



In reply please quote

DIR 15 0172

PDR: MC15-007521

Mr Anthony Cox
akcsj@optusnet.com.au

Dear Mr Cox,

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2015, to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, concerning the Bureau of Meteorology and historic temperature records. Your email has been forwarded to me for reply.

The Bureau gathers and maintains the national climate record for Australia. The processes and methodologies for this are well documented and publicly available on the Bureau's website, including a discussion on the reasons for exclusion of pre-1910 records at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/acorn-sat/#tabs=Early-data.

Further, in August 2011 a panel of world-leading experts convened in Melbourne to examine the methods used to analyse the Bureau's temperature data. They ranked the Bureau's procedures and data analysis as amongst the best in the world.

Data from the weather station at Nobby's Head in New South Wales, is excluded from ACORN-SAT due to a lack of sufficient digitised daily data prior to 1957. Digitisation of this data will be performed as resources allow, and will then be considered for inclusion in the ACORN-SAT dataset.

On 19 January 2015, the Parliamentary Secretary announced the appointment of independent members to a Technical Advisory Forum to be established to oversee and monitor the development and operation of the ACORN-SAT dataset. These members are leading scientists and statisticians and they will examine and provide comment on:

- the extent of the public availability of the ACORN-SAT information;
- developments since the 2011 Independent Peer Review of ACORN-SAT data and methods; and
- the scientific integrity and robustness of the Australian climate record and the data homogenisation process.

I note your comments in relation to the Forum and assure you the outcomes will be released publicly.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Rob Vertesy'.

DR ROB VERTESSY
Director of Meteorology and CEO
25 February 2015