



The Hon Bob Baldwin

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment
Federal Member for Paterson

MEDIA RELEASE

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Members of the Technical Advisory Forum on climate records announced

As recommended by an independent peer review, we are establishing a Technical Advisory Forum comprised of leading scientists and statisticians to review and provide advice on Australia's official temperature data set. The Technical Advisory Forum will meet in March.

The Bureau of Meteorology is responsible for the climate record, as a trusted and respected organisation, and welcomes robust assessment of its work in order to maintain the highest levels of public confidence.

The establishment of this Forum will provide an independent framework for quality assurance tests and analysis of the Bureau's data sets for greater transparency.

The Bureau's climate information services were subject to a rigorous independent peer-review in 2011. The Review was conducted by a panel of international experts and found the Bureau's data and analysis methods met world's best practice.

The Bureau's methods and processes are published on its website, in addition to the findings of the 2011 Review.

An important recommendation of this review was that a Technical Advisory Group should be established "in order to review progress on the development and operation of the ACORN-SAT data-set."

The establishment of this forum is in line with this recommendation in the Report of the Independent Peer Review of ACORN-SAT data-sets.

The Australian Climate Observations Reference Network – Surface Air Temperature (ACORN-SAT) dataset is an important part of Australia's official climate record. It has been developed for monitoring climate variability and change in Australia and is held by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The members of the Technical Advisory Forum are:

Dr Ron Sandland AM FTSE	Forum Chair
Emeritus Professor Bob Vincent FAA	Forum Vice Chair
Dr Phillip Gould	Forum Member
Dr John Henstridge	Forum Member
Ms Susan Linacre	Forum Member
Professor Michael Martin PFHEA	Forum Member
Professor Patty Solomon	Forum Member
Professor Terry Speed FAA	Forum Member

(ENDS)

ACORN-SAT Technical Advisory Forum Member Biographies

Dr Ron Sandland AM FTSE (Chair)

Dr Sandland holds a PhD in statistics from the University of New South Wales. His research interests concerned applying statistics to solve challenging real problems in areas as diverse as growth of organisms, analysis of mark-recapture experiments, ore-reserve estimation and quality improvement.

He was appointed the Deputy Chief Executive for CSIRO in 1999 and led the Flagship Initiative. This involved six major cross-disciplinary research programs and was aimed at addressing problems of a national priority.

He is an Honorary Life Member of the Statistical society of Australia and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), and was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2007.

Emeritus Professor Bob Vincent FAA (Vice Chair)

Robert Vincent is Emeritus Professor in the School of Chemistry and Physics at the University of Adelaide. His major expertise is in the area of the atmospheric sciences, with a background in experimental studies of atmospheric processes, including the development of radar hardware, software and data analysis techniques.

He has served on international and national panels covering Antarctic research and solar-terrestrial physics. His professional standing is recognised by election to the Australian Academy of Science, election as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and as President of the International Council for Science/Scientific Committee for Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) from 2007–2011.

Dr Phillip Gould

Dr Gould holds a PhD from Monash University specialising in time series econometrics. He is currently managing the Education and Data Integration Branch within the Australian Bureau of Statistics and has also worked there as a methodologist, managing a team which delivers high quality analytical work for the ABS and external clients. Prior to joining the ABS Dr Gould worked in banking and finance, with a focus on econometric modelling of time series data.

Dr John Henstridge CStat, AStat, AFAIM, QPMR, FAA

Dr Henstridge holds a PhD from the Australian National University and is adjunct professor at the University of Western Australia. In 1988, he founded Data Analysis Australia which is now the largest private statistical organisation in Australia.

He is a Fellow and Chartered Statistician of the Royal Statistical Society and an Accredited Statistician of the Statistical Society of Australia. He has served as President of both the Statistical Society of Australia's Western Australian branch and of the Geostatistical Association of Australasia and is currently National President of the Statistical Society of Australia.

Ms Susan Linacre

Ms Linacre holds a first class honours degree in Statistics and an Economics degree, both from the Australian National University.

She has spent most of her career at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, where she held a number of senior roles including Deputy Australian Statistician (Social Statistics Group) and First Assistant

Statistician (Methodology Division). Ms Linacre has also worked in the UK as head of the Directorate of Methodology and IT in the Office for National Statistics. She is a member of the International Statistical Institute and past President of the International Association of Survey Statisticians.

Professor Michael Martin PFHEA

Professor Martin holds a PhD from the Australian National University where he is currently Professor of Statistics in the Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies and Applied Statistics and the Centre for Higher Education, Learning & Teaching.

His research interests are applied statistics, statistical theory, statistical education and environmental and occupational health and safety. He also has been deeply involved in the teaching of statistics and has won a number of awards for teaching excellence. He is currently co-chair of the Statistical Education section of the Statistical Society of Australia and is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Professor Patty Solomon

Professor Solomon is Professor of Statistical Bioinformatics at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests include Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, Statistical data mining, Clinical trials and Epidemiology. She has over 100 publications and has been funded by the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Professor Solomon is an elected Member of the International Statistical Institute and is a member of the American Statistical Association, International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, Statistical Society of Australia and the Australian Mathematical Society.

Professor Terry Speed FAA

Professor Terry Speed holds a PhD from Monash University and is the Professor of Bioinformatics, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

He is currently laboratory head in the Bioinformatics division at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, in Melbourne, and was head of the division until 31 August 2014. His research interests include: include the statistical and bioinformatic analysis of microarray, DNA sequence and mass spectrometry data from genetics, genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics.

He has served as President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and has been awarded a number of prizes including the Pitman medal in 2002 and the Prime Minister's Prize for Science in 2013.