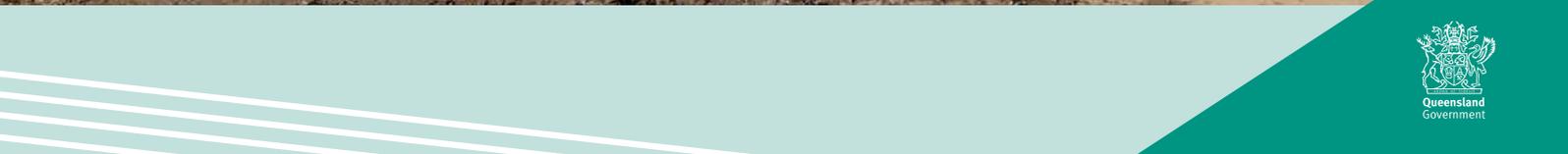




Glossary | 36



Glossary

Term/acronym	Description
Adaptation	The steps governments, businesses, communities and individuals take to deal with risks from climate change impacts.
Adaptive capacity	The ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
Anthropogenic climate change	Any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for several decades or longer, including changes in temperature, precipitation or wind patterns. Historically, the Earth's climate has changed over time, but there is strong scientific consensus that the recent observed changes, over the past 50 years or so, have been primarily caused by human activities.
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
Climate	Relates to the average weather over a period of months, or over thousands or millions of years.
Climate change mitigation	Includes actions taken globally, nationally and individually to limit changes in the global climate caused by human activities. Mitigation activities are designed to reduce greenhouse emissions or increase the amount of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
Climate change projections	The simulated response of the climate system to a scenario of future emission or concentration of GHGs and aerosols, generally derived using climate models.
Climate change vulnerability	The degree to which a system or group is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a result of the type, magnitude and rate of climate variation to which a system or group is exposed, its sensitivity, and its ability to adapt.
Climate legal risk	The risk of exposure to legal action that accompanies a decision that relates to climate change impacts. It encompasses the elements of factual and legal uncertainty, and specifically concerns the risk arising from legal duties and obligations as they relate to the impacts of climate change.



Term/acronym	Description
Climate risk	The potential for adverse consequences on lives, livelihoods, health, ecosystems and species, economic, social and cultural assets, services (including environmental services) and infrastructure.
Community resilience	The ongoing and developing capacity of the community to account for its vulnerabilities and develop capabilities that aid that community in preventing, withstanding and mitigating the stress of a natural disaster event; recovering in a way that restores the community to a state of self-sufficiency and at least the same level of functioning after a natural disaster event; and using knowledge from a past response to strengthen the community's ability to withstand the next disaster event.
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DDMP	District Disaster Management Plan
DES	Department of Environment and Science
Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.
Disaster management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.
Disaster resilience	A system or community's ability to rapidly accommodate and recover from the impacts of hazards, restore essential structures and desired functionality, and adapt to new circumstances.
Downscaling	In relation to climate data, a strategy for generating locally or regionally (10 to 100 km) scaled data from larger global circulation models.
El Niño	The warming of the oceans in the equatorial eastern and central Pacific. Over much of Australia, El Niño brings drought. See also El Niño Southern Oscillation below.

Term/acronym	Description
El Niño-Southern Oscillation	Refers to widespread 2- to 7-year oscillations in atmospheric pressure, ocean temperatures and rainfall associated with El Niño and its opposite, La Niña. It is a basin-wide warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean east of the dateline, associated with the fluctuation of a global-scale tropical and subtropical surface pressure pattern, the Southern Oscillation.
EMAF	Emergency Management Assurance Framework
Emergency management sector	Includes any organisation (government or non-government) that contributes to emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and operates within Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements.
EM-SAP	Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan
General circulation model (GCM)	A numerical model that represents physical processes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and land surface, used for simulating the response of the global climate system to increasing greenhouse gas concentrations. Also known as a global climate model.
GHG	Green House Gases
Hazard	In the context of climate change, any potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event that may cause damage to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, environmental resources etc.
Heatwave	Three or more days of unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures in any area.
Ice sheet	A mass of land ice that is sufficiently deep to cover most of the underlying bedrock, so that its shape is mainly determined by the flow of the ice as it deforms internally or slides at its base.
Indian Ocean Dipole	A measure of the difference in sea surface temperature in the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean. When positive, there is cooler than normal water in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean and warmer than normal water in the tropical western Indian Ocean.



Term/acronym	Description
Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation	A lengthy interdecadal fluctuation in atmospheric pressure. When the IPO is low, cooler than average sea surface temperatures occur over the central North Pacific, and vice versa.
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
La Niña	La Niña is the cold phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. Over much of Australia, La Niña brings above average rain.
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
Maladaptation	Defined by the IPCC (2014) as ‘an action that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, increased vulnerability to climate change, or diminished welfare, now or in the future’. More precisely, maladaptation is an action taken ostensibly to avoid or reduce vulnerability to climate change that impacts adversely on, or increases the vulnerability of, other systems, sectors or social groups.
NCCARF	National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
NRM Regions	Natural Resource Management Regions
NSDR	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
Ocean acidification	A reduction in the pH of the ocean over an extended period, typically decades or longer, which is caused primarily by uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but can also be caused by other chemical additions or subtractions from the ocean.
Q-CAS	Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy
QCOSS	Queensland Council of Social Services
QCRC	Queensland Climate Resilient Councils

Term/acronym	Description
QDMA	Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements
QERMF	Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QSDR	Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience
Representative concentration pathways (RCPs)	The results of four separate, integrated assessment model simulations, selected and defined by their total radiative forcing (cumulative measure of human emissions of GHGs from all sources expressed in watts/square metre) pathway and level by 2100. The RCPs were chosen to represent a broad range of climate outcomes, based on a literature review, and are meant to serve as inputs for climate modelling. The RCPs are not forecasts nor are they policy recommendations.
Risk assessment	A systematic process of identifying, analysing and evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Special report on emissions scenarios (SRES)	Emission scenarios developed by Nakicenovic and Swart (2000) and used as a basis for some of the climate projections in earlier IPCC assessment reports (up to AR4 in 2010). SRES start with socioeconomic circumstances from which emissions trajectories and climate impacts are projected into the future.
TC	Tropical Cyclone
Indian Ocean Dipole	A measure of the difference in sea surface temperature in the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean. When positive, there is cooler than normal water in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean and warmer than normal water in the tropical western Indian Ocean.



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