



# Expert on climate change

**W**HEN Tasmanian CSIRO scientist John Church speaks on climate change globally, he knows what he is talking about.

Earlier this month, he was one of an international team of scientists who presented their review findings of carbon dioxide, temperature and sea levels from 1990 to 2006 at this year's international climate change conference.

Dr Church's research team found that previous projections had not exaggerated the rate of climate change but, in fact, could have underestimated it.

German scientist Stefan Ramstorf was the lead author on Dr Church's team with other members from six different institutions around the world.

For the past two years, Dr Church has also been joint scientific committee chairman of the Geneva-based World Climate Research Programme, a committee that designs and shapes projects to better understand and predict climate.

He is principal research scientist of the Wealth from Oceans national research flagship and leads the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre's sea level rise programme.

A key objective of the WCRP scientific committee is to build systems that need oceanic, atmospheric and sea ice data to use in models that predict climate over long periods, says Dr Church.

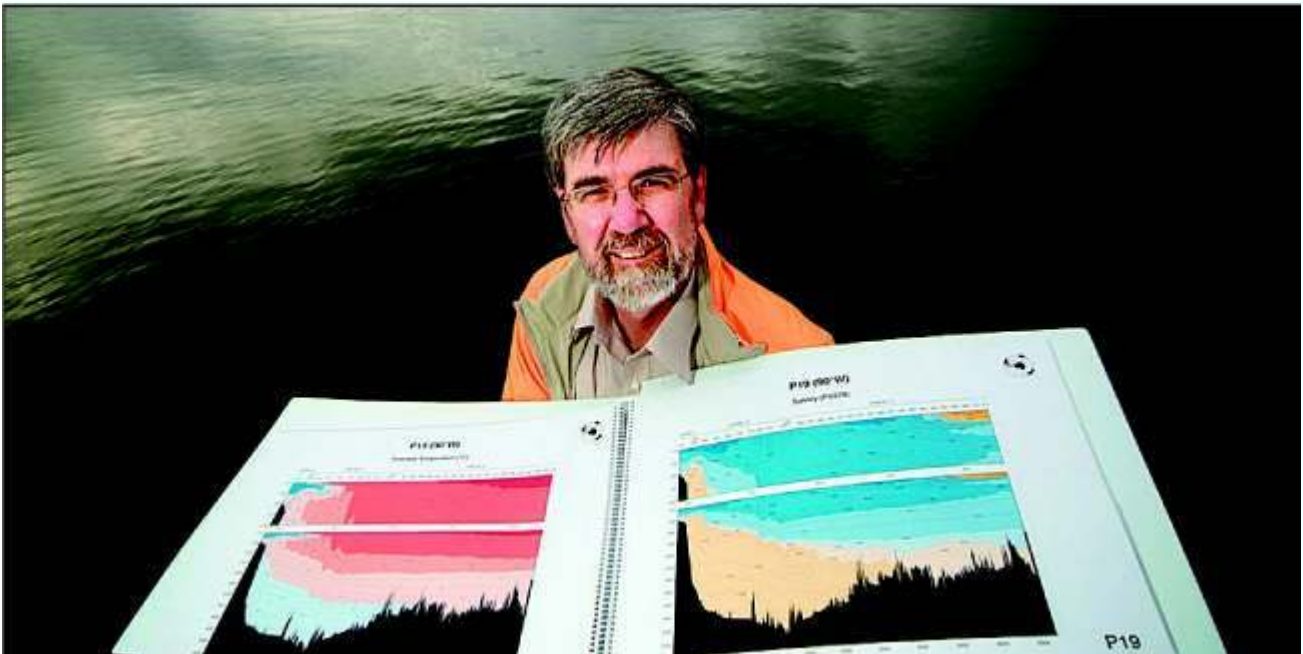
Activities organised by WCRP also provide the climate projections

and analyses used in assessments of human-induced climate change including changes in the frequency and severity of extreme events.

Dr Church believes that Australia's participation in international projects gives our scientists access to international expertise and collaboration and observing system data.

"Only through the scientific design and development of climate observing and modelling systems can scientists monitor, predict and understand what is happening in the climate system," Dr Church said.

The Hobart-based scientist won a CSIRO medal for research achievement last year.



Dr John Church has found that previous projections may have underestimated the rate of climate change.

Picture: BRUCE MILLER