Extreme waves set to get bigger and more frequent due to climate change
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"Around 290 million people across the world already live in regions where there is a one percent probability of flood every year," Professor Young said.

"An increase in the risk of extreme wave events may be catastrophic, as larger and more frequent storms will cause more flooding and coastline erosion."

University of Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellow in Ocean Wave Modelling and lead researcher Alberto Meucci said the study shows that the Southern Ocean region is significantly more prone to extreme wave increases with potential impact to Australian, Pacific and South American coastlines by the end of 21st century.

"The results we have seen present another strong case for reduction of emissions through transition to clean energy if we want to reduce the severity of damage to global coastlines," Mr Meucci said.

The research was funded via ARC grants and led by researchers from Melbourne School of Engineering at the University of Melbourne in collaboration with CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere in Hobart and the IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands.

The study was published today in Science Advances.


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