

Dire predictions in climate report

SIMON BENSON

AN estimated 800,000 more Australians will fall ill with stomach bugs every year from contaminated food and water and more than 270,000 homes could collapse into the ocean from rising sea levels, a secret climate change report claims.

The leaked draft copy of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's second report warns that \$226 billion worth of coastal assets including homes, rail and roads are at risk with just a 1.1m rise in sea levels.

The report, to be released next March in Yokohama, Japan, also singles out the Queensland and NSW governments for revoking or downgrading planning rules which would help communities to adapt to changing conditions and prevent damage.

The report of working group I was released in Stockholm two weeks ago and contained the much awaited new data on the projected changes to the atmosphere.

It warned that the global temperatures were on track to rise between 2C and 4C by 2100 without action to reduce greenhouse emissions - warming above 2C is considered dangerous with 4C being considered catastrophic.

The second working group's report examines the extent of the impact of climate change in different regions of the world.

The section on Australasia, co-authored by 45 scientists from Australia, NZ and the US, included the warning that deaths from heatwaves in Sydney would triple over the next 70 years from 2.5 per 100,000 to 7.4 per 100,000 under a high emissions scenario.

"The number of hot days when physical labour in the sun becomes dangerous is also projected to increase substantially in Australia by 2070, leading to economic costs from lost productivity, increased

WHAT TO EXPECT

- HEATWAVES**
Heatwave deaths will triple over next 70 years from 2.5 per 100,000 to 7.4 per 100,000
- FIRE**
Very high and extreme fire danger to rise by up to 100 per cent by 2050
- OCEANS**
Southwest and southeast Australia recognised as global warming hotspots based on elevated rates of ocean warming
- ILLNESS**
Water and food-borne diseases are projected to increase
- FLOODS**
50-year and 100-year flood peaks for rivers in many parts of the country will increase by up to 20 per cent by 2050
- STORMS**
Tropical cyclone activity to reduce by 50 per cent between 2050 and 2090 but intensity of storms will increase

hospitalisation and occasional deaths."

Under the high temperature case scenario "there would be an additional 8628 deaths a year by 2100".

For the first time, damage to

infrastructure has also been assessed. "In Australia a sea level rise of 1.1m would affect over \$226 billion of assets including up to 274,000 residential and 8000 commercial buildings" the report said.

"While the magnitude of sea level rise during the 21st century remains uncertain, its persistence over many centuries implies that realisation of these risks is only a question of time."