

Climate Change



CSIRO have done considerable work on applying global climate change projections to the Australian context. Their latest research on climate change projections for Australia can be found at <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/>.

The Benalla Rural City is situated in the "Southern Australia" supercluster in regard to climate change predictions. The cluster is relatively dry and temperate, with a warm and dry grassland climate in the north-west ranging to temperate with hot summers further east.

The Southern Australia supercluster is divided into sub-clusters. The Benalla Rural City is located in the Murray Basin sub-cluster which comprises of regions across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The cluster extends from the flatlands of inland New South Wales to the Great Dividing Range along the southern and eastern boundaries.

It is with some certainty that the climate is southern Australia and in the Murray Basin is changing and will continue to change.

The key messages from CSIRO are as follows:

- Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons (very high confidence).
- More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence. Fewer frosts are projected with high confidence.
- By late in the century, less rainfall is projected during the cool season, with high confidence. There is medium confidence that rainfall will remain unchanged in the warm season.
- Even though mean annual rainfall is projected to decline, heavy rainfall intensity is projected to increase, with high confidence.
- A harsher fire-weather climate in the future (high confidence).

Specifically the Benalla Rural City has been getting warmer and drier and will continue in this way in the future. It is likely that there will be more hot days and warm spells, fewer frosts, less rainfall in autumn, winter and spring, less snow, more frequent and intense downpours, harsher fire weather and longer fire seasons.

