

Response to the 'National Environmental Science Program Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub science and services: Assessment of current capability and future directions'

In September 2017, the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub commissioned an assessment of the current Australian capability and future directions for Earth systems and climate change science and services in Australia (Hub Project 1.1). The aim of the assessment was to inform the development of the Hub's long-term research delivery.

The specific objective was to undertake an assessment of current Australian research and outreach capability and future directions, with an emphasis on how the Hub's key partners can best respond to target stakeholder gaps, needs and associated national priorities. The assessment also addressed outcomes and recommendations covered in the [Australian Climate Science Capability Review](#), and facilitated further consideration around strategic priorities and approaches for supporting coordination and delivery of Earth systems and climate change research for Australia.

The assessment was prepared by [Scientell](#) and the final report and publicly available Executive Summary was delivered in December 2017. This summary includes ten key findings as well as an overall assessment, with extracts below:

The Hub does excellent work and will benefit from increased communication and stakeholder engagement. Provision of tailored information and services to clients, especially downscaled climate change information connected to impacts, represents a fertile area for the future. Additionally, the Hub is well placed to help in much needed coordination of the national climate change science effort.

In the climate change services area, the Hub can identify and focus on a discrete number of products and build trust with clients to get these adopted, paving the pathways to impact.

The Hub communicates well, but needs to do more – to help with national decision making, application of research for practical use and the realisation by funders that the Hub represents a genuine investment for the nation.

The Hub is assisting with coordination of the national climate change science effort through its membership of the [National Climate Science Advisory Committee](#) and input to the preparation of the draft national climate science strategy. The Hub has also been working closely with all Hub partners in the climate change services area.

This assessment by Scientell was very helpful to the Hub in improving its knowledge exchange and communication activities with next users and end users. However the Hub recognises that to optimise available resources it needs to target a focused group of end users across a range of different sectors. This approach will be reflected in the Hub's Research Plan Version 5 in 2019 and beyond.

The Hub accepts all the findings from the assessment and has used them to enhance its communication and stakeholder engagement activities in its Research Plan version 4 in 2018 and to plan its research and path to impact in future Research Plans during 2019 and 2020.

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