

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 258
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Homogenisation
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Question Date: 27 February 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

If the history of sites is poorly known (or ignored); or if changes in data for individual sites are not investigated thoroughly; or if changepoints are imposed that don't align with actual data-changes; regardless of how homogenisation is done the process will result in spurious outcomes. How is it possible that climate scientists who homogenised data for Sydney Observatory did not discover that the site move in about 1948; the Cahill Expressway's opening in 1958; a wall built adjacent to the Stevenson screens in about 1972/3; or that replacement of the large screen in situ in 2000 affected temperature trends, extremes and trends in extremes?

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/.