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HILLTOPS

RAINFALL
Projected Mean Growing Season Rainfall

- 347 mm (1997–2017)
- 382 mm (2041–2060)
- 368 mm (2081–2100)

TEMPERATURE
Projected Mean Growing Season Temperature

- 21.0°C (2041–2060)
- 23.1°C (2081–2100)

EXTREME HEAT
Projected Mean Excess Heat Factor

- 11.4 EHF (2041–2060)
- 11.6 EHF (2081–2100)

EXTREME COLD
Projected Mean Growing Season Frost Risk Days

- 6.7 days (1997–2017)
- 2.6 days (2041–2060)
- 0.8 days (2081–2100)

ARIDITY
Projected Mean Annual Aridity Index

- 0.42 (1997–2017)
- 0.38 (2041–2060)
- 0.32 (2081–2100)
Australia’s Wine Future — A Climate Atlas

HILLTOPS

Heat

Figure 1: Observed mean Growing Season Temperature (Oct–Apr) across all growing years from 1997–2017.

Figure 2: Observed change in mean Growing Season Temperature 1997–2017 minus 1961–1990.

Figure 3: Projected mean Growing Season Temperature 2021–2040.

Figure 4: Projected Growing Season Temperature (October to April) for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100.

Figure 5: Distribution of Growing Season Temperature.

Figure 6: Distribution of Growing Degrees Days.

Figure 7: Projected cumulative Growing Degree Days (GDD) across the growing year (July–June).

Figure 8: Distribution of date when Growing Degree Days reaches threshold.

Figure 4: Growing Season Temperature (GST) over time. Blue points are the values for each grid cell for each of the 6 ensemble members. Solid lines are timeseries representing grid cells for colder and warmer locations within the region based on current conditions (1997–2017). Horizontal grey bars represent the mean GST value during 1997–2017 in selected regions across Australia. These provide a comparison between current conditions elsewhere and future conditions in this region, helping to identify future analogue regions. Coloured bars represent the projected global temperature increase expected into the future (following the RCP 8.5 scenario). These can be used to make decisions based on projected temperature change rather than time (for example, if the rate of warming rapidly increases, useful information can still be extracted from these figures by using the shade boxes instead of the time-axis).

Figure 5: Probability distribution of GST for 20-year time periods from 2001 to 2100. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. Grey shapes represent the probability distribution of GST for contrasting regions during 1997–2017. A shift to the right (left) indicates warmer (cooler) conditions.

Figure 6: Probability distribution of growing year maximum GDD for 20-year time periods from 2001 to 2100. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. Grey shapes represent the probability distribution of growing year maximum GDD for contrasting regions during 1997–2017. A shift to the left (right) indicates earlier (later) harvest dates. A wider (thinner) curve indicates a larger (smaller) range of harvest dates. A missing time period indicates that the specific phenological threshold was not reached within the growing year (July–June).

Figure 7: Cumulative Growing Degree Days (GDD) across the growing year (July–June). Dashed lines show GDD values (1000, 1500, 2000, 2500) for some example phenological thresholds. Each growing year is represented by a coloured line. In future time periods, heat accumulates faster, thresholds are reached earlier and maximum GDD reached is higher.

Figure 8: Probability distributions showing the range of dates at which the example phenological thresholds (1000, 1500, 2000, 2500) are reached for each time period. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. A shift to the left (right) indicates earlier (later) harvest dates. A wider (thinner) curve indicates a larger (smaller) range of harvest dates. A missing time period indicates that the specific phenological threshold was not reached within the growing year (July–June).
Figure 1: Observed mean Growing Season Rainfall (Oct–Apr) across all growing years from 1997–2017.

Figure 2: Change in Growing Season Rainfall (Oct–Apr) between the current (1997–2017) and historical (1961–1990) periods. Negative values indicate a trend towards drier conditions. Positive values indicate a trend towards wetter conditions.

Figure 3: Projected mean Growing Season Rainfall (Oct–Apr) for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each grid cell is the mean of the 6 ensemble members. Horizontal grey bars represent the mean Growing Season Rainfall value during 1997–2017 in selected regions across Australia. Coloured bars represent the projected mean global temperature increase into the future (following the RCP 8.5 scenario). These can be used to make decisions based on projected temperature change rather than time.

Figure 4: Time series of Growing Season Rainfall (mm). Blue points are the annual values for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members. Horizontal grey bars represent the mean Growing Season Rainfall value during 1997–2017 in selected regions across Australia. These provide a comparison between current conditions (1997–2017) elsewhere and future conditions in this region and help identify future analogue regions. Coloured bars represent the projected mean global temperature increase into the future (following the RCP 8.5 scenario). There can be used to make decisions based on projected temperature change rather than time.

Figure 5: As with Figure 4, but for Non-Growing Season Rainfall (mm). Horizontal grey bars represent the mean Non-Growing Season Rainfall value during 1997–2017 in selected regions across Australia.

Figure 6: Violin plots of monthly rainfall (mm) for 20-year time periods from 2001 to 2100. Each violin represents monthly totals for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members. In each panel the median values indicate the expected probability distribution of rainfall across the growing year. The current period (2001–2020) is shaded underneath the future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future. Dots represent the mean monthly rainfall for each violin. If the violin shifts lower (higher) this indicates a change towards drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 7: Violin plots of monthly rainfall (mm) for 20-year time periods from 2001 to 2100. Each violin represents monthly totals for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members. In each panel the median values indicate the expected probability distribution of rainfall across the growing year. The current period (2001–2020) is shaded underneath the future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future. Dots represent the mean monthly rainfall for each violin. If the violin shifts lower (higher) this indicates a change towards drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 8: Number of rainy days during harvest for each 20-year period. Harvest refers to the date when Growing Degree Days (GDD) reach example phenological thresholds (1000, 1500, 2000, 2500) which were chosen to reflect development time of different grape styles and varieties. Rainy days during harvest were defined as days with >10mm of rain from 7 days before to 7 days after the date each GDD threshold was reached. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. A shift in the curve to the left (right) indicates fewer (more) rainy days during harvest. A missing time period indicates that the specific phenological threshold was not reached within the growing year (July–June).
Figure 1: Observed mean annual Aridity Index across all growing years from 1997–2017. Aridity Index is a value that characterises the ratio between the mean annual rainfall and mean annual evaporation. Low (high) values indicate drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 2: Observed change in mean annual Aridity Index for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each violin represents monthly averages for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members, and for each growing year within the time period. The current period (2001–2020) is shadowed underneath the future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future. Dots represent the mean monthly Aridity Index for each violin. The violins shift lower (higher) or indicate a change towards drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 3: Projected mean annual Aridity Index for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each grid cell is the mean of the 6 ensemble members. Decreasing (increasing) values indicate a trend towards drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 4: Time series of annual Aridity Index. Points are the annual means for each grid cell in the region, for each of the 6 ensemble members. Aridity Index values >2 all indicate very wet conditions. There is no meaningful difference past this value, so higher values were not presented. Horizontal grey bars represent the mean annual Aridity Index from selected regions across Australia — these provide an example of conditions the region may transition towards in the future. Coloured bars represent the projected global temperature increase expected in the future (following the RCP 8.5 scenario) which can be used to make decisions based on projected temperature change rather than time (for example, if the rate of warming rapidly increases, where temperature change is experienced earlier, useful information can still be extracted from these figures by using the coloured bars instead of the time-axis).

Figure 5: Violin plots of monthly Aridity Index for 20-year time periods from 2001 to 2100. Each violin represents monthly averages for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members, and for each growing year within the time period. The current period (2001–2020) is shadowed underneath the future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future. Dots represent the mean monthly Aridity Index for each violin. The violins shift lower (higher) or indicate a change towards drier (wetter) conditions.

Figure 6: Probability distribution of seasonal Aridity Index (Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn), presented as a probability distribution for each 20-year period. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. Grey shapes represent the probability distribution of seasonal aridity for contrasting regime periods 1997–2017. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. Differences in the shape of curves between the current and future periods indicate a change in the typical conditions. A shift to the left (right) indicates drier (wetter) conditions. Aridity Index values >2 all indicate very wet conditions.

Figure 7: Probability distribution of mean annual Aridity Index from July until harvest. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. A shift to the left (right) indicates drier (wetter) conditions. A missing time period indicates that the specific phenological threshold was not reached within the growing year (July–June).
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HILLTOPS
Extremes — Hot

Figure 1: Observed mean Excess Heat Factor (EHF) during heatwaves (as per Nairn and Fawcett (2013)), across all growing years from 1997–2017. EHF is an index that characterises heatwaves, high values indicate more intense heatwaves. The mean EHF is the mean value from all heatwaves that occurred from 1997–2017.

Figure 2: Change in mean EHF during heatwaves between the current (1997–2017) and historical (1961–1990) periods. Positive (negative) values indicate a trend towards more (less) intense heatwaves.

Figure 3: Projected mean EHF during heatwaves for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each grid cell is the mean of the 6 ensemble members. Increasing (decreasing) values indicate a trend towards more (less) intense heatwaves.

Figure 4: Observed mean excess heat factor (EHF) during heatwaves (as per Nairn and Fawcett (2013)), across all growing years from 1997–2017. EHF is an index that characterises heatwaves, high values indicate more intense heatwaves. The mean EHF is the mean value from all heatwaves that occurred from 1997–2017.

Figure 5: Change in mean EHF during heatwaves between the current (1997–2017) and historical (1961–1990) periods. Positive (negative) values indicate a trend towards more (less) intense heatwaves.

Figure 6: Projected mean EHF during heatwaves for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each grid cell is the mean of the 6 ensemble members. Increasing (decreasing) values indicate a trend towards more (less) intense heatwaves.

Figure 7: Projected number of days per growing year with temperatures greater than 30°C, 35°C, 40°C and 45°C. Areas indicate the number of days each threshold is exceeded per growing year. Values are averaged across all grid cells and the 6 ensemble members. Colours indicate the extreme threshold values. Generally increasing frequencies reflect a warming climate.

Figure 8: Projected number of days with severe risk to humans working outside. Values are averaged across all grid cells and the 6 ensemble members. Colours indicate the extreme threshold values. Generally increasing frequencies reflect a warming climate.

Figure 9: Projected mean number of extreme heat days. The shape of the curve is driven by the level of variability experienced within each 20-year period. Variability can occur spatially within the region, across years, or between ensemble members. A shift to the right (left) indicates higher (lower) temperature heatwaves.
Figure 1: Observed mean number of days at risk of frost during the growing season (October to April) over the period 1997–2017. Days at risk of frost are those with a daily minimum temperature < 2°C. High (low) values indicate high (low) frost risk.

Figure 2: Change in the mean number of days at risk of frost during the growing season (October to April) between the current (1997–2017) and historical (1961–1990) periods. Days at risk of frost are days with a minimum temperature < 2°C. High (low) values indicate increased (decreased) frost risk.

Figure 3: Projected mean number of days at risk of frost during the growing season (October to April) for 20-year time periods from 2021 to 2100. Each grid cell is the mean of the 6 ensemble members. Increasing (decreasing) values indicate a trend towards higher (lower) frost risk.

Figure 4: Violin plots of daily minimum temperature (°C) for each month for 20-year periods from 2001 to 2100. Each violin represents daily data for each grid cell, for each of the 6 ensemble members, for each growing year within the time period. E.g. the top-left most violin represents the daily minimum temperature for every January day in the period 2001–2020, for each grid cell in the region, for each of the 6 ensemble members. The current period (2001–2020) has been shadowed underneath future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future. Dots represent the means for each violin. If the violin shifts lower (higher) this indicates a change towards colder (warmer) conditions.

Figure 5: Monthly average cumulative frost days for 20-year periods from 2001 to 2100. Values are a summary across all grid cells, for all years within each 20-year period, for each of the 6 ensemble members. This reflects how frost risk varies across the year within each 20-year period. The current period (2001–2020) has been shadowed underneath future time periods to highlight any differences expected into the future.

Figure 6: Timeseries of accumulated frost intensity, which is the cumulative total of temperatures less than 2°C over a growing season. This index characterises exposure to cold conditions. High values indicate cold winters/springs. Points are for each grid cell, averaged across the 6 ensemble members.

Figure 7: Time-series of the number of days per growing year when temperature falls below selected thresholds (< 2°C, < –2°C). Areas indicate the number of days temperatures fall below each threshold for each grid cell. Fewer instances reflect a warming climate.