **Climate Council report said 'unusually hot weather' would be 'commonplace'**
- **Sydney and Melbourne may start seeing 50C days thanks to climate change**
- **Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is predicting above average temperatures across Australia this summer**
- **Report found 206 heat records were broken across the country in 90-day period**

**By KAREN RUIZ for DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA / Published 3 December 2019**

Australian temperatures could reach dangerous highs before the end of the century because of climate change, a new report has revealed.

The Climate Council has warned Sydney and Melbourne could begin experiencing 50C degree days if greenhouse emissions continue to rise.

The experts warned this summer was also 'shaping up as another terrible trifecta of heatwaves, droughts and bushfires'.

'Climate change is supercharging the extreme weather events we are witnessing,' Climate Councillor and report author, Professor Will Steffen said.

'We have seen temperature records smashed, bushfires in winter and a prolonged drought. Climate change is influencing all of these things.'



Beachgoers cool off at Bondi beach as a Climate Council report warns dangerous temperatures are forecast this summer



The report found more than 206 heat records were broken across Australia in just a 90-day period - with many regions seeing temp reach about 40C

The report said the 'unusually hot weather' blanketing the country would become 'commonplace'.

'Sydney and Melbourne could experience unprecedented 50°C summer days by the end of the century — even if global warming is limited to 2°C above pre-industrial levels,' the report said citing a 2017 study.

The alarming findings revealed that there were more than 206 temperature records were broken in just a 90-day period.

Record high temperatures were seen at 87 locations across the country, with cities in Queensland, NSW, Canberra, NT, and WA seeing temperatures reach above 40C for periods lasting up to 40 days.

Port Augusta in South Australia holds the record for the hottest temperature this summer with a sweltering 49.5C degrees recorded on January 24.

The report found the number of heatwave days has increased yearly in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart, and the country as a whole since 1950.



Commuter ferries sail past the Sydney Harbour Bridge as smoke haze from bushfires in New South Wales blankets the CBD in Sydney on Monday

'These heatwaves can have severe effects on human health, including both direct heat illnesses such as heat exhaustion and indirect illnesses such as cardiovascular failure,' Climate Council's CEO, Amanda McKenzie said.

'This long-term warming trend driven by the burning of coal, oil and gas is putting Australian lives, our economy and the environment at risk.'

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting above average temperatures across Australia this summer, with eastern states likely to see the worst of it due to ongoing droughts.



Drought has continued to drive down Australia's crop production, with winter production set to fall for the third consecutive year, a report found

The Murray-Darling Basin region, which spans most of the eastern states was found to have the driest period on record between January 2017 to October 2019.

Drought has continued to drive down Australia's crop production, with winter production set to fall for the third consecutive year.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences' latest crop report predicts winter production to fall three per cent in 2019/20 to 29.4 million tonnes.

That's down 13 per cent from the previous forecast in September.

Forecast winter production is about 27 per cent below the 10-year average and set to fall for the third-straight year off a record high in 2016/17.