



Climate analogues: a way to experience the future (climate)

17 April 2018, 2.30–3.30 pm (AEST)

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Understanding how projections of future climate will affect your town or an area of interest is often hard to imagine, understand and therefore plan for. If climate projections show that your area of interest will be hotter and drier or wetter and hotter, what does this really look and feel like?

Locating areas where the current climate is similar to the projected future climate of a place of interest (a ‘climate analogue’) is a simple method for visualising and communicating the impact of projected changes and can be helpful when starting to consider adaptation strategies to a changing climate.

The [Climate Analogues tool](#) within the [Climate Change in Australia](#) website matches projected future rainfall and temperature for a location of interest with the current climate experienced at another location. In this way the tool can be used to explore plausible future climates under a range of different scenarios. Initially showing towns that match in a broad sense, the tool can be tuned to refine the results to take account of season-specific projections and seasonal patterns. The analogues approach provides an ‘experiential’ way to understand future climate. When the tool shows an analogue town, the user will usually have at least some understanding of what it would be like to live in that town. In this way, users can mentally experience the future climate of their own town.

The Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub is supporting the long-term sustainability of the Climate Change in Australia website and its various tools, including the Climate Analogues tool. Researchers from the Hub are ensuring climate change projections information and data are communicated effectively to a wide range of stakeholders including other researchers, businesses, governments and local planners and managers. The Climate Analogues tool is useful as a climate change ‘conversation starter’ or as the first step in a detailed analysis of the impacts of the changing climate.

In this webinar John Clarke will provide a demonstration of how to use the Climate Analogues tool and tailor the results to meet individual needs. A brief introduction to the Climate Change in Australia website will also be provided.



Mr John Clarke leads the Outreach Component of the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub Project 2.6 *Regional climate projection science, information and services*. He has close to a decade of experience developing and delivering climate projections tailored to the needs of practitioners and researchers in the climate impacts and adaptation field. John and the Regional Projections Team previously led the development of the Climate Change in Australia website and its 14 web-tools, including the Climate Analogues tool.

The Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub science webinars are open to the research community and anyone interested in finding out more about the Hub’s research (noting that the content may assume some understanding of climate change science and the fields being discussed).