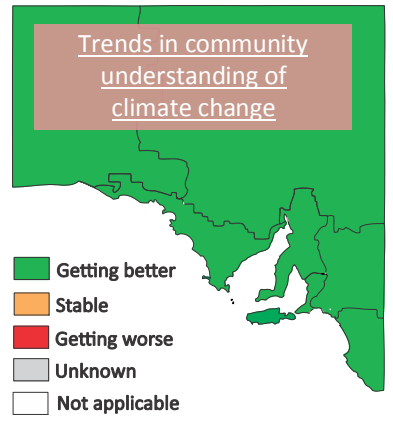


2016 State Report Card

How many South Australians understand the causes and consequences of climate change?

The effects of climate change are already being experienced with average temperatures rising, frequent drought conditions, irregular rainfall, and more extreme climatic events such as heatwaves and flooding. The heatwaves in South Australia in 2013 and 2015 were record breakers. In 2013, temperatures almost reached 50 degrees. The longest December heat wave on record occurred in 2015, with four consecutive days exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. In 2016, Australia experienced its warmest autumn on record and many regions experienced extreme rainfall and flooding in spring. Extreme events like these are predicted to occur more often.

Understanding the impacts of climate change will help the community to prepare for more frequent and severe weather events, which research has established, are being influenced by climate change. Increased community understanding is reflected in the mitigation and adoption strategies by the Government of South Australia, local councils and industries to [reduce carbon emissions](#) and prepare for changing climatic conditions.



State target
 Improve capacity of individuals and community to respond to climate change

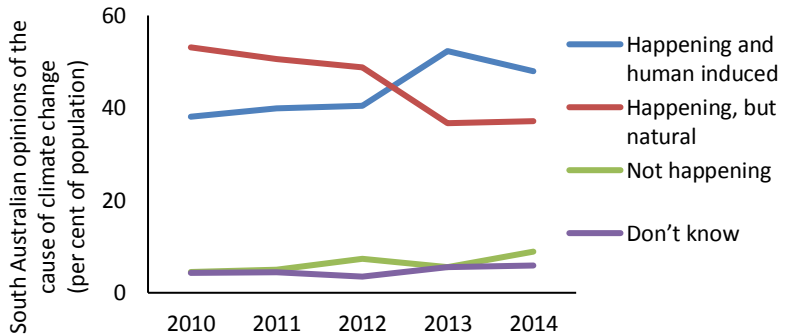
Trend (2010–14)

Getting better

More South Australians understand that climate change is caused by human activities

[CSIRO surveys](#) indicate that about 80 per cent of South Australians think that the climate is changing. Despite the science being widely accepted by most experts that [humans are causing the current climate change](#), community members are split between seeing this as a result of human versus natural causes.

About half of the people in South Australia think climate change is mainly caused by human activities (48 per cent); an increase of 10 per cent since 2010 (graph on right).



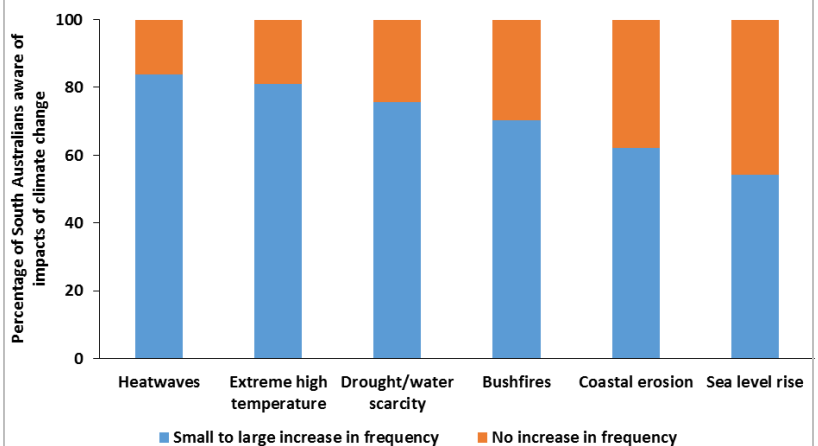
Where we are at (2014)

Fair

About 80 per cent of South Australians think the climate is changing. Only 48 per cent of South Australians believe it is mostly due to human activities.

Community members' perceptions about the causes and consequences of climate change influence their support for climate change policies, and lead to better acceptance of climate change adaptation plans and investments.

The 2014 [CSIRO survey](#) indicated that between 75–84 per cent of South Australians understand that the frequency of heatwaves, extreme temperature and droughts will increase as the climate changes. Between 50–70 per cent of South Australians expect that the frequency of bushfires, coastal erosion and sea level rise will increase as a result of climate change (graph on right). About half of South Australians believe climate change is mostly due to human activities.



Reliability of information



Excellent

Further information : [Technical information for this report card](#), [Australian attitudes to Climate Change](#)

