

# Australian towns among hottest spots on Earth as heatwave sizzles

January 16 2019

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Australian towns were among the hottest places on Earth this week as a severe heatwave hit the continent's southeast, with forecasters warning of more record-breaking temperatures before the weekend.

The past four days were among the country's top 10 warmest on record, with temperatures nearing 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in some spots, the Bureau of Meteorology said Wednesday.

"With South Australia breaking some all-time records yesterday, it would certainly put this region as one of the warmest parts of the world yesterday, if not the warmest," the bureau's senior meteorologist Philip Perkins told AFP.

"The places that broke records yesterday are already warmer at this time today as they were yesterday."

High temperatures are not unusual in Australia during its arid southern hemisphere summer, with bushfires a common occurrence.

But [climate change](#) has pushed up land and sea temperatures and led to more extremely hot days and severe fire seasons.

Among the towns in South Australia state experiencing their hottest temperatures on record Tuesday was tiny Tarcoola in the region's far north, which reached 49 degrees Celsius.

The city of Port Augusta recorded a temperature of 48.9 degrees Celsius, almost one degree higher than its previous record set on February 7, 2009—the same day Victoria state endured the devastating "Black Saturday" bushfires that left 173 dead in the nation's worst natural disaster.



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The desert town of Coober Pedy—where some residents live underground to escape the [harsh conditions](#)—equalled its temperature record of 47.4 degrees Celsius.

In the state's capital Adelaide, where cycling's Tour Down Under and the cricket One Day International between Australia and India were being held, athletes sweltered through a maximum [temperature](#) of 41.9 degree Celsius.

Overnight temperatures were also set to remain high, before a rapid

change to cooler conditions from late Thursday when a cold front currently over the Southern Ocean sweeps across southern Australia, Perkins said.

"Everything's sort of a bit of a pressure cooker at the moment, and everything's getting hotter and more humid and we're all doing a slow clap waiting for this change to come through," he added.



Athletes and spectators at summer sports events in south Australia have been sweltering in the heat

Australia's creatures, already battered by a drought plaguing the east of the vast continent, are also feeling the heat.

Up to one million fish are believed to have died along the banks of a major river system, with authorities warning of more deaths to come as temperatures soar.

The New South Wales state government said it would install aerators in some waterways to keep the levels of oxygen up for fish to reduce the likelihood of more mass deaths.



Overnight temperatures are also set to remain high before the cool change arrives on Friday

Citation: Australian towns among hottest spots on Earth as heatwave sizzles (2019, January 16)  
retrieved 14 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-01-australian-towns-hottest-earth-heatwave.html>

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