



# Investor presentation – *Severe weather in a changing climate*

The attached presentation is being given today by members of IAG's Natural Perils team to investors and other market participants.

This follows the recent launch of *Severe Weather in a Changing Climate*, a report co-authored with the US-based National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

A full copy of the report can be found at: <https://www.iag.com.au/severe-weather-changing-climate>.

## About IAG

IAG is the parent company of a general insurance group (the Group) with controlled operations in Australia and New Zealand. The Group's businesses underwrite over \$12 billion of premium per annum, selling insurance under many leading brands, including: NRMA Insurance, CGU, SGIO, SGIC, Swann Insurance and WFI (Australia); and NZI, State, AMI and Lumley (New Zealand). IAG also has interests in general insurance joint ventures in Malaysia and India. For more information, please visit [www.iag.com.au](http://www.iag.com.au).

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# Severe Weather in a Changing Climate

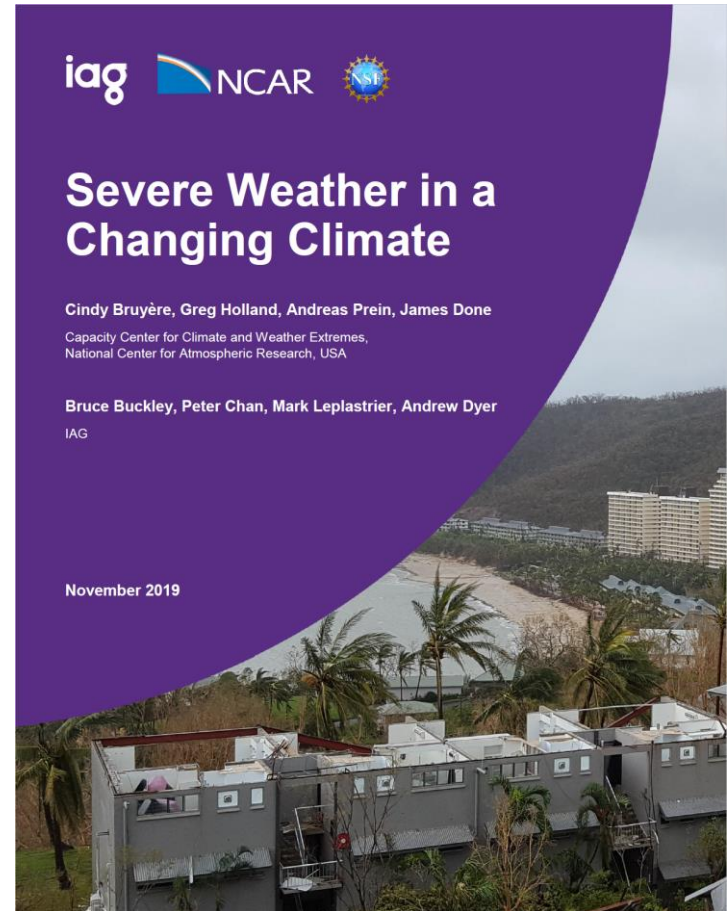
**Mark Leplastrier, EM Natural Perils**  
**Dr Bruce Buckley, Principal Meteorologist**

21 November 2019



# Agenda

- **Report Context**
  - Rationale and purpose
  - Relationship with NCAR
- **Climate Change and Weather Extremes**
  - Regional interpretation, by event type
- **Implications for the Built Environment**
  - Risk reduction opportunities
- **Summary**



# Report context

## Developing a consistent framework

### Jointly authored with NCAR

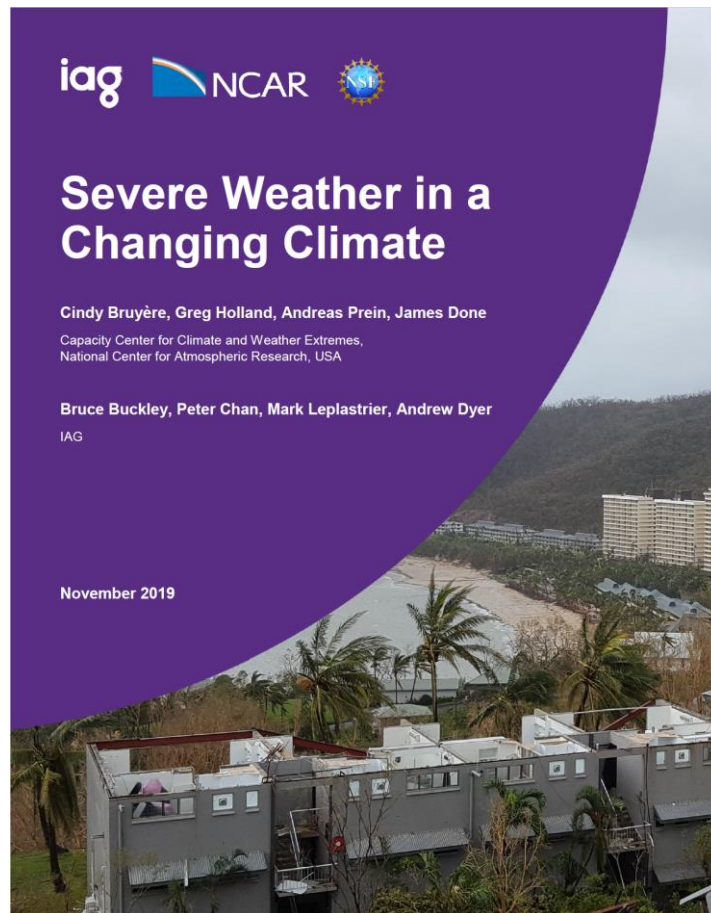
- National Center for Atmospheric Research, based in US
- Research-based relationship with IAG since 2010

### Understanding climate-related risks

- Requires review and interpretation of the latest climate change science on how severe weather events may change under several future scenarios
- TCFD recommendations driving a significant increase in activity in this area
- Pressing need to develop a consistent framework for reporting, modelling and data

### This report aims to:

- Help eliminate unnecessary duplication of work
- Encourage feedback to move towards establishing a central source of best scientific information







# Climate Change and Weather Extremes: A Regional Interpretation

Severe Weather in a Changing Climate  
21 November 2019

# Major Australian weather claim events since 1980

## Mixture of meteorological phenomena

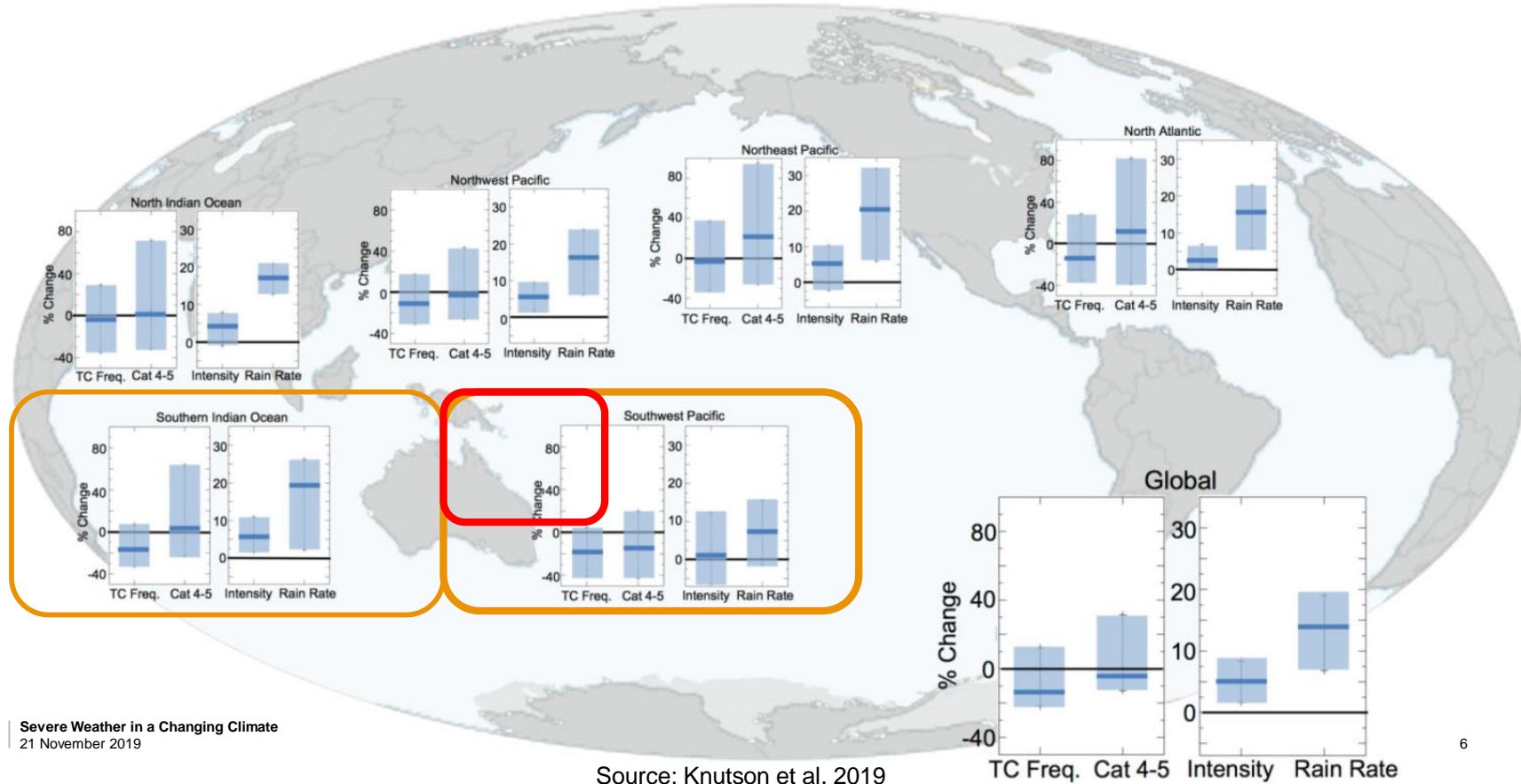
Date	Event	Type	Loss (\$m)*	Rank
Feb-83	Ash Wednesday bushfires	Bushfire	1,762	4
Jan-85	Brisbane hail storm	Hail storm	2,274	2
Mar-90	North Sydney hail storm	Hail storm	1,681	6
Nov-91	Sydney Hills hail storm	Hail storm	1,045	17
Apr-99	Sydney hail storm	Hail storm	5,574	1
Jun-07	NSW east coast low	East coast low	2,197	3
Feb-09	Black Saturday bushfires	Bushfire	1,758	5
Mar-10	Melbourne hail storm	Hail storm	1,626	7
Mar-10	Perth hail storm	Hail storm	1,345	12
Jan-11	Lockyer, Brisbane floods	Flood	1,527	10
Feb-11	Cyclone Yasi	Tropical cyclone	1,479	11
Dec-11	Melbourne hail storm	Hail storm	988	18
Jan-13	Ex-TC Oswald flooding	Flood	1,131	15
Nov-14	Brisbane hail storm	Hail storm	1,535	9
Apr-15	NSW east coast low	East coast low	1,060	16
Apr-17	Cyclone Debbie	Tropical cyclone	1,614	8
Dec-18	Sydney hail storm	Hail storm	1,312	13
Feb-19	Townsville floods	Flood	1,248	14

\*ICA DataGlobe Insurance Industry Data since 1980 – normalised to 2017 \$

Phenomena	Number
Tropical cyclone	2
Hail / severe convective storm	9
East coast low	2
Flood	3
Bushfire	2

# Tropical cyclone trends

## A global view by key ocean basins

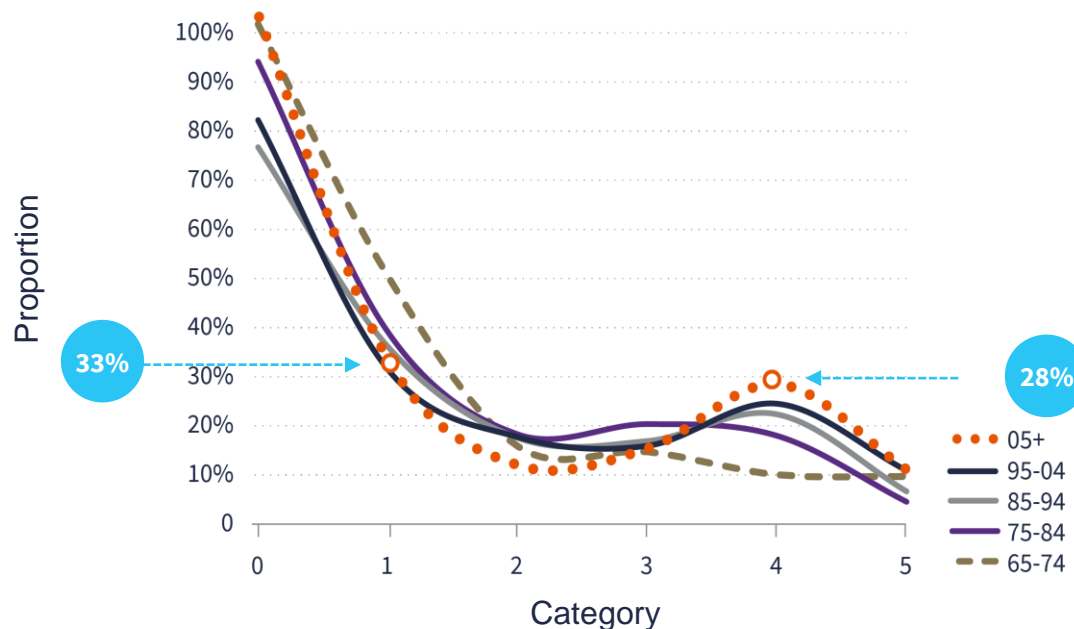


# Observed cyclone trends

An increasing proportion of stronger cyclones

## US Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

All cyclone basins, all available years since 1965 (Holland / Bruyère 2013)



Cyclone category	% of risk premium	% of annual frequency
1 or less	5%	43%
2	8%	26%
3	47%	22%
4	87%	31%
5	14%	2%



# Modelling of tropical cyclone intensity trends

IAG / NCAR research indicates 20% increase in most intense TCs

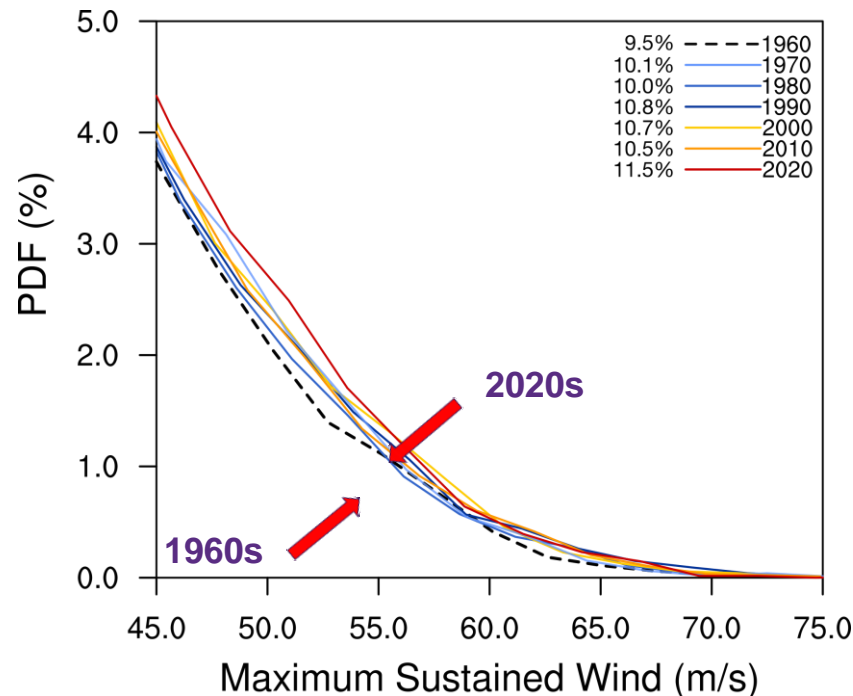
## Preliminary research of most intense Coral and Tasman Sea tropical cyclones (135° to 180°E)

- Actual intensities need to be scaled upwards to allow for model resolution limitations

## Identified intensity trends

- 20% increase in the number of most intense tropical cyclones, from 1960s to 2020s
- This comprises:
  - A 10% increase from 1960s to 2010s
  - A further 10% increase predicted for the 2020s

## Decadal trends in most intense cyclones



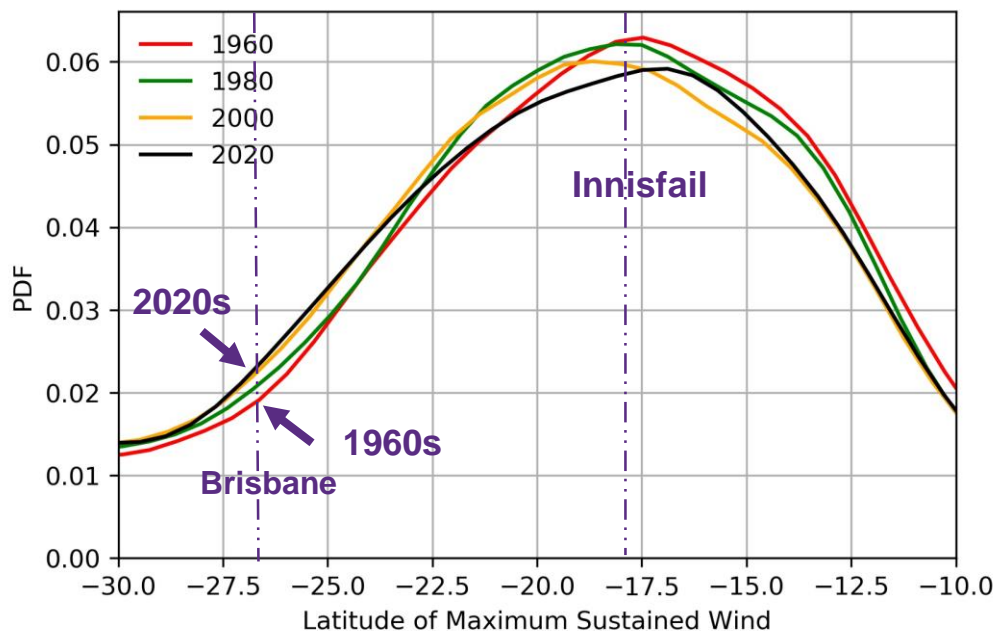
# Modelling tropical cyclone trends – east coast of Australia

## Southward shift evident

### Coral and Tasman Sea tropical cyclones (135° to 180°E)

- Southward shift of lifetime maximum intensity
- Increase in tropical cyclones with maximum intensity at Brisbane's latitude, from 1960s to 2020s
- Slight decline in % of tropical cyclones having maximum intensity from Cairns to Townsville – still high risk

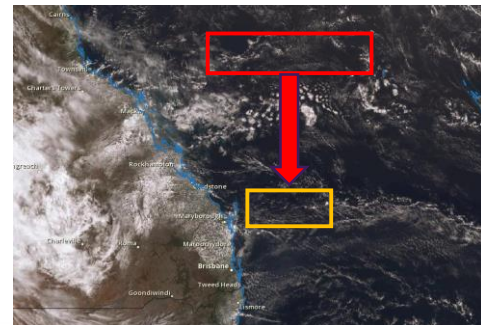
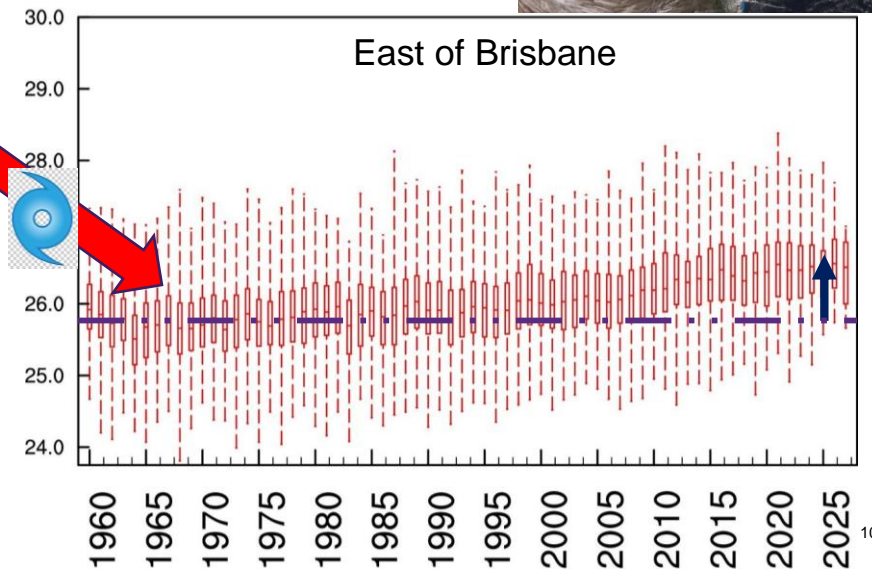
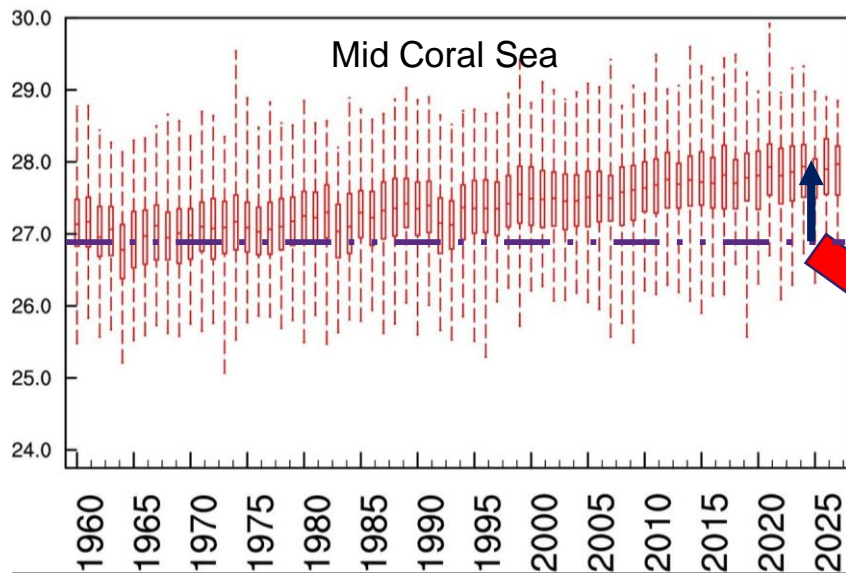
### Decadal trends: cyclone lifetime maximum intensity



# Rising sea temperatures

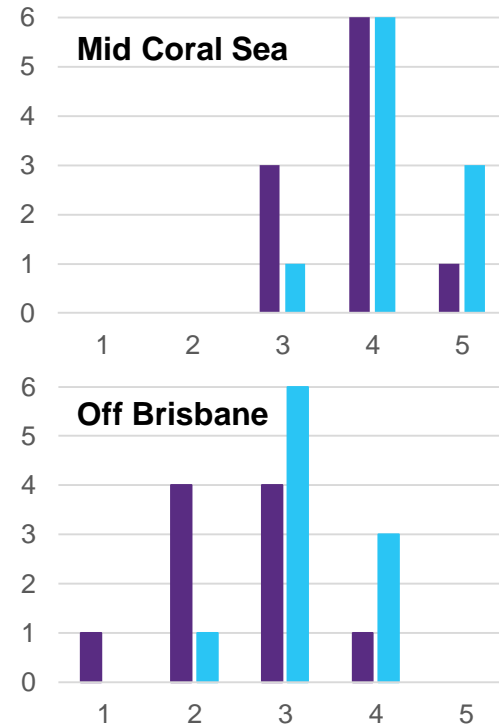
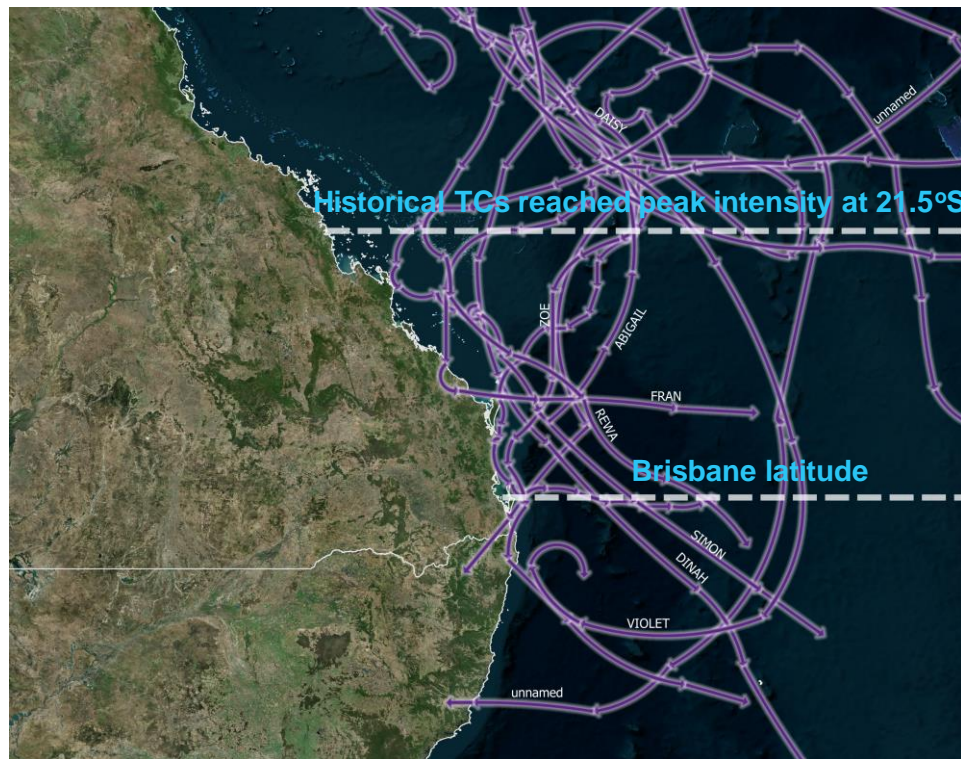
1°C warming >26°C can sustain a 1 Category intensity increase

- Tropical cyclones draw their energy from the oceans
- Warming seen at both region of peak intensity (Mid Coral Sea) and off Brisbane



# Historical cyclones at today's sea surface temperature

Observed 1°C increase implies more intense cyclones off SE Queensland



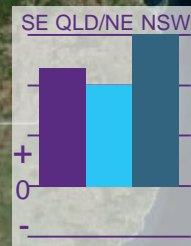
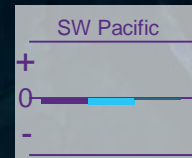
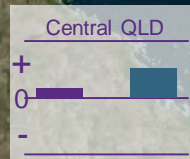
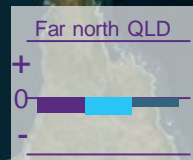
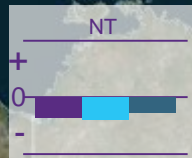
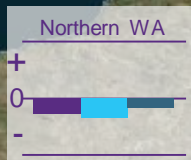
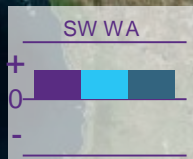
Historical intensities (purple)

Potential current intensities (blue)



# Varying tropical cyclone regional trends

Frequency changes:  
from 1950s to +3°C scenario



Note: Cyclone Categories relate specifically to the wind component.  
Trends exclude the increasing storm surge and intense rain components of all tropical cyclones.

- All tropical cyclones
- Low intensity (Cat 1-2)
- High intensity (Cat 3-5)

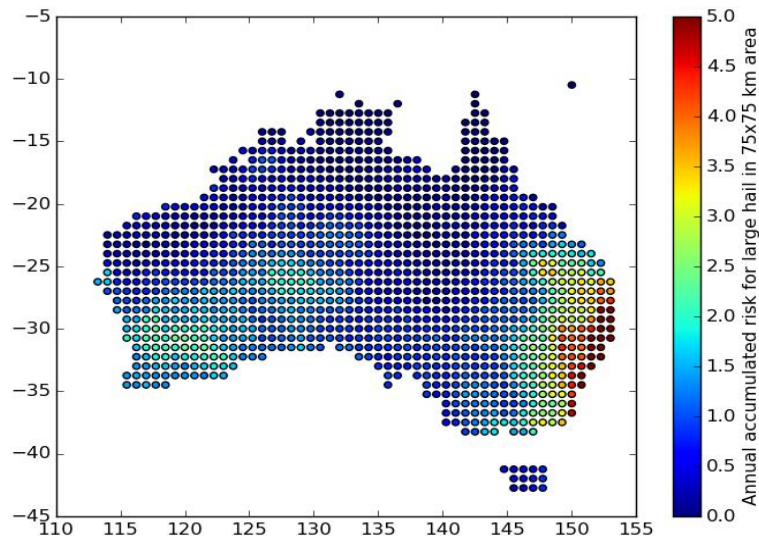
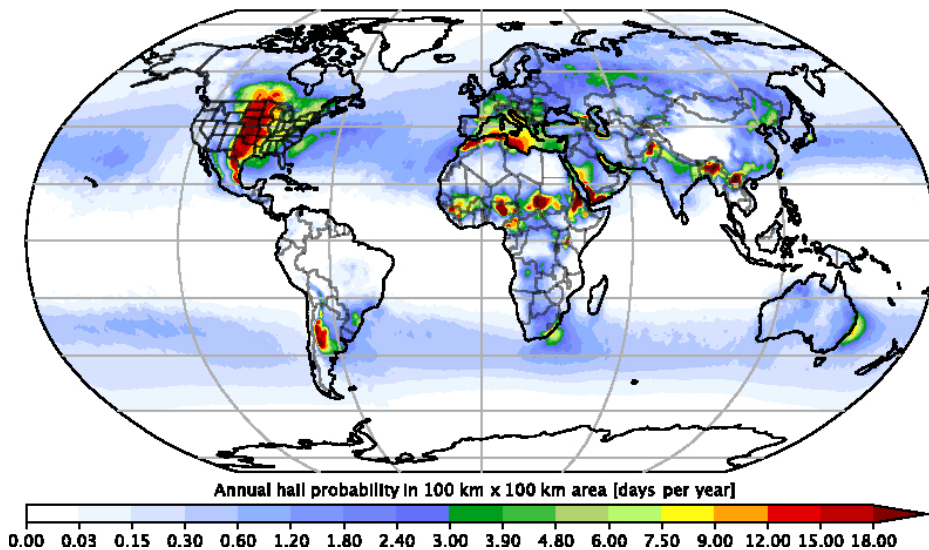
# Severe thunderstorms: hail

First step: establish hail climatology from multiple data sources (1)

Global view



Regional view



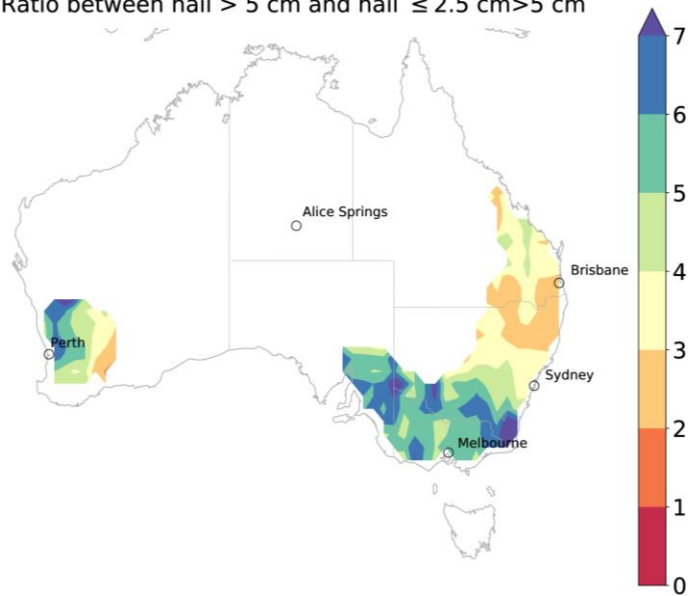
Source: Prein and Holland, 2018

# Severe thunderstorms: hail

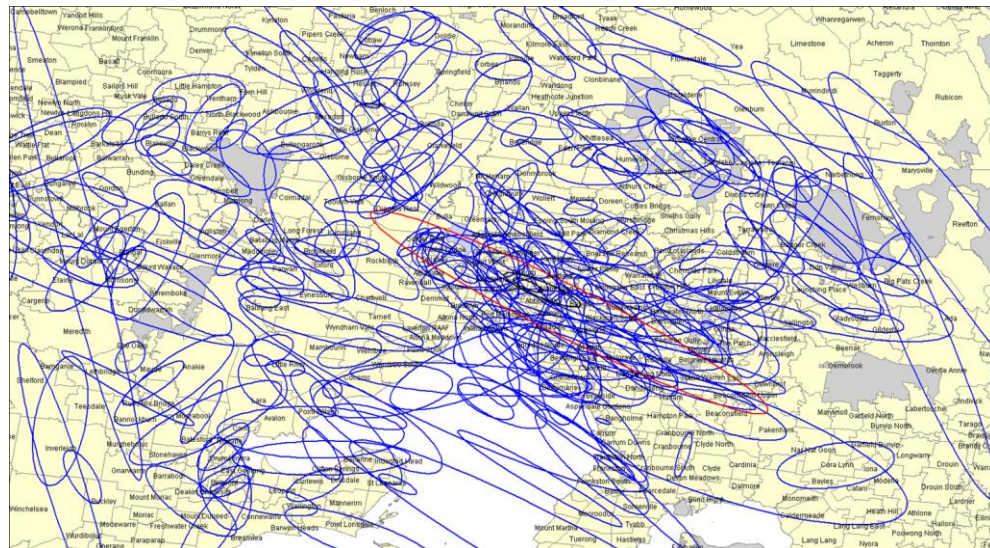
## First step: establish hail climatology from multiple data sources (2)

Bureau of Meteorology – large : giant hail ratios

Ratio between hail  $> 5$  cm and hail  $\leq 2.5$  cm  $> 5$  cm



Radar + claims-based storm paths (Melbourne example)





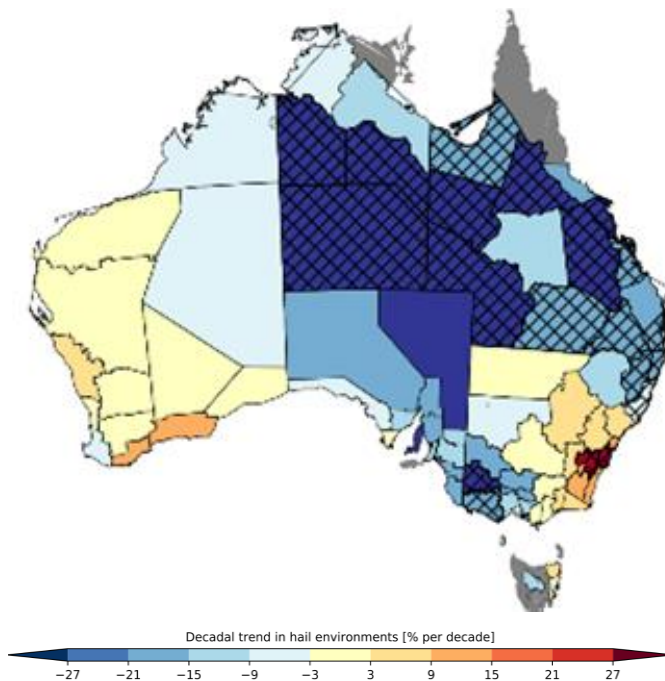
# Severe thunderstorms: hail

## Second step: apply knowledge of hail science – significant complexity

### Range of final scale features influencing large and giant hail

- Poor initial hail / giant hail observational record
- Instability changes
- Melting level rising – small hail affected more than giant hail
- This leads to a southward shift in highest hail risk
- Updraft thunderstorm velocities are rising
- Convective inhibition (CIN) changes
- Low level moisture availability – East Australia Current
- Mid-level dry slots from dry interior will continue
- Trigger factors: heat increasing, weather systems changing
- Climate model resolution critical to representing hail risk

### Hail environment frequency trends (1979-2015, % movement / decade)



Source: Prein (personal communications), 2017



# Severe thunderstorms

Hail risk factors to +3°C

Large hail = 2cm to 4.9cm

Giant hail = > 5cm

Hotter  
Deeper trough  
Moisture from  
ocean current  
More north-  
south steering  
flow

**Increase in  
damaging hail**

Higher melting level

**Less hail  
increased rain,  
squalls**

Stronger updrafts  
Warmer ocean current  
Drier inland  
Persistent heat trough  
Hotter (key trigger)  
Vertical shear shifts  
southwards

**Increase in  
giant hail**

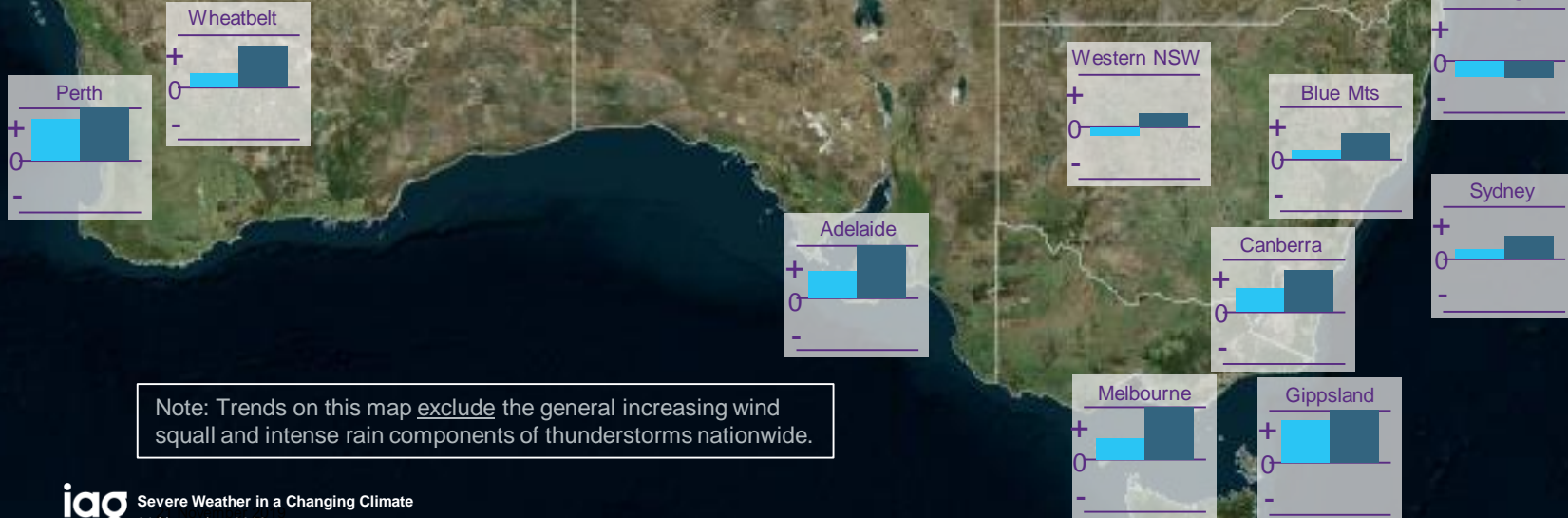
Note: Trends on this map exclude the general increasing wind squall and intense rain components of thunderstorms nationwide.

# Severe thunderstorms

## Regional hail trends

1990-2010 → +3°C

Large Hail  
Giant Hail





# East coast lows – broad and complex

The most extreme example: 21-25 June 1867

Dozens of people died

Major floods Parramatta, Wollondilly, Shoalhaven, Goulburn, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Clarence Rivers

Queensland, NE NSW: widespread rain and storms

Flash floods South Australia - north country and Port Augusta flooded

Hunter River: 1:100 year flood, storm damage Newcastle

Immense rains - eastern plains

Hawkesbury-Nepean 1:250 year flood, storm damage Sydney (132km/h gust)

Wollongong damaged, Bulli Pier destroyed

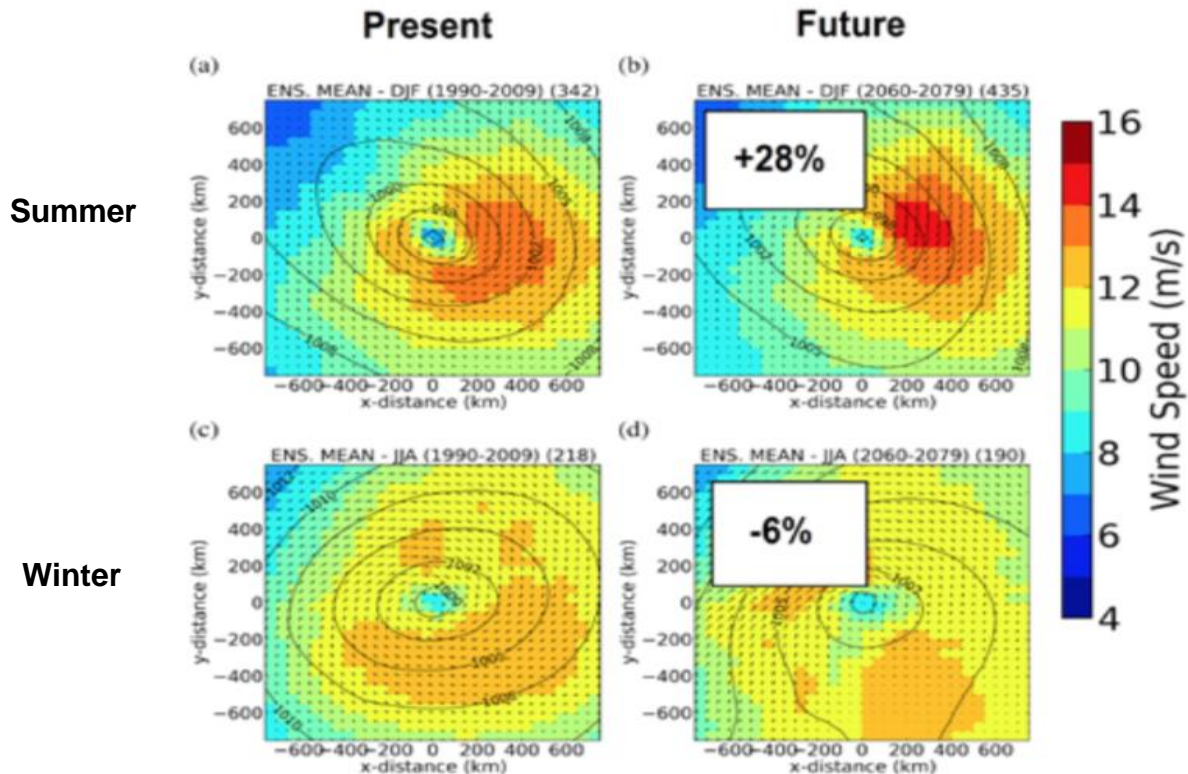
Steamer aground, schooner abandoned in Port Phillip Bay

Gales Victoria, gale to hurricane winds east NSW

Steamers, lighters sunk

# East coast lows: limited research

Modelling indicates increased summer wind impacts



Events with a max wind speed  $>20\text{ms}^{-1}$

Walsh et al. 2016



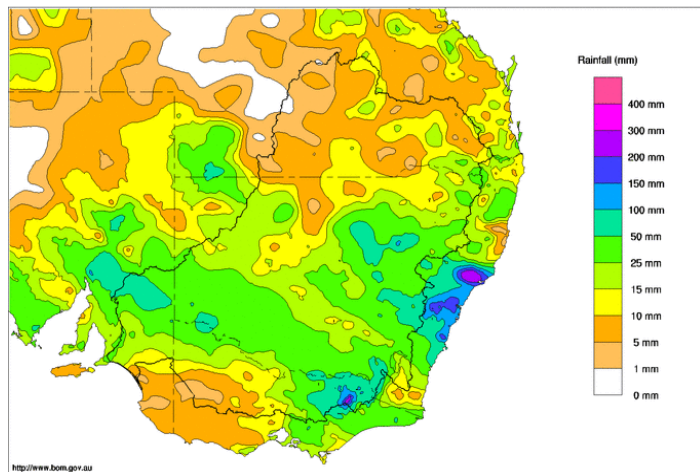
# East coast lows – structures matter

## Rare but damaging events, with adverse future trends

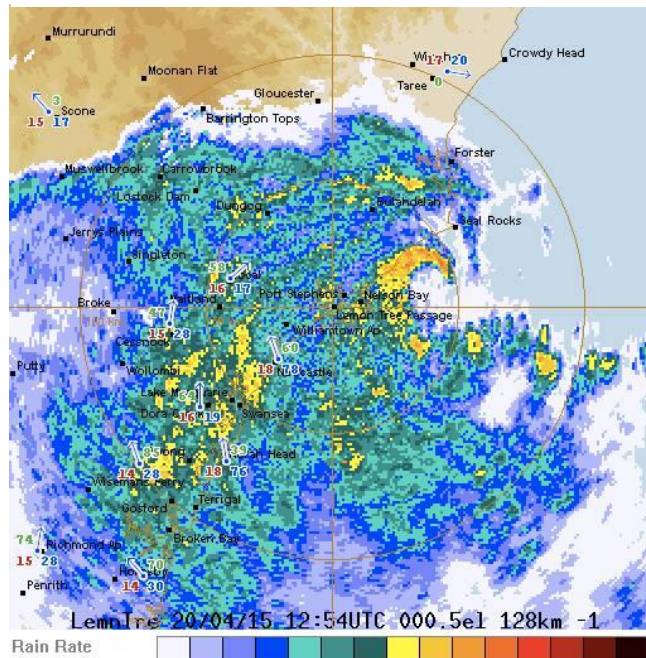
- Rare events – once per decade, produce \$1bn+ damage
- Fine scale structure is critical
- Multi-day, multi-state ‘total event’ impacts
- Compound events: rain, wind and ocean contribute

Assessed future trends of increased damage from higher storm total rainfall, increased rain rate, wind-rain impacts and intensifying convection

### Murray-Darling rainfall – W/E 21 April 2015



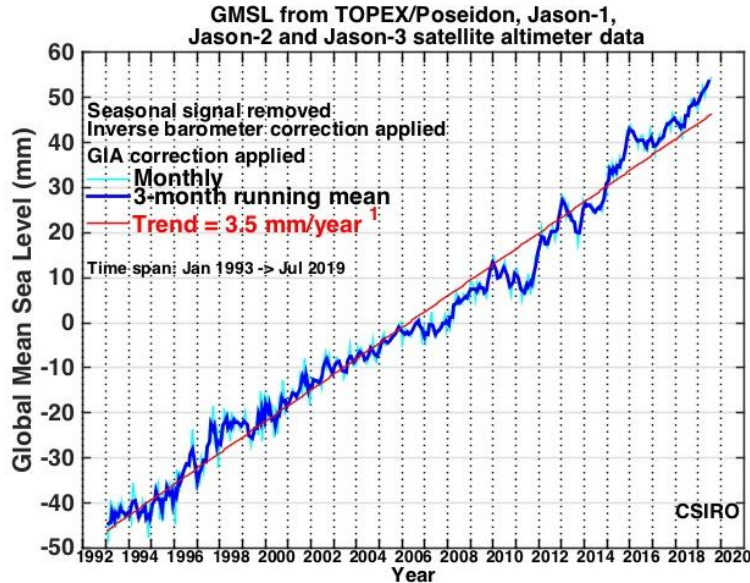
### Newcastle radar 12:54 UTC 21 April 2015



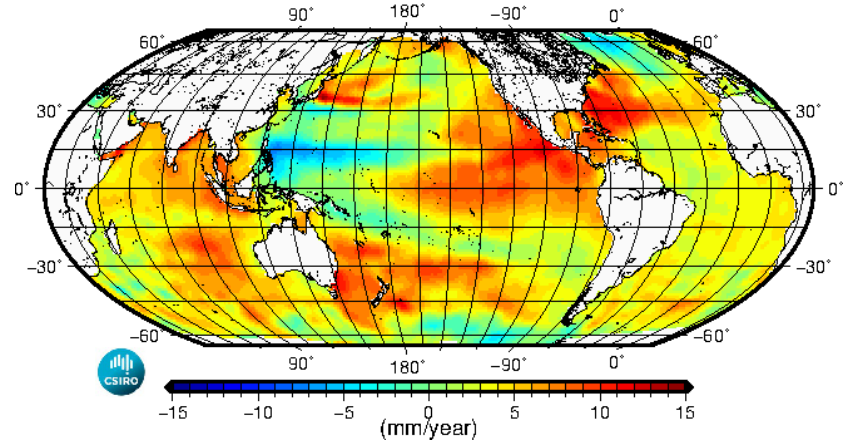
# Rising sea levels

## Global and regional variations

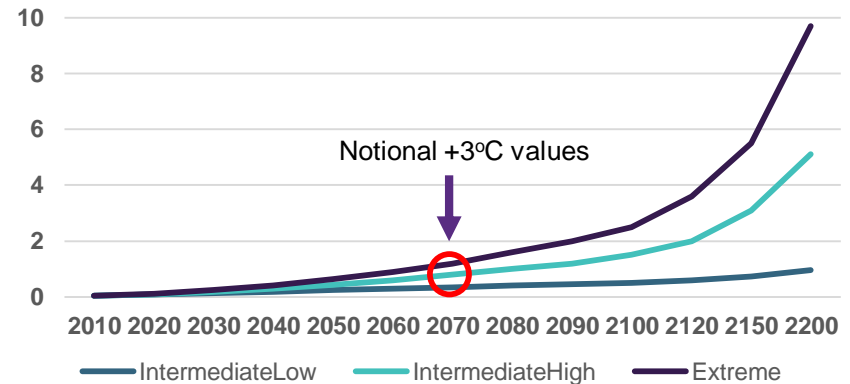
Sea level rise to continue for more than a century



Observed sea level trend 2006 to 2018

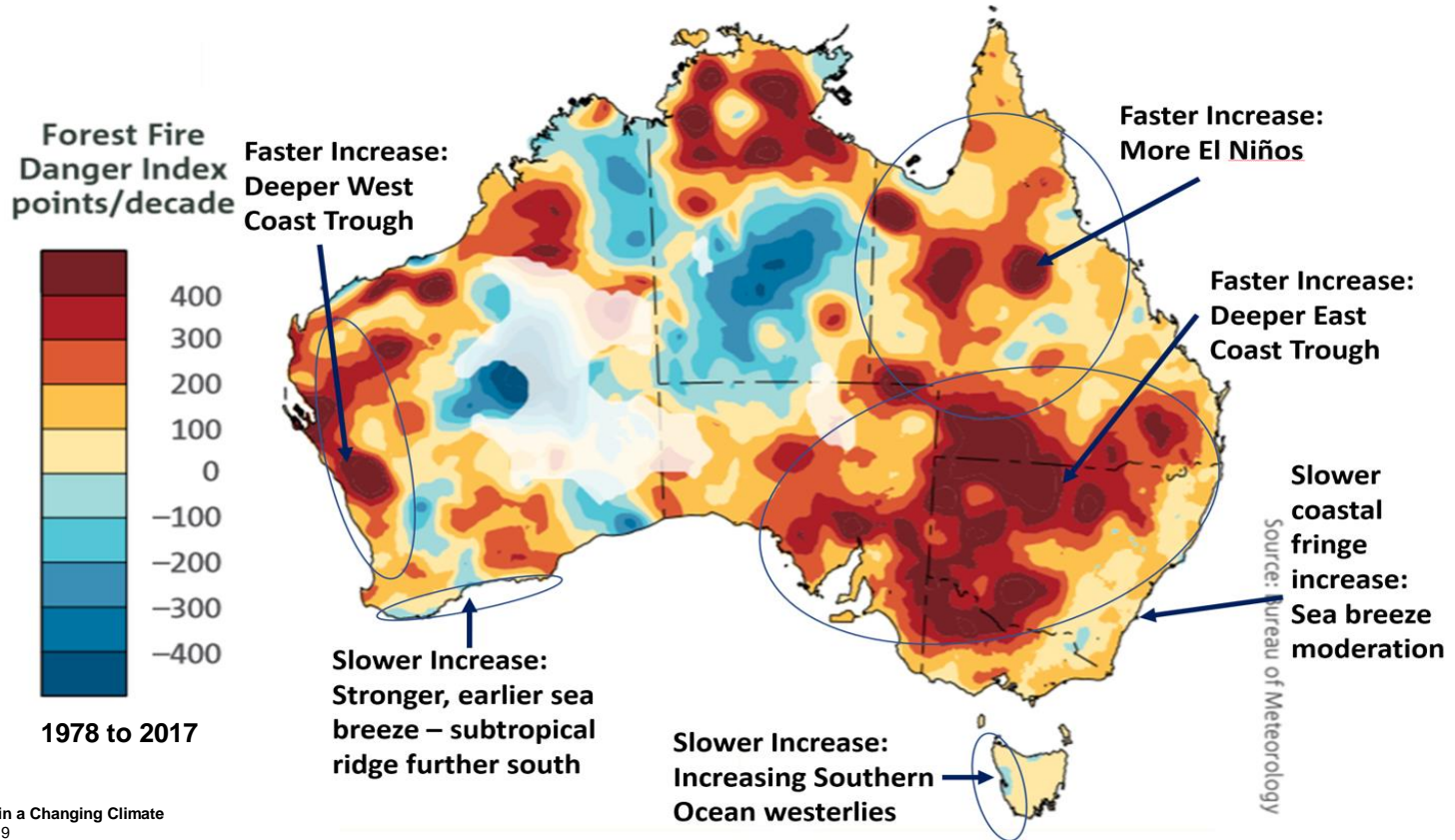


Sea level rise projections: NOAA\* report 2017



# Bushfire risk trends

One of the fastest growing climate risks in Australia







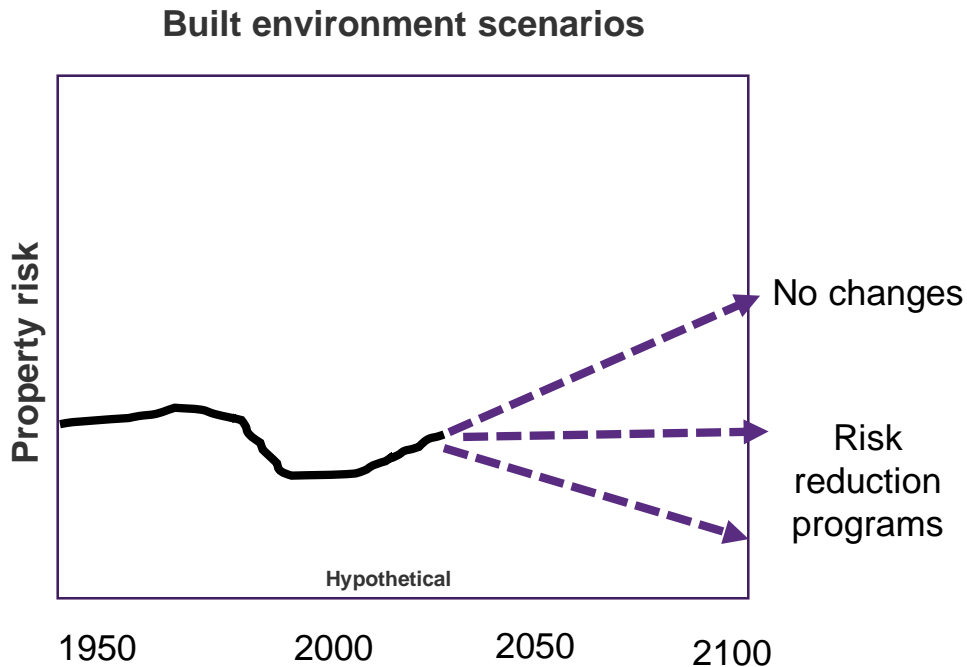
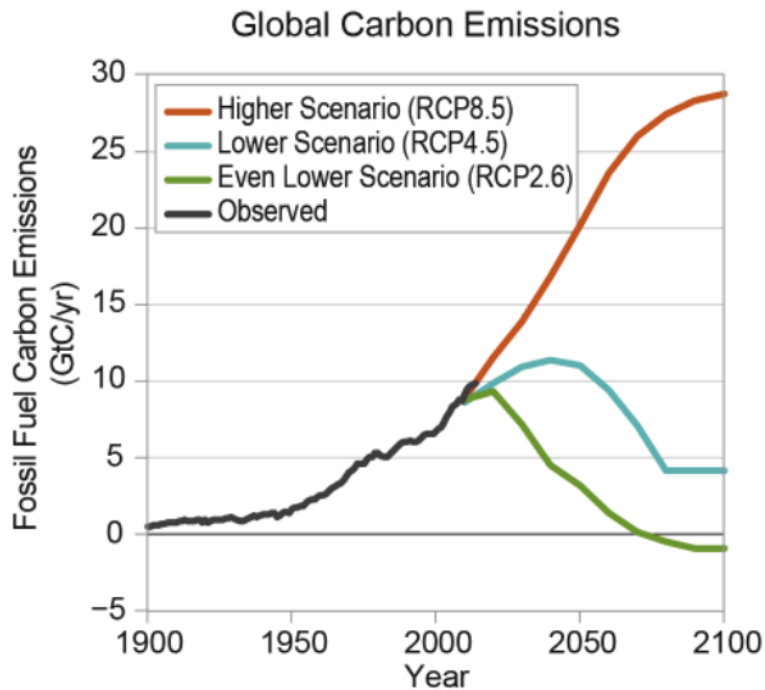
# Implications for the Built Environment

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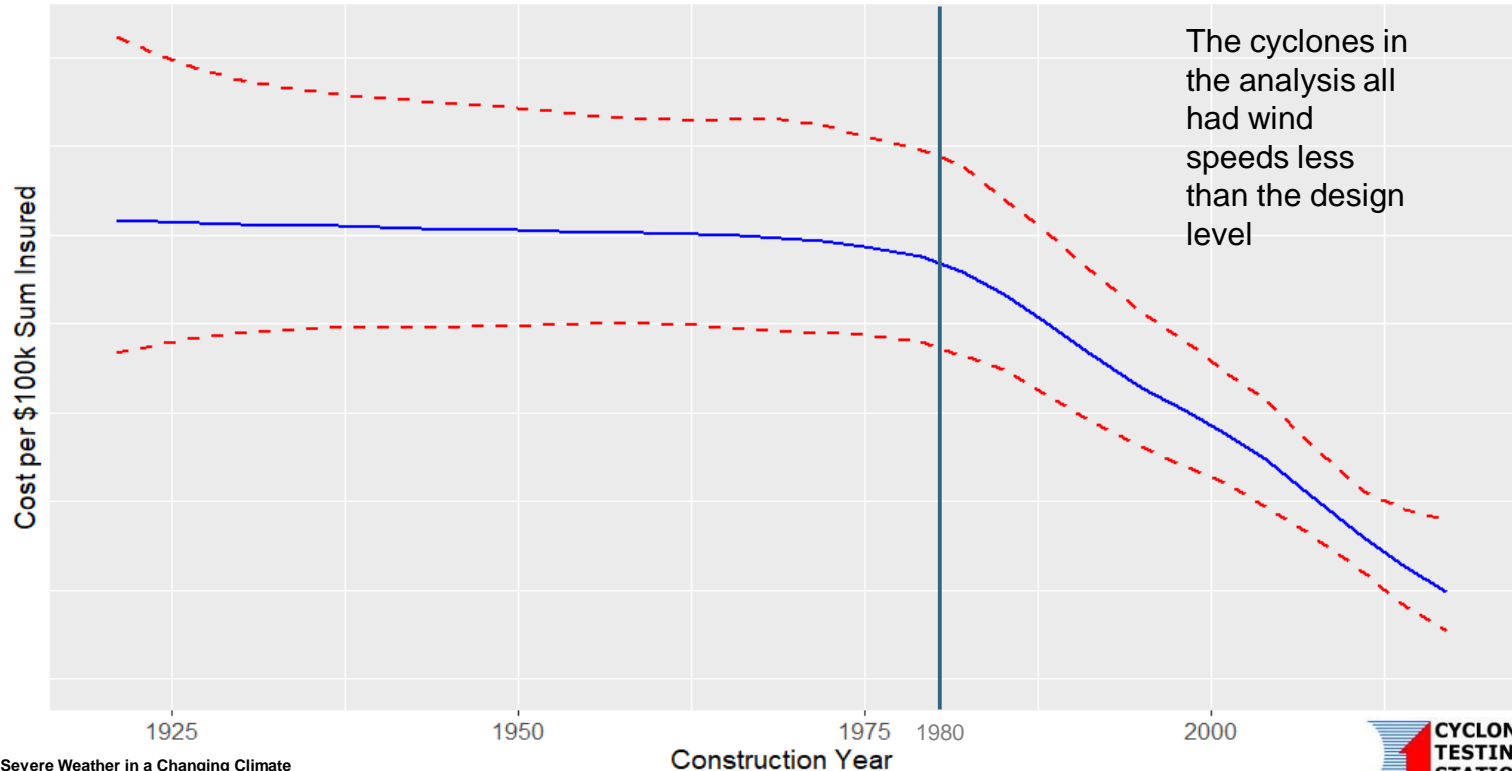
# What do we assume about the future built environment?

## Increased property risk



# Damage to homes – claims from recent cyclones

Major change in residential building codes in 1980



# Retrofitting of existing building stock (cyclonic regions)

Resists severe wind loads

## Queensland Household Resilience Program commenced 2018

- Upgrades and retrofitting to AS1684
- Work certified to National Construction Code (NCC) reference documents
- Applies to cyclonic regions north of Bundaberg
- Resulting in insurer premium reductions of up to 20%



 **Household  
Resilience  
Program**



# Current building standards

## Ongoing refinements



- Changes to cladding standard (AS1562.1) include minimum requirements for material, strength, thickness and fastener spacings for all flashings for all wind regions
- New garage door testing and design requirements for cyclone regions

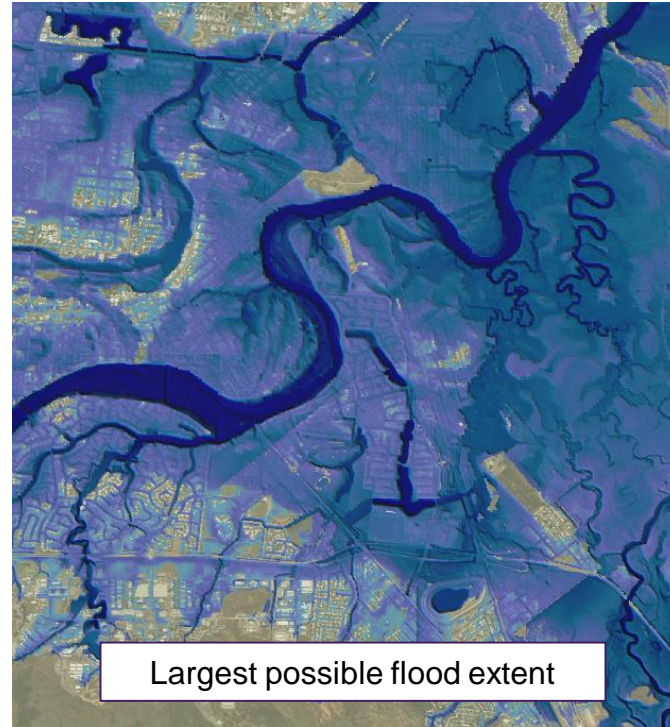
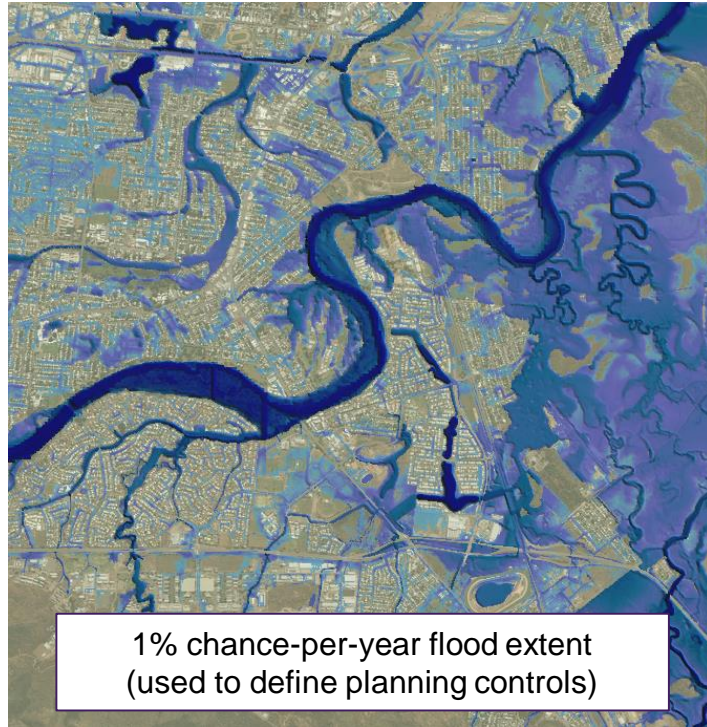


### Collaborative water ingress study



# Planning for a resilient future

Working with government to reflect flood risk



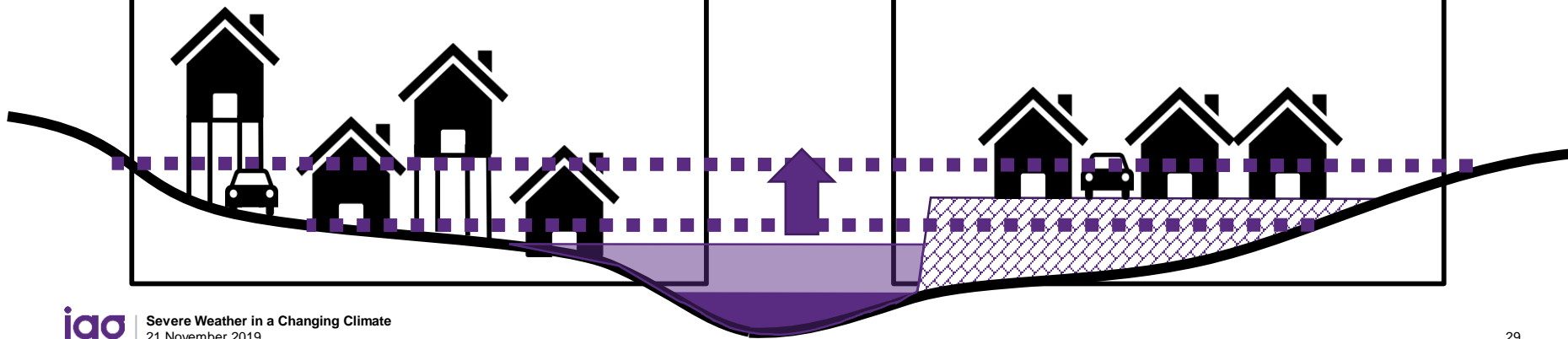
**Townsville  
example**

# Implications for flood planning

## Increased frequency of impacts on new subdivisions

- **Old suburbs** below flood planning level
- Built 1940-2000s
- Mix of high- and low-set homes
- Often resilient construction / materials
- High awareness of risk

- **New subdivisions** filled to minimum flood planning level
- Built 2003-2019
- Mostly slab-on-grade
- Low awareness of risk



# Property-level peril risk assessment

Stepped approach to changing risk, starting with science

## Scientific review



## Change in weather extremes

- Storm surge frequency/intensity
- Sea level rise
- East Coast Low frequency
- Rainfall annual maxima
- Rainfall 20-year intensity
- Rainfall footprint area
- Hail frequency >2.5cm
- Bushfire danger index
- Cyclone wind speed
- Cyclone latitude
- Cyclone lifespan
- Cyclone proportion cat 4/5
- Cyclone rainfall intensity
- Cyclone frequency
- Cyclone size

## Catastrophe models

- Tropical cyclone
- Bushfire
- Storm / hail / east coast low
- Flood / storm surge

## Property snapshot

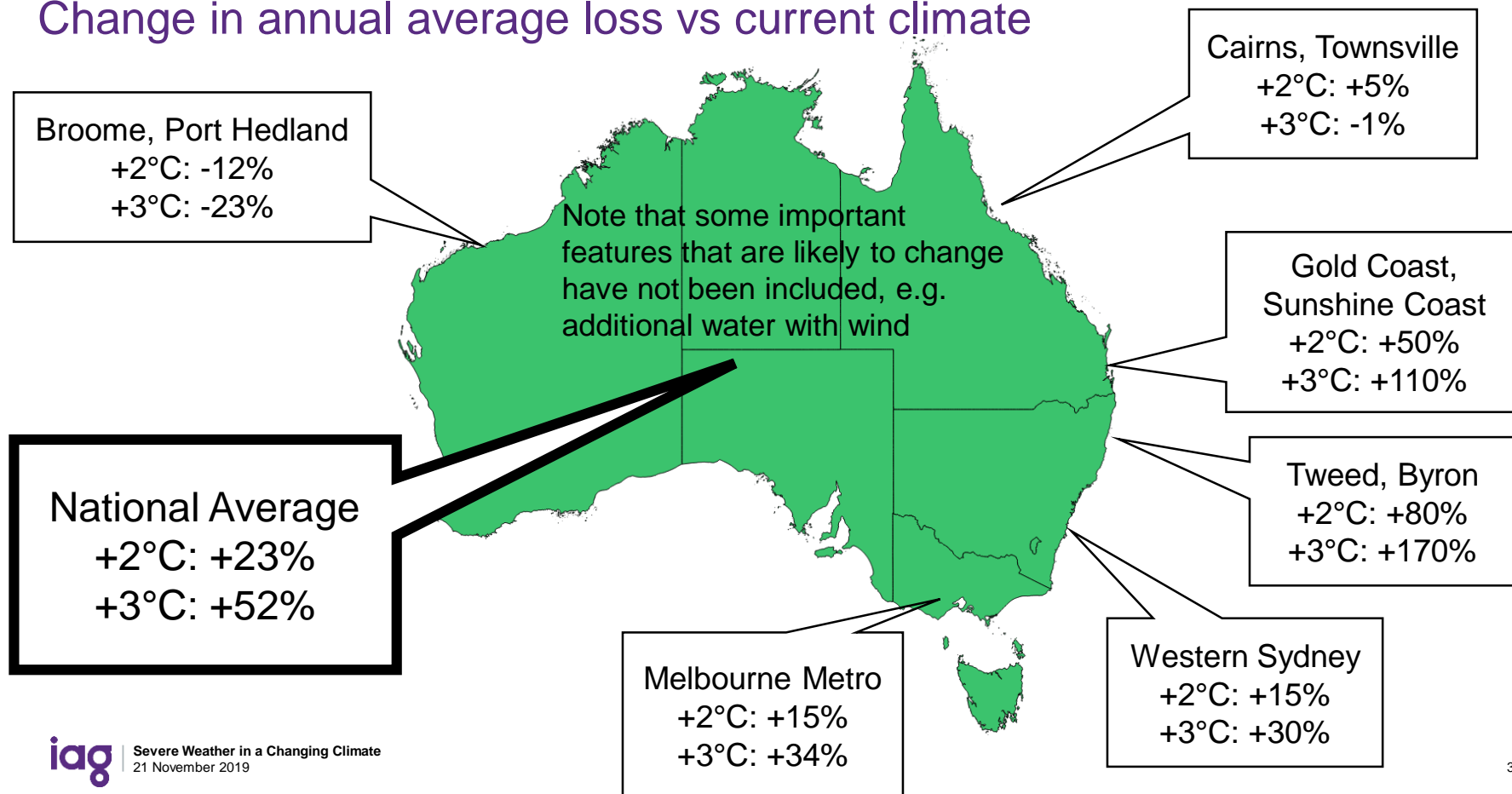
- Domestic property
- Current building stock

## Impact on peril risk

- National
- Community
- Individual property

# Regional variations in climate sensitivity

Change in annual average loss vs current climate





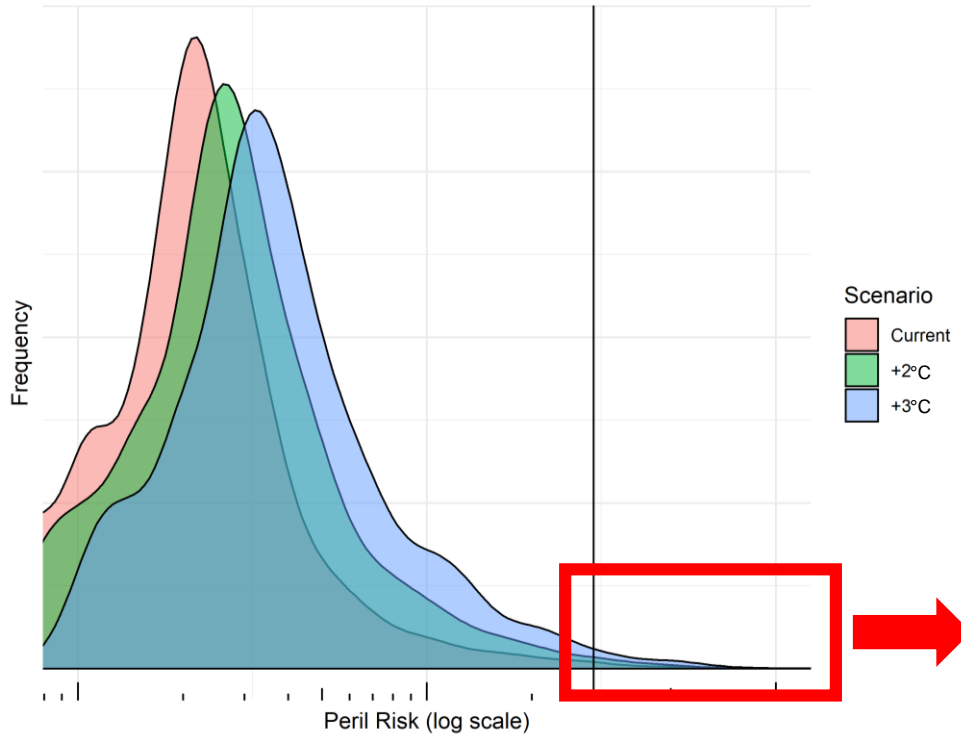
# Regional variations in climate sensitivity

Average annual loss per property: current, +2°C and +3°C scenarios

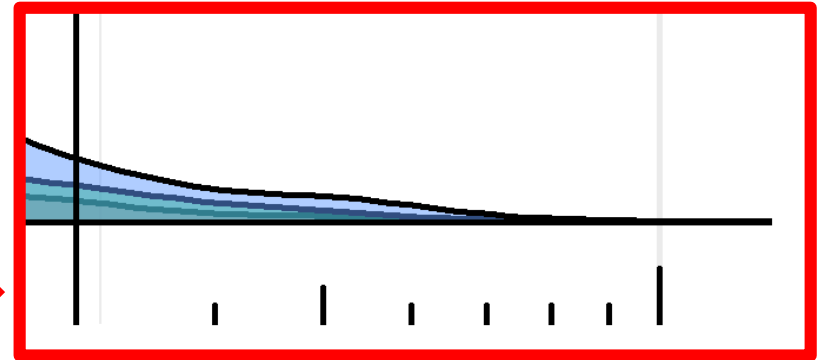


# Sensitivity of extreme risks

## Gold Coast example

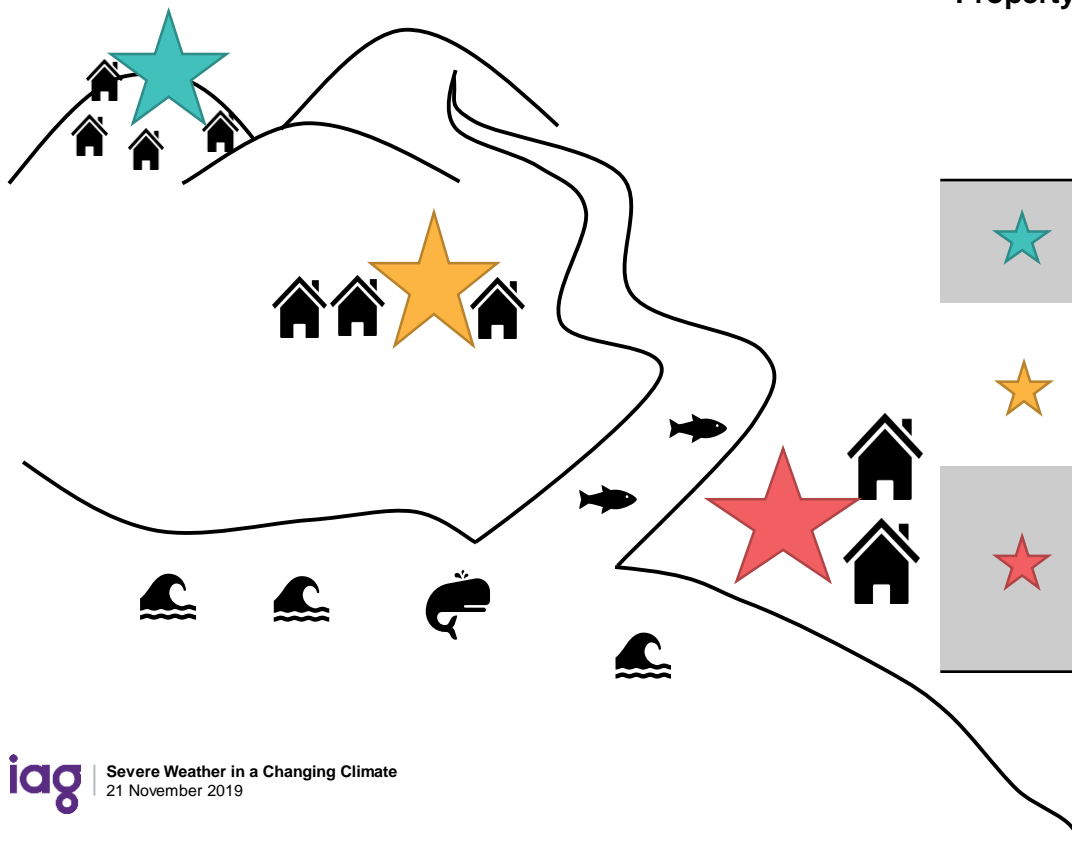


280% increase in properties at extreme risk under +3° scenario



# Variation within regions

## Hyper-local sensitivity



Based on northern NSW

Property	Characteristics	Change in risk (% of average annual loss) +2°C scenario	Change in risk (% of average annual loss) +3°C scenario
★	Not in flood plain or storm surge zones	+33%	+83%
★	Within flood plain not affected by sea level	+50%	+250%
★	Within flood plain and affected by storm surge and sea level rise	+100%	+317%

# Driving risk reduction

## Life cycle of a property





# Driving risk reduction

Ideal life cycle of a property



# Concluding remarks

## Science

- Climate change is here, now, accelerating
- Our current trajectory is alarming
- There is enough knowledge to derive indicative future impacts

## **Different perils, different rates of change, different community sensitivities to peril changes**

- Impacts will be highly skewed, disproportionate – require bespoke solutions
- Significant capacity to adapt for the majority

## **Immediate action required across individuals, communities, business and government**



# Severe Weather in a Changing Climate

Download report on IAG website  
<https://www.iag.com.au/severe-weather-changing-climate>

