

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

**Question No:** 189  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Bureau of Meteorology  
**Topic:** Climate data and daily weather records  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Please explain the difference - if any - between climate data and daily weather records, and the difference - if any - in the processes for gathering and analysing that data.

**Answer:**

Climate data is a generic name given to past weather (atmosphere), ocean, land surface and cryosphere (ice) data. As an example, the daily weather data from yesterday forms part of the Australian climate data record. In this context, daily weather records are simply a subset of the climate data and so processes for gathering these are the same.

When one seeks to understand climate variations and changes over time, data are often adjusted to remove the influences of non-climatic factors like site or instrument changes.

The Bureau makes all of its digital daily weather and climate data available to all Australians free of charge on its website at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/> or, when data volumes are large, on a cost recovery basis.