

## Tourism Futures 2009

# Climate change and tourism – adapting to the future scene

Bruce Thomas

Director, Climate Change & Carbon Risk and Policy

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## What the experts are saying

“Recent observations show that greenhouse gas emissions and many aspects of the climate are changing near the upper boundary of the IPCC range of projections”

Copenhagen Climate Congress, University of Copenhagen, March 2009

## What the experts are saying

“Climate change poised to feed on itself”

“Claims that climate change has reversed since 1998 misrepresent the full data”

“Temperature rises above 2°C will be very difficult for contemporary society to cope with...”

Fifteen of Australia’s top climate scientists, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 August 2009

## What the experts are saying

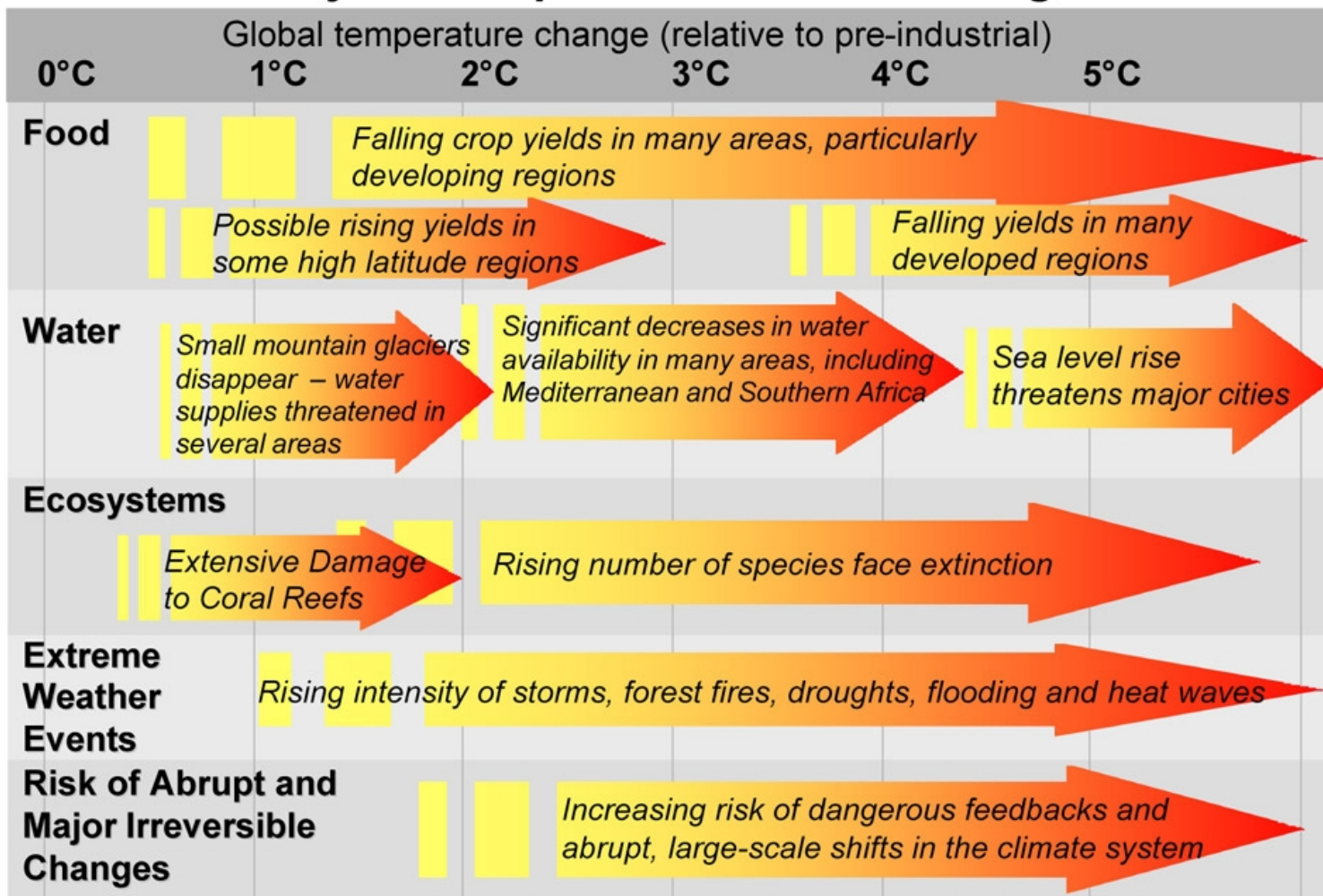
“Global ocean surface temperatures for June were the highest since records began, in 1880, breaking the record set in 2005...

The average temperature for June... was 0.59<sup>0</sup>C above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average...”

National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration of the United States, July 2009

# More than 1.5°C of warming is locked in!

## Projected Impacts of Climate Change



## What about other areas?

“the impact of climate change on infrastructure and the natural environment has the potential to affect the tourism industry. In some cases this could result in social and economic impacts in regions with a high dependency on tourism as a source of income and employment.” ”

COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, April 2007

## What the experts are saying

“An international study has found that the economic cost of coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef would be \$37.7 billion ”

Oxford Economics Report to Great Barrier Reef Foundation, 9 August 2009

# What are likely impacts?



## What the experts are saying

“up to 50 per cent of tourists who would normally visit the reef would stay away from Queensland if bleaching was permanent ”

Oxford Economics Report to Great Barrier Reef Foundation, 9 August 2009

# Potential impacts

Loss of the reef itself a critical issue

- Note the role of the reef as a barrier
- Impact on coastal infrastructure
- Island resorts
- Coastal communities

# How is Australian business responding?

“Climate change has yet to become a priority at the CEO level. Chief executives of half our respondent companies could not answer survey questions themselves.”

Carbon ready...or not, PricewaterhouseCoopers survey, June 2009

# How should the tourism industry respond?

The need for a response is a simple issue of risk management

Action is required at all levels

- Engage in the nation-wide effort to mitigate impacts
- Begin the adaptation response

# How should the tourism industry respond?

## Action at all levels (cont'd)

- Acknowledge the diversity of the industry
- Different sectors will require different solutions
- Engage with stakeholders
  - Customers
  - Employees
  - Financiers and insurers
  - Suppliers and partner operators

# How should the tourism industry respond?

## Action at all levels (cont'd)

- Engage across the industry
- Harness existing skills – build new skills

# How should the tourism industry respond?



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# How should the tourism industry respond?



## Recommendations for policymakers

“Investors need robust, clear and long term regulatory signals....that provide greater predictability when making long term capital allocation decisions such as investments in infrastructure”

Copenhagen Climate Council, May 2009

# Recommendations for policymakers

**“Better disclosure is essential to drive change among investors and consumers.”**

Copenhagen Climate Council, May 2009

# Capacity and skills critical

For every economy and industry the critical issue is building genuine capacity and skills to address the climate change challenges

For tourism additional challenges

- Scale
- Diversity of operations
- Workforce

# New opportunities

The obverse of risk must not be forgotten –

Opportunities exist in many spaces

- Operators and locals
- Indigenous opportunities – services and markets/products
- The influence of younger workers

# Questions and discussion

Bruce Thomas

Director, Climate Change & Carbon Risk and Policy

+61 418 472 807

bruce.thomas@carbontraininginternational.com

[www.carbontraininginternational.com](http://www.carbontraininginternational.com)