

Title:	More extreme weather expected as atmosphere continues to heat up
First Broadcast:	January 2021
Source:	ABC's 7.30 Report
Minutes:	5:07
Video & Script:	https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/more-extreme-weather-expected-as-atmosphere/13100714
Summary:	A new report details how Australia can expect more frequent extreme weather unless drastic steps are not taken to reduce global carbon emissions.

KEY WORDS

Below is a list of words which appear in the report - can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.

almost, effectively	
exclude, to not consider something as a possibility	
have a strong effect, extreme	
in danger, susceptible, at risk	
seeming reasonable or probable	
situation, description of what could happen	
the future of something	
transform, change from one form or use to another	
unusual, extraordinary	
very serious or worrying, depressing	
wearing away, gradual destruction of something	

grim reading (adj)
remarkable (adj)
coastal erosion (n)
vulnerable to extreme weather (adj)
drastic steps (adj)
virtually impossible (adv)
convert (v)
plausible to say (adj)
scenario (n)
could not be ruled out (v)
depressing outlook (n)

SUMMARY

A new report details how Australia can expect more frequent extreme weather unless drastic steps are not taken to reduce global carbon emissions.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What is extreme weather? What are some examples?
- Why is the frequency of extreme weather events in Australia increasing? Which ones are increasing? Why is Australia more vulnerable to extreme weather events?
- Professor Will Steffen, the lead author of the report and a former Federal Government climate advisor, says Australia must take drastic steps and faster. What are these steps?
- What is the Paris Agreement? What are its targets?
- What do you think living in Australia would be like if average temperatures increased by 3 degrees?
- Will Steffen says that if temperatures did increase by 3 degrees, a collapse scenario could not be ruled out. What does he mean?

LISTENING

After watching the report, try to answer the following questions

1. On January 4 last year, Penrith, a suburb in Sydney's west, was officially the _____ on earth.
 2. And only four weeks later, the city received more rain in _____ than in the previous six months.
 3. Over the last decade, damage from extreme weather events in Australia has cost _____.
 4. Last summer's fires burned more than _____ of the country's forests.
 5. Will Steffen believes it is pretty much impossible to hold temperature rise to the lower Paris target of _____.
 6. Australia's targets at the moment are a 26 to 28 per cent decrease in emissions on 2005 levels by _____.
 7. Will Steffen believes Australia needs to reduce its emissions by at least _____.
 8. For 2020, COVID has meant that emissions fell by around _____.
- According to Will Steffen, the Government's so-called gas-led recovery is a good plan. **T / F**
 - What does he say it will be like for Australia if temperatures were 3-degrees higher than they are now? **Pretty** _____
 - What Australian natural wonder does he say would be lost?

CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

The form of the word may need to be changed

grim	remarkable	erosion	vulnerable	drastic	virtually
convert	plausible	scenario	rule out	outlook	

1. Australia's mountains are not very high compared to Europe's and Asia's tallest peaks because they have been for a longer period of time.
2. Due to the government's huge debt and shrinking revenue, the prime minister decided to introduce spending cuts in its next budget.
3. Observers said there was no chance the government would win the next election.
4. Small island nations are the most to the impacts of rising sea levels.
5. The athlete's 12 gold medals at the last three Olympics is a achievement.
6. The government said the economic for the next 12 wasn't great because of the impact of bushfires and now the coronavirus.
7. The prime minister said he would not financial assistance for business owners who had been affected by COVID-19 lockdowns.
8. The scientist said global temperatures were expected to rise at least 1 degree Celsius by 2040. But in the worst-case, the increase could be as high as 2 degrees Celsius.
9. There was more news for Italy with another thousand deaths from COVID-19 recorded overnight.
10. Wind power involves wind energy into electricity by using wind turbines.
11. With advances in rocket technology, it now seems that in the near future people will be living on Mars.

ANSWER KEY

1. hottest place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F • frightening • The Great Barrier Reef
2. four days	
3. \$35 billion	
4. 20 per cent	
5. 1.5	
6. 2030	
7. 50 per cent	
8. 6 per cent	

almost, effectively	virtually
exclude, to not consider something as a possibility	rule out
have a strong effect, extreme	drastic
in danger, susceptible, at risk	vulnerable
seeming reasonable or probable	plausible
situation, description of what could happen	scenario
the future of something	outlook
transform, change from one form or use to another	convert
unusual, extraordinary	remarkable
very serious or worrying, depressing	grim
wearing away, gradual destruction of something	erosion

1. Australia's mountains are not very high compared to Europe's and Asia's tallest peaks because they have been **eroding** for a longer period of time.
2. Due to the government's huge debt and shrinking revenue, the prime minister decided to introduce **drastic** spending cuts in its next budget.
3. Observers said there was **virtually** no chance the government would win the next election.
4. Small island nations are the most **vulnerable** to the impacts of rising sea levels.
5. The athlete's 12 gold medals at the last three Olympics is a **remarkable** achievement.
6. The government said the economic **outlook** for the next 12 wasn't great because of the impact of bushfires and now the coronavirus.
7. The prime minister said he would not **rule out** financial assistance for business owners who had been affected by COVID-19 lockdowns.
8. The scientist said global temperatures were expected to rise at least 1 degree Celsius by 2040. But in the worst-case **scenario**, the increase could be as high as 2 degrees Celsius.
9. There was more **grim** news for Italy with another thousand deaths from COVID-19 recorded overnight.
10. Wind power involves **converting** wind energy into electricity by using wind turbines.
11. With advances in rocket technology, it now seems **plausible** that in the near future people will be living on Mars.