

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 257
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Automatic weather station network
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Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

The Bureau is asked to comment on the following, which is the conclusion drawn by Dr Johnston after an exhaustive unfunded investigation of almost 200 individual weather station datasets from across Australia:

Replacement of large standard screens in use in Australia since reliable climate records commenced around 1900, with small screens; and the change from manually observed data and well maintained sites; to automatic weather stations left largely to their own devices has been a disaster for Australian meteorology. Small screens and sensitive probes; combined with poorly exposed inconsistent sites, which are not well maintained, result in temperature trends, extremes and trends in extremes that have nothing to do with the climate.

Answer:

The Bureau of Meteorology's methodology for detecting and adjusting artificial biases is published in the scientific literature and can be found on the ACORN-SAT website, www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/acorn-sat/.