

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 122  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Program:** Domestic Emissions Reduction Division (DERD)  
**Topic:** Danger  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:** 2 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Roberts asked:**

Given that CSIRO has disclaimed any use of the term danger in relation to human carbon dioxide and stated that dangerousness is a political prerogative, where did the notion of danger come from? Was it your department or various ministers since 2007?

**Answer:**

The Government accepts the science of climate change and takes its advice on climate change, the risks posed and projections of future impacts primarily from our national science agencies: the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO. The Bureau and CSIRO cooperate with many other scientific and research institutions from around the world.

The advice is that there is overwhelming scientific evidence the climate is changing due to human caused emissions of greenhouse gases. These findings are informed by long term observations of air temperatures, measurements of ocean temperatures, and changes to glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice.

This advice aligns with information provided by respected national and international science organisations. These include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Antarctic Division, the World Meteorological Organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Australian businesses, communities and ecosystems are at risk from the changing climate. These risks are projected to increase in the future. Examples include:

- more intense rainfall, increasing the risk of floods
- increasing ocean acidity affecting marine life, with the potential to adversely affect food security
- rising sea levels, combined with storm surge, causing accelerated erosion and damage to coastal infrastructure
- more frequent and intense heat waves posing risks to the health of the community and in particular people in vulnerable groups.