

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 246
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Current temperature rises
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Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Burston asked:

The BoM attributes current temperature rises to human industrial activity rather than the historical ebb and flow of global warming and cooling as part of the natural phenomenon of climate change. Is it true that the dominant greenhouse effect on the Earth's atmosphere is not carbon dioxide but water vapour?

Answer:

Water vapour is the most abundant greenhouse gas in the Earth's atmosphere. A discussion of greenhouse gases and climate change is summarised in Chapter 3 of the Climate Change in Australia Technical Report, www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/.