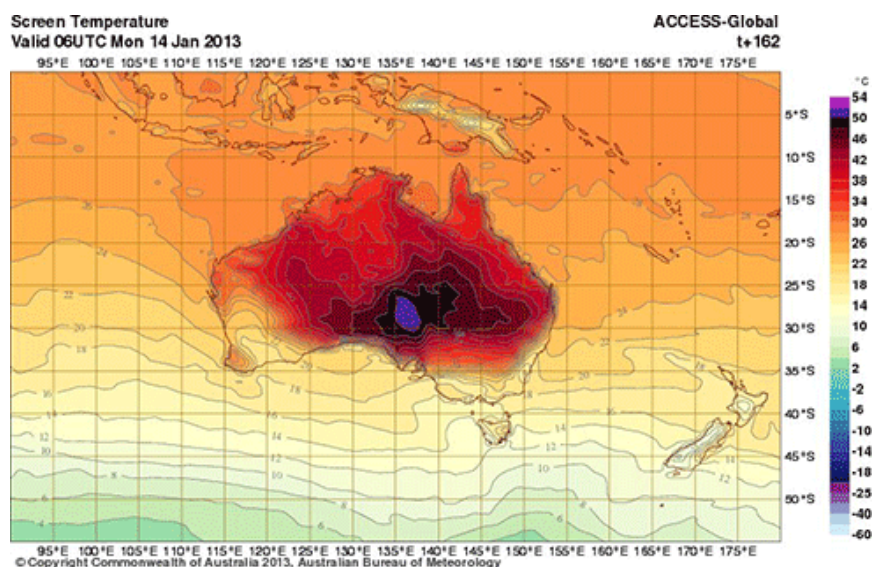


And now, the 2050 weather: warmer, wetter, wilder

Mega-droughts and deadly heatwaves. A year's rainfall in a month. Coastal cities under water. Destruction of ocean life. Invasive pests. Arctic cruises. These are some of the scenarios for 2050 from a series of imaginary, but realistic, reports staged to give us a glimpse of the future's warmer, wetter and wilder weather.



Credit: Bureau of Meteorology

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) invited well-known television presenters from around the globe to prepare a daily weather report for 2050 depicting likely local impacts of global climate change. The year was selected as half-way point to the end of the 21st century, by which time average global temperatures could rise more than 4°C (7.2°F) if greenhouse gas emissions from human activities continue to increase at the current rate.

In the videos, TV weather anchors, often household names, from countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America, present a daily weather report. The reports include dangerously hot temperatures, torrential but erratic rains, relentless drought and flooding from tropical cyclones aggravated by higher sea levels. The impact on marine, plant life and ecosystems is also discussed.

WMO is launching the videos this month to support UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call for government, finance, business, and civil society leaders to agree to ambitious action on climate change at the [UN Climate Summit](#) in New York on 23rd September.

'Climate change is affecting the weather everywhere. It makes it more extreme and disturbs established patterns. That means more disasters; more uncertainty,' said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

According to WMO Secretary-General, Michel Jarraud, the simulated weather reports are potential scenarios 'compatible with the most up-to-date climate science documented by the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report'.

‘They paint a compelling picture of what life could be like on a warmer planet. Climate change is already leading to more extreme weather such as intense heat and rain. The “abnormal” risks becoming the norm. We need to act now.’

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said: ‘ I would like to thank these weathermen and women for volunteering their time and skill to communicate to millions of people the reality we are all facing by 2050 if climate change is left unaddressed. I am sure their films will inspire everyone of the absolute necessity of a meaningful, universal new agreement in Paris in 2015.’

Source: World Meteorological Organization

From ECOS online <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/?paper=EC14207>