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## WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?



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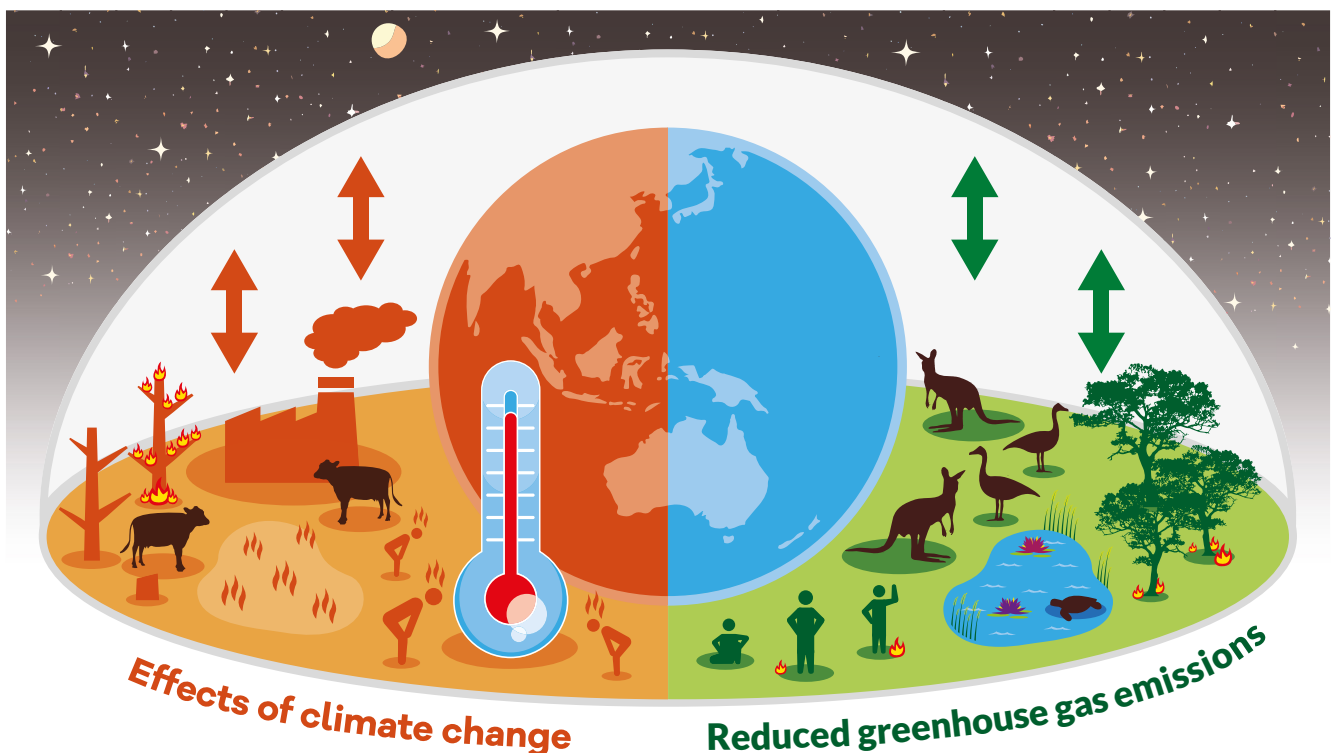
Climate change is about how humans are causing changes to the Earth's climate and making things warmer, which is having a big impact on the health of people and Country. The climate of a place can change naturally but this takes a very long time – over thousands of years. Climate change on the other hand is very fast.

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Climate change is caused by too many polluting greenhouse gases going into the air, including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane. These gases form a blanket around the earth, trapping in the heat. As more pollution goes into the air, this blanket is getting thicker, and the earth is getting warmer, which is why climate change is sometimes referred to as ‘global warming’.

Since the industrial revolution (1870s), people in western countries have been burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, to create electricity for manufacture, transport, and domestic supply. Before long, people all over the world were using fossil fuels and clearing trees and other plants across very large areas of land to make way for agriculture and urban development. Over the past 100 years, with more greenhouse gas pollution and less trees absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, global temperatures have risen on average 1.2°C.

Climate Change Model



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The effects of climate change are different in different locations. Some of the things we are starting to see from climate change include:

- The climate in southern Australia is getting drier;
- In northern Australia, temperatures are getting hotter, and the wet seasons seem shorter or less predictable;
- Rising sea levels, because of the melting of polar ice;
- Increase in ocean temperatures, which is bad for marine life, like coral and is also causing changes in rainfall and seasons; and
- Increasing extreme weather events, like big fire seasons, droughts or floods.

In Australia and internationally, people are trying to slow down changes to the world's climate. The best way to do this is by reducing polluting greenhouse gases going into the air and looking after natural ecosystems, like forests, mangroves, savannas, and sea grass meadows which help to absorb and store carbon dioxide from the air.

## Watch videos:

[Indigenous Desert Alliance Climate Change Story](#)

[NAILSMA Climate Change in North Australia](#)



*Mimal Land Management rangers*

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