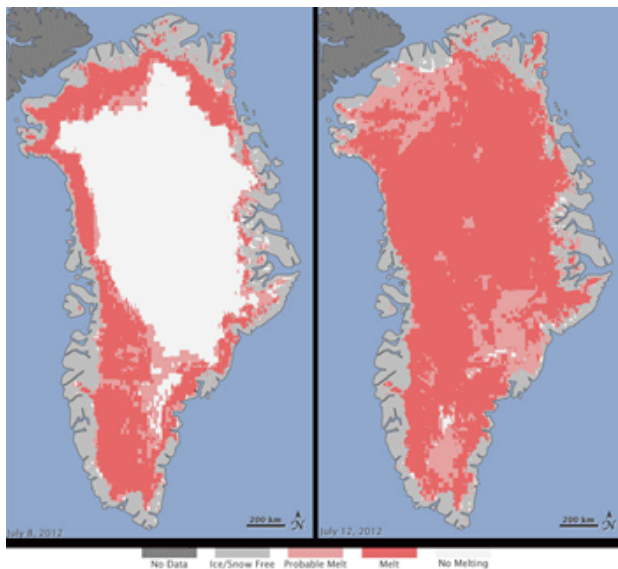


## Climate Commissioners comment on Greenland ice melt

**Two of Australia's Climate Commissioners have warned of the implications of new NASA data showing unprecedented melting on the Greenland ice sheet. On 8 July, 40 per cent of the surface of the ice sheet showed signs of melting. Just four days later, it was 97 per cent.**



Credit: Nicolo DiGirolamo, SSAI/NASA GSFC & Jesse Allen, NASA Earth Observatory

‘This is extremely disturbing,’ said Climate Commissioner Professor Lesley Hughes. ‘This shows that some changes to the earth are happening much faster than any of us previously thought.’

NASA has found that it is easily the largest area of melting recorded over the past 30 years of satellite observations. And it is also the fastest scientists have ever seen. In a normal summer, about half of the surface of the ice sheet starts to melt, this year almost the entire surface is melting.

Nearly the entire ice cover of Greenland, from its thin, low-lying coastal edges to its two-mile-thick center, experienced some degree of melting at its surface, according to measurements from three independent satellites analyzed by NASA and university scientists.

‘Melting and ice discharge from Greenland make significant contributions to the increased rate of sea-level rise that we are now observing,’ says Professor Will Steffen. ‘Observations like this are a clear warning that, by the end of this century, the sea level could well rise by a metre or more compared to 1990.’

‘Even more worrying is that the Greenland ice sheet could reach the point of no return – the point at which we cannot prevent the loss of most or all of the ice sheet – earlier than we thought.’

‘This puts more pressure on the world's largest emitters, such as Australia, to achieve rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if we are to avoid condemning our descendants to several metres of sea-level rise.’

The Australian Government established the [Climate Commission](#) in 2011 to provide an independent, authoritative and trusted source of information on climate change science and solutions.

Source: Climate Commission

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