



Provision of Climate Services in New Zealand

A. Tait

New Zealand (andrew.tait@niwa.co.nz)

Climate Services are a key component of New Zealand's National Climate Centre (NCC), which is part of the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA). The NCC is a hub for climate information and research in NZ. The webpage (<http://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate>) is frequently updated with the latest climate information and research projects. The NCC also operates several web-based services, such as "ClimateExplorer" (<http://climate-explorer.niwa.co.nz>) which is a web portal for delivering up-to-date information (as maps or plots) on the climate around NZ. This service also includes 15-day weather forecasts and seasonal climate outlooks. Users can access many products for free (e.g. all "National-Level" products) and pay an annual subscription for access to the "Station-Level" products. This service sits alongside another web-based service called "Cliflo" (<http://cliflo.niwa.co.nz>) which is a portal to NIWA's National Climate Database. Climate data can be extracted for any currently-open and historic climate station location in NZ for free, using this service. There is also access via Cliflo to NIWA's "Virtual Climate Station Data", which is a daily gridded dataset (~5km spatial resolution) of 11 variables that is updated daily. A third service, called "EcoConnect" (<http://ecoconnect.niwa.co.nz>) is a subscription based service for accessing environmental forecasts and information. The forecasts are based on NIWA's own numerical weather prediction model, run on a super computer. These three "web services" provide the information base for implementing the NCC's climate services. However, a key element of our climate services is personal interaction with end users (for example, our attendance on the National Adverse Events Committee). NIWA personnel also frequently give public talks on climate and climate change, attend workshops and field-days, and provide specific information to users ranging from government officials to community-based interest groups to individual farmers.