



**Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham**

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment**

**Senator for South Australia**

MC14-19718

Mr Malcolm Roberts  
Conscious Pty Ltd  
malcolmiroberts@icloud.com

**1 8 DEC 2014**

Dear Mr Roberts

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2014 concerning the Bureau of Meteorology and historic temperature records. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

As you outline in your email, there have been recent claims about the way the Bureau compiles assessments in relation to Australia's climate, particularly in relation to the accuracy of its meteorological measurements using the Australian Climate Observations Reference Network – Surface Air Temperature (ACORN-SAT) data-set.

Australia's climate record and the methodologies used for analysis and maintenance were independently reviewed by international experts in 2011 to ensure quality assurance, transparency and communication. The review concluded that the Bureau's data and methods for climate analysis were among the best in the world.

The review also recommended that a technical advisory forum be established to oversee and monitor the development and operation of the ACORN-SAT data-set. I have asked that the process for appointing independent members to the forum be completed by the end of this year. The forum will be composed of respected scientists and statisticians and have the independence recommended by the peer review.

The Bureau has provided explanations addressing recent media claims about the methodologies it uses in the statements, which can be accessed from its website via the following links:

- [www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media\\_releases/ho/20140827.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media_releases/ho/20140827.shtml)
- [www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media\\_releases/ho/20140905.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media_releases/ho/20140905.shtml)

The Bureau has also released several factsheets that explain, using real examples, the process and impacts of homogenisation at individual monitoring sites. These summaries can be accessed from its website via this link: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/acorn-sat/#tabs=Adjustments](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/acorn-sat/#tabs=Adjustments).

I welcome the establishment of the forum, which will monitor the Bureau's methodologies to ensure confidence in the accuracy of information on Australia's weather and climate. The outcomes of the forum will be released publicly.

Regarding anthropogenic climate change, the Bureau advises me it previously provided references to publicly available information to you in a response to the Freedom of Information request you mention in your email.

Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Birmingham', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Simon Birmingham