



ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

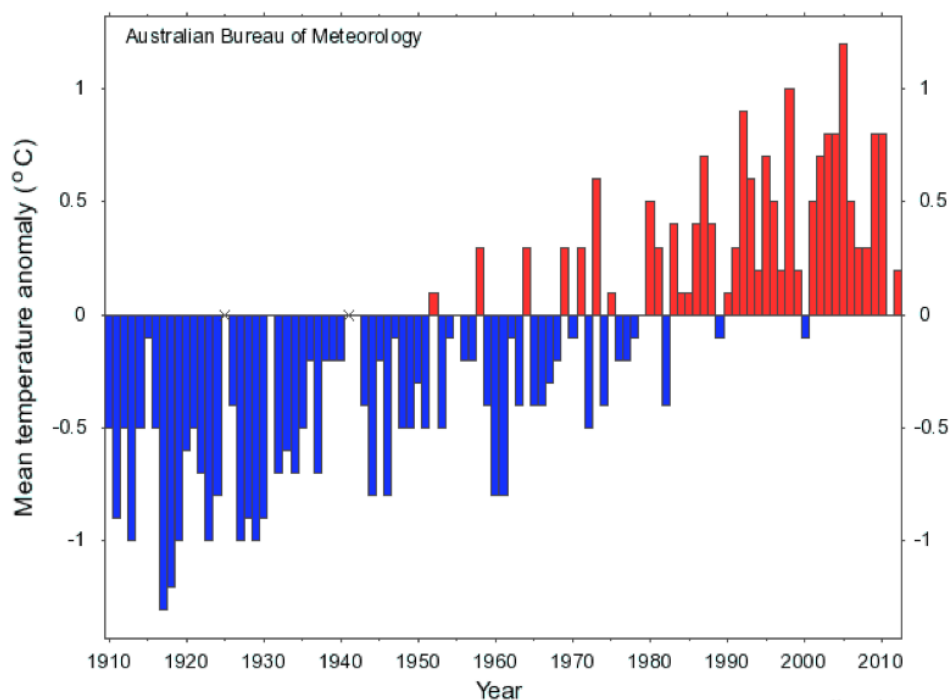
The variability of Australia's climate was well captured in the early 20th century poem written by Dorothea MacKellar.

*I love a sunburnt country, A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea, Her beauty and her terror, The wide brown land for me!*

My Country- Stanza 2 - Dorothea MacKellar 1885-1968 - www.dorotheamackellar.com.au/archive/mycountry.htm

The variability in the Australian climate makes the longer-term changes in the average weather, or climate change, more difficult to perceive. To complicate things climate change will lead to an even more variable climate – accompanied with increased severity in extreme weather events. We need to be prepared for the impact these events will have on communities and the natural environment. Being prepared means implementing actions that will help increase the ability of our communities and the natural environment, to adapt to future changes in climate.

There is a clear trend of increasing temperatures for the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region. The figure below shows that average annual temperature anomalies (or deviation from the average) around Mackay have been on the increase since the 1970's.



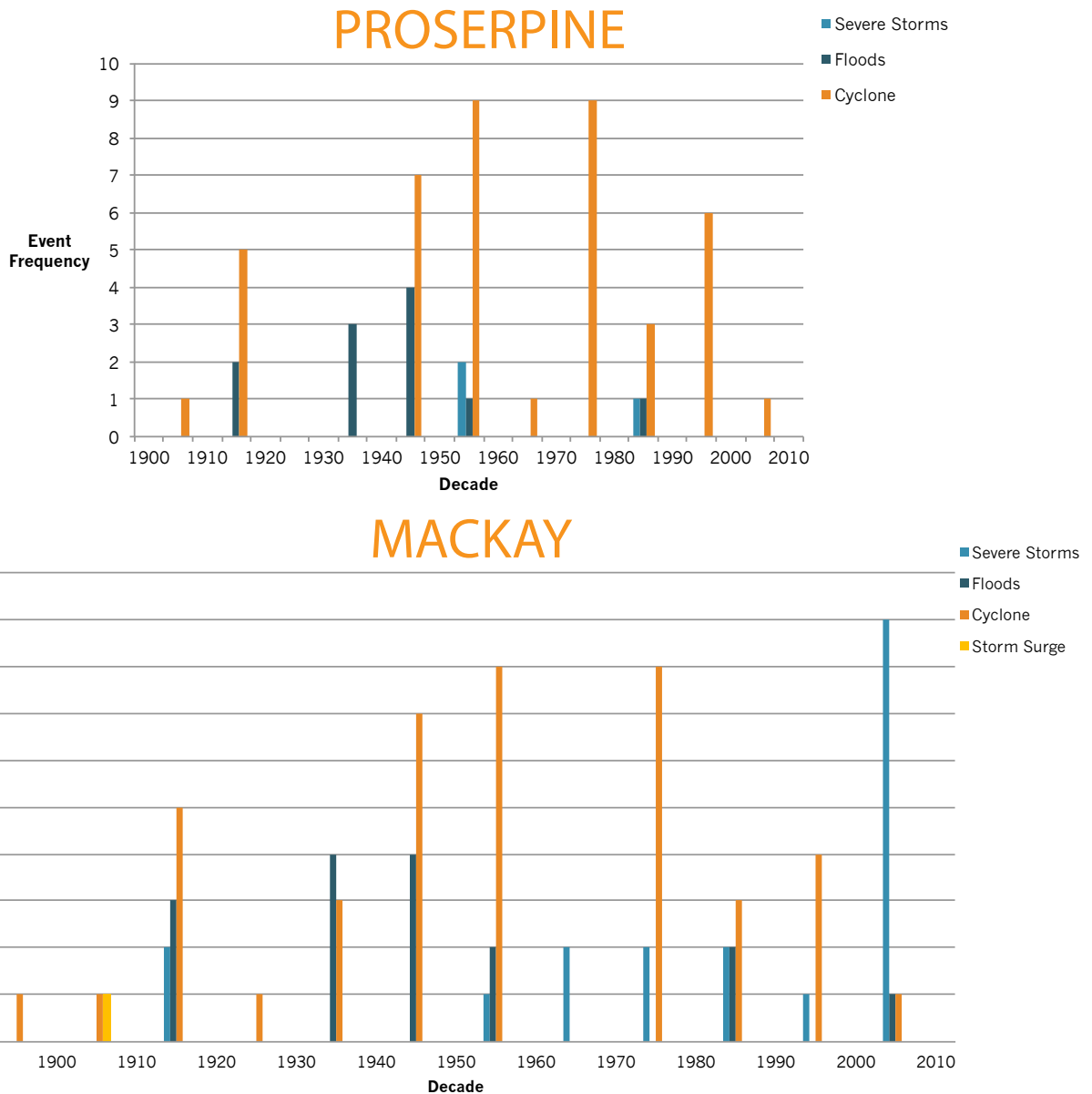
Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/hqsites/> accessed 3 January 2014

CLIMATE CHANGE

REEF CATCHMENTS
MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC

Historical timelines of disaster and extreme weather events have been compiled for Queensland to assist local communities be aware of, plan and be prepared for the risks in their local area (www.hardenup.org). We all need to be aware of these risks associated with living in this environment and what impact climate change will have on these risks.

Below are historical timelines of disaster and extreme weather events for Mackay and Proserpine.



It is critical to manage and where possible mitigate climate change impacts on the natural environment for many reasons. The natural environment supports production of food, clean water supply and other products. It also supports the plants, animals and ecosystems important to us and our tourism industries and a place to live, work and play. Importantly the natural environment plays a major role in storing and capturing carbon, mitigating against extreme weather events and therefore protecting not only our natural assets but also our built infrastructure.

Reef Catchments are in the process of collating information about current and future risks and hazards in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region to update the Natural Resource Management Plan and prepare a Climate Action Plan.

GET INVOLVED AND HELP PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE.

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