

## Chair's Communiqué

### Technical Advisory Forum meets for the final time to review progress on climate record management

The Technical Advisory Forum held its third and final annual meeting today to advise the Bureau of Meteorology on the Australian Climate Observations Reference Network – Surface Air Temperature (ACORN-SAT) dataset—a key component of Australia's official climate record. The ACORN-SAT dataset is the record of daily temperatures from locations around Australia from 1910 to the present. It is maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Australian Government appointed the Forum as an independent advisory body in 2015. Over the past three years the Forum has undertaken a comprehensive review of the ACORN-SAT dataset. We have considered a broad range of information and data relevant to the management and development of the ACORN-SAT dataset. As outlined in our two previous annual reports which are available on the Bureau's website, we have found the dataset is well maintained, and is an important part of Australia's climate record. We have no reason to question the accuracy of the dataset.

The Forum has made a series of recommendations to support and inform the Bureau's approach to continuously improve the ACORN-SAT dataset. Today's discussions were productive. The Forum reviewed the Bureau's progress against our recommendations, and discussed how oversight of these recommendations could continue following the conclusion of the Forum this year. Further details, along with any final recommendations, will be outlined in our 2017 annual report.

The Forum would like to thank the commitment from the Bureau to the Forum process. In particular, we thank them for their generosity with time and expertise in answering the Forum's questions today. The Forum would also like to thank the Department of the Environment and Energy for managing the Forum's membership and assisting the Chair for the past three years.

I would personally like to thank the experts, who make up the Forum, for their excellent engagement over the past three years. Their contributions will help to inform the Bureau's ongoing dataset management and analyses practices.

The Forum will deliver its third and final annual report mid-2017.

Dr Ronald Sandland AM FTSE  
Chair of the ACORN-SAT Technical Advisory Forum  
**15 May 2017**