



AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION



# Landcare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Ian Lowe



**“a lot of challenges still remain... whether it is looking after our fragile soils; looking at soil salinity decline; disease management; weeds; biodiversity...”**

# A fundamental point

- The future is not somewhere we are going, it is something we are creating
- **Always** many possible futures
- We should be trying to shape a **sustainable** future

# Long – term trends

**“peak oil”**

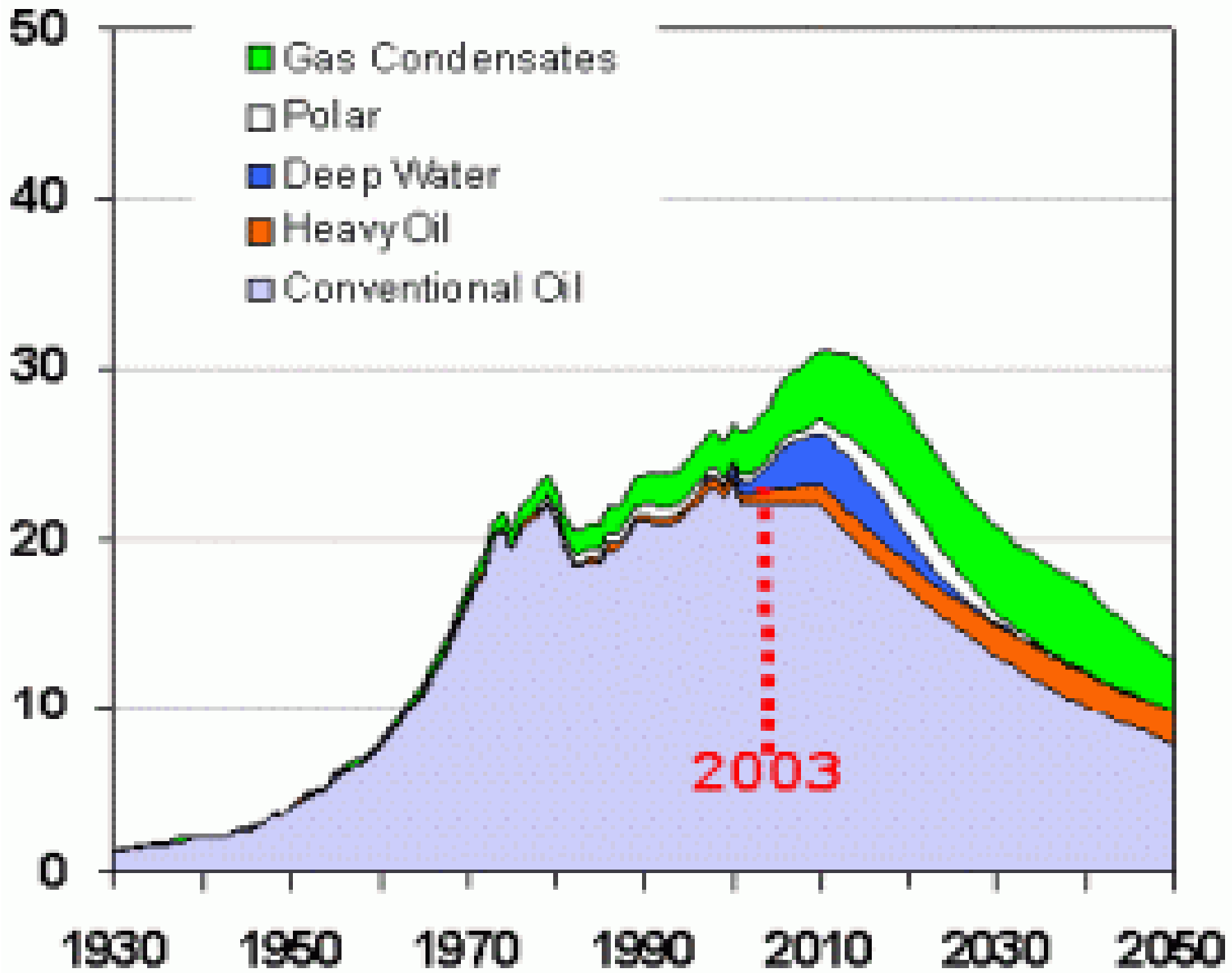
**Climate change**

**Need for low-carbon energy**

**Changing land use patterns**

**Changing community attitudes**

**Need for integrated approaches**







PERITO MORENO GLACIER, A REMnant OF A REMnant OF THE LAST ICE AGE, IS THE ONLY GLACIER IN THE WORLD THAT ADVANCES AND RETREATS.

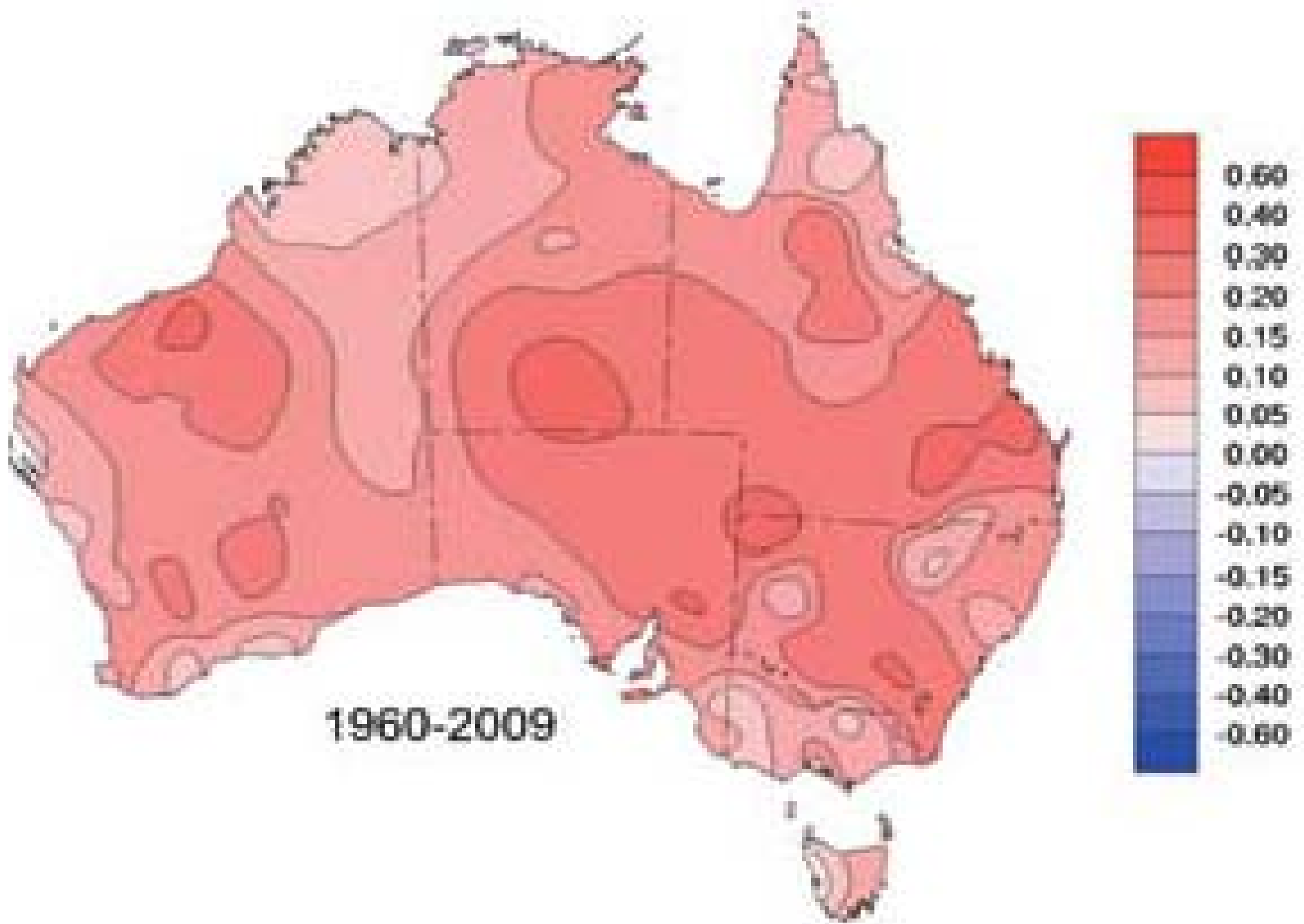
## EACH DAY HUMBLE SUPPLIES ENOUGH **ENERGY** TO MELT 7 MILLION TONS OF GLACIER!

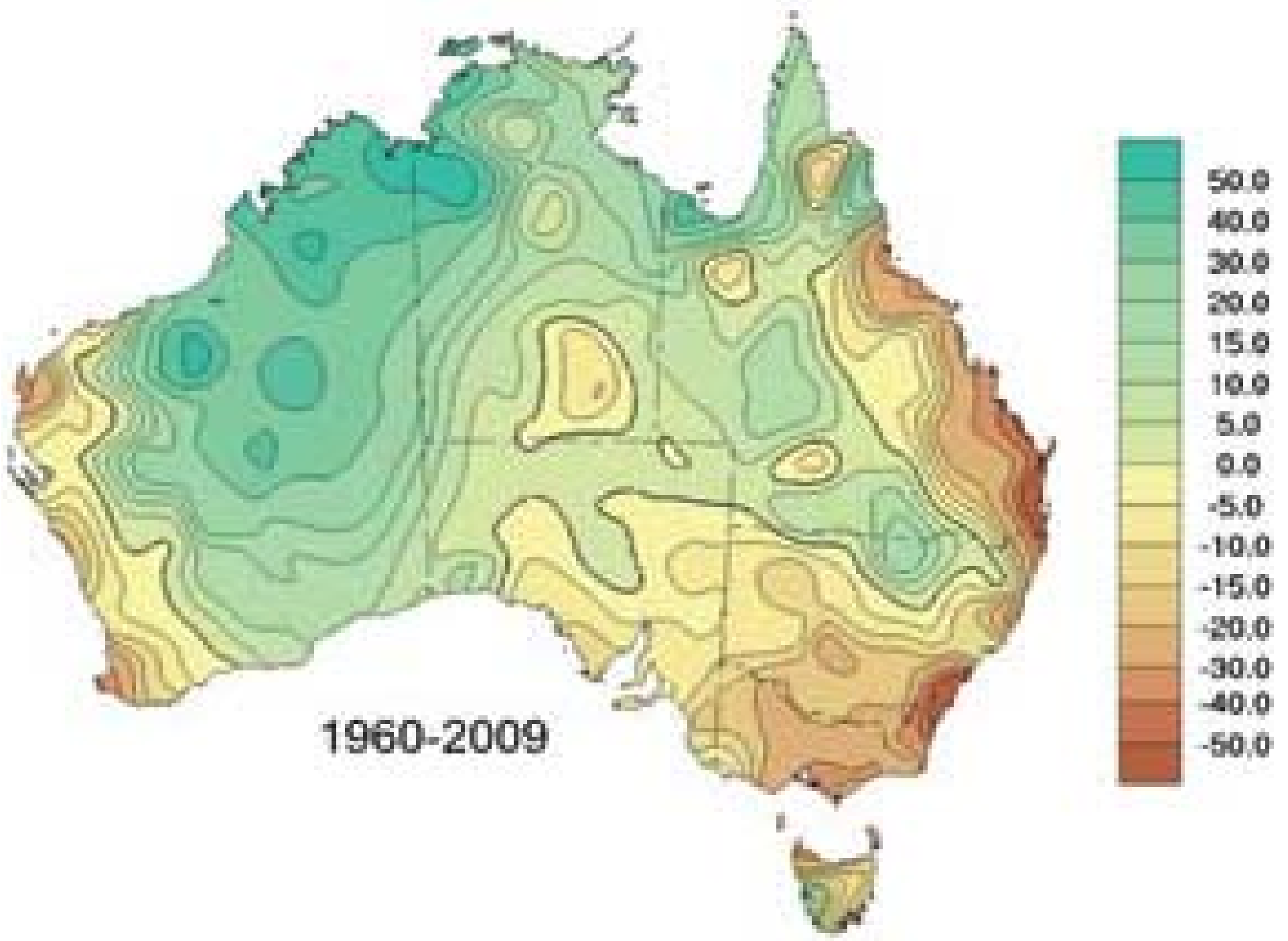
This giant glacier has remained unmelted for centuries. Yet, the petroleum energy Humble supplies—it converted into heat—could melt it at the rate of 80 tons each second! To meet the nation's growing needs for energy, Humble has applied science to nature's resources to become America's Leading Energy Company. Working wonders with oil through research, Humble provides energy in many forms—to help heat our homes, power our transportation, and to furnish industry with a great variety of versatile chemicals. Stop at a Humble station for new Econ Extra gasoline, and see why the "Happy Motorist" Sign is the World's Finest Choice!

**HUMBLE**  
OIL & REFINING COMPANY

America's Leading **Energy** company

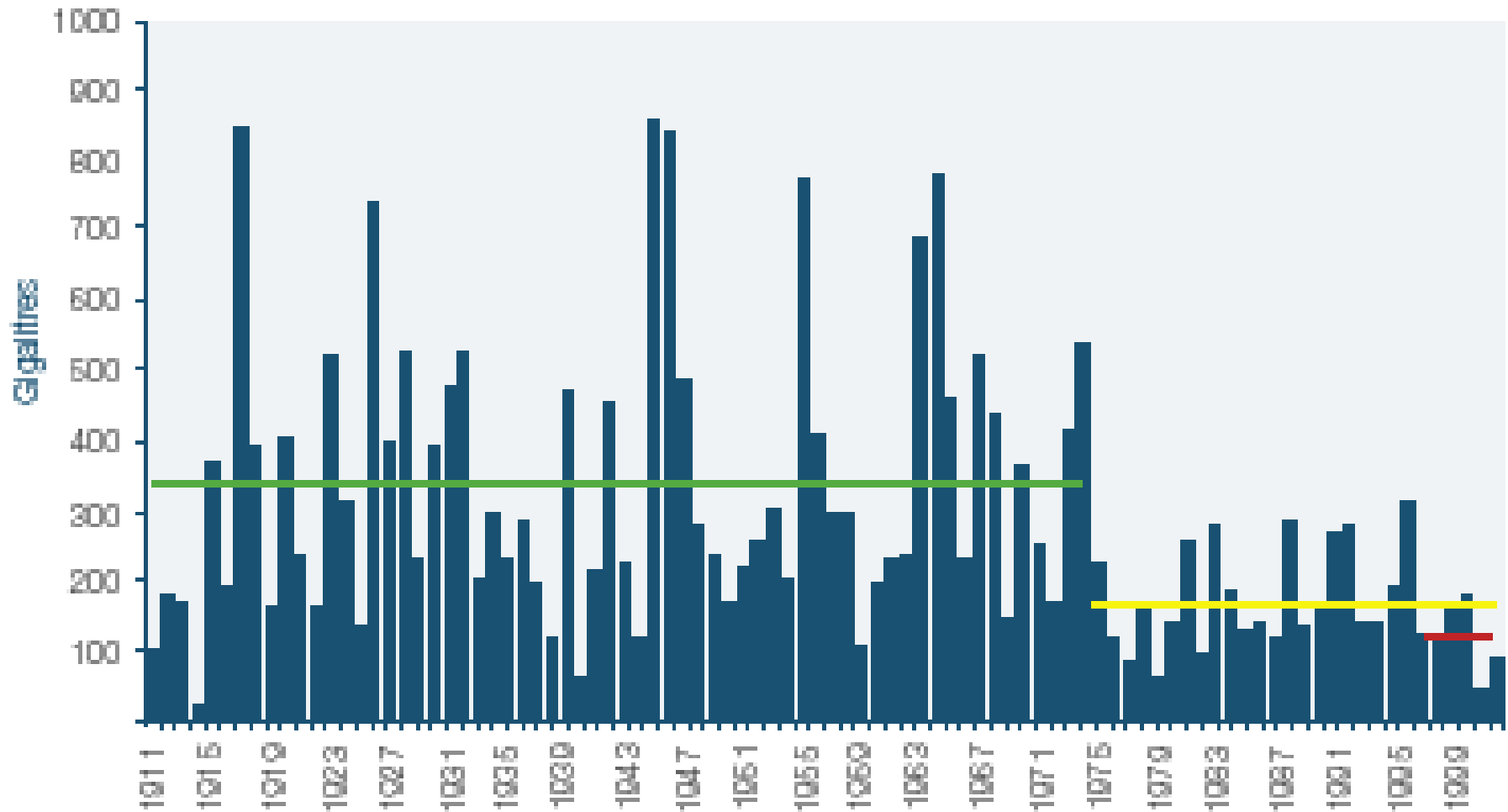






# Total annual inflow to Perth dams

Source: WA Water Corporation 2004

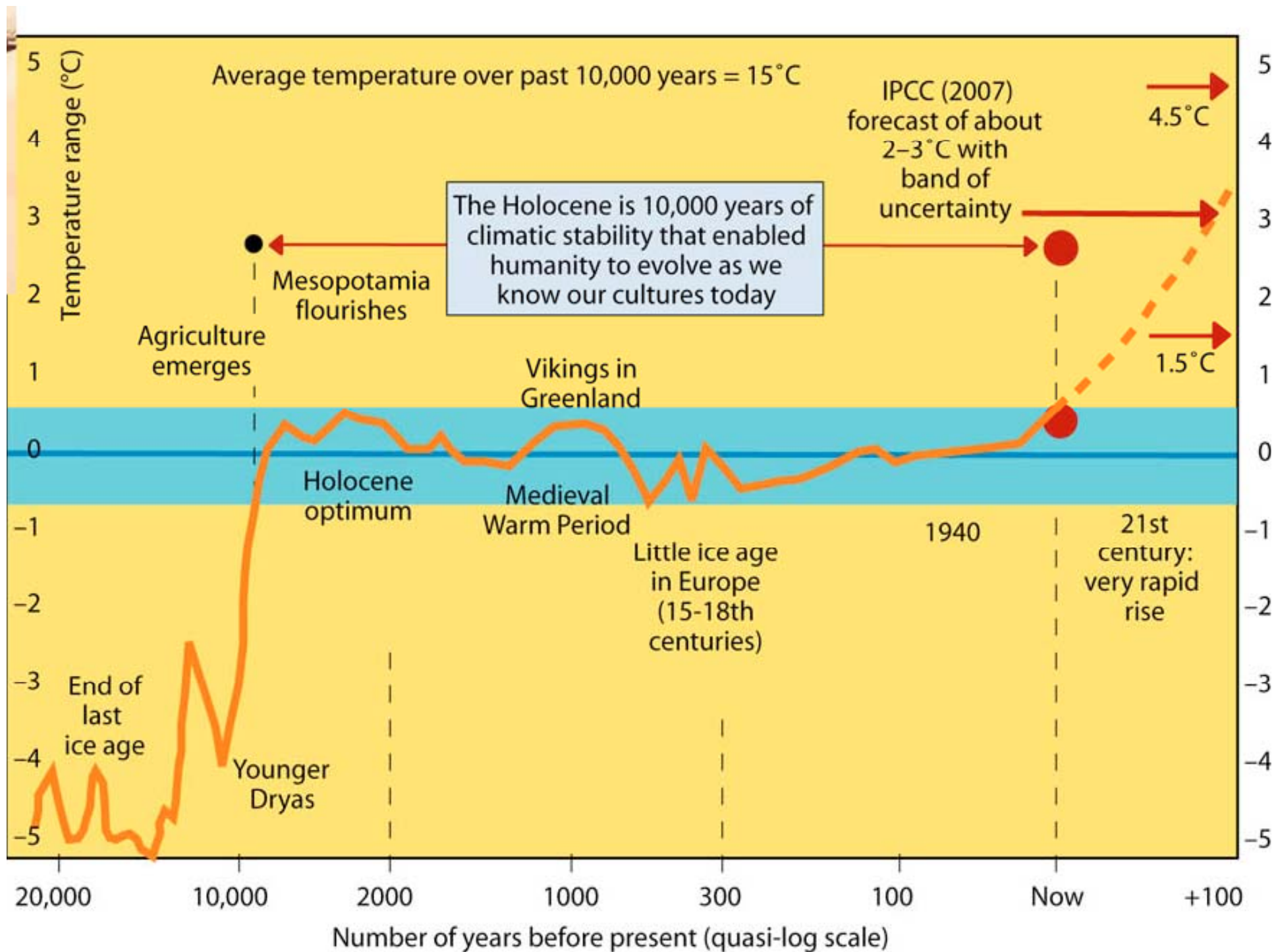


1911 to 1974 (338 GL)

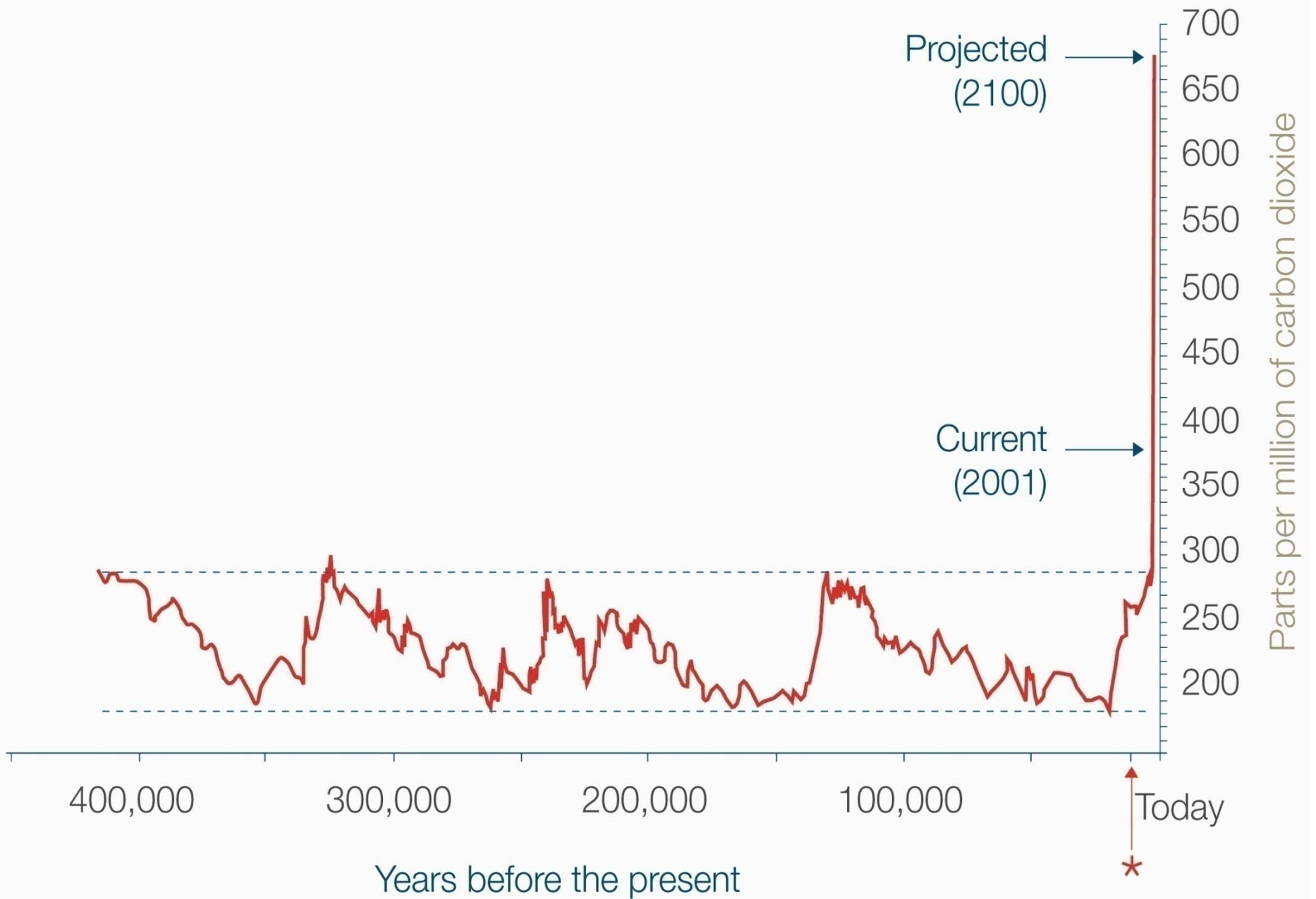
1975 to 2002 (164 GL)

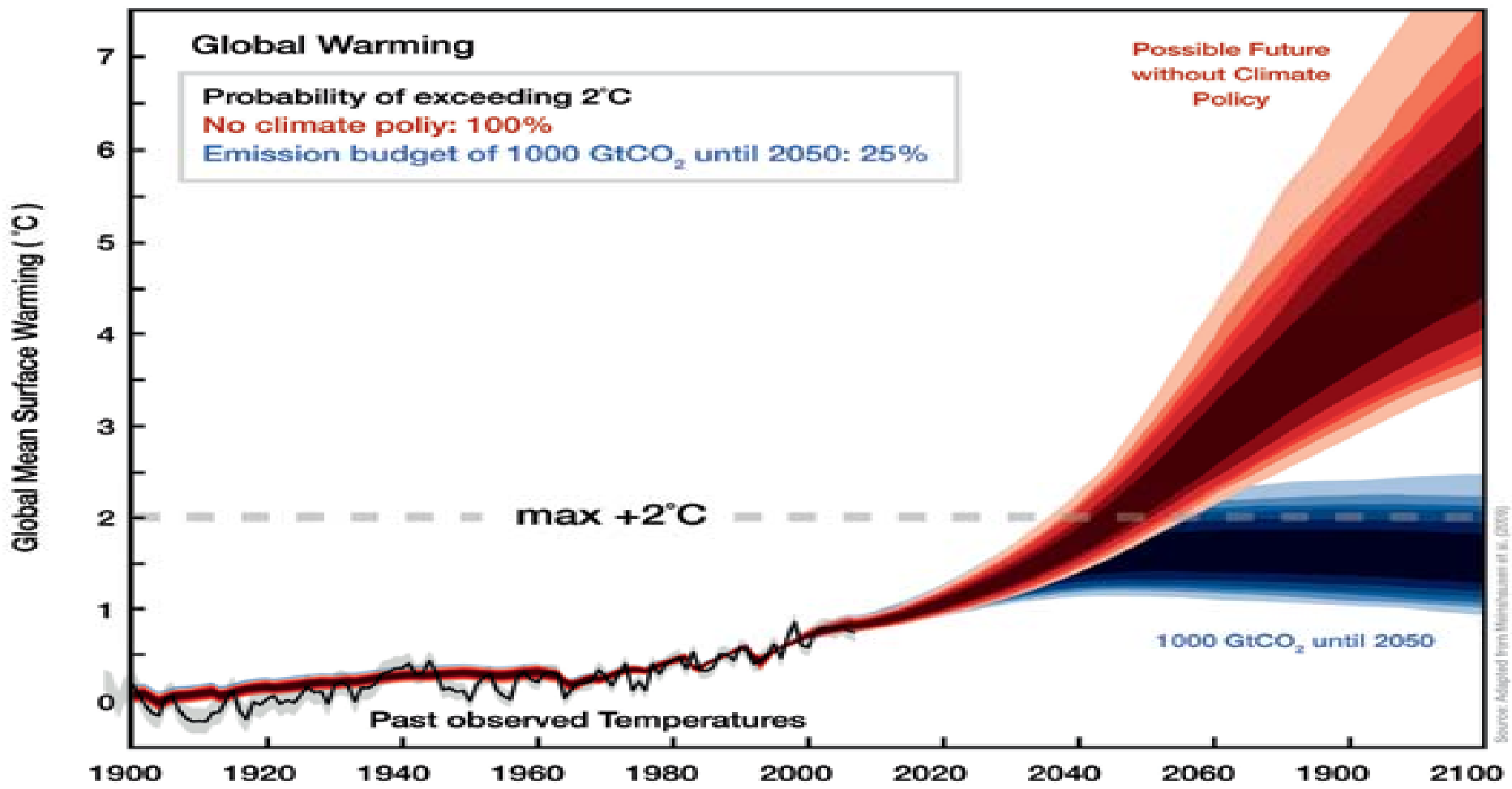
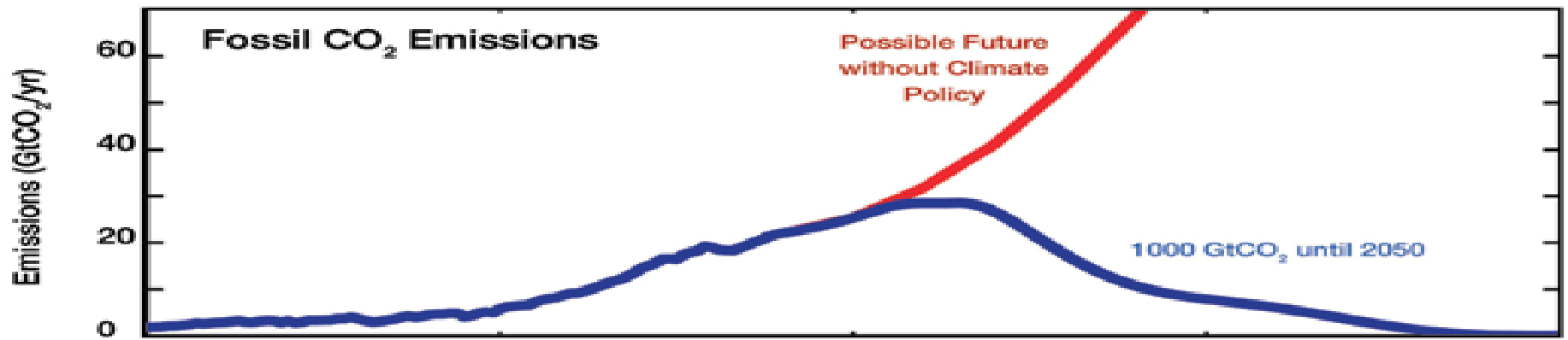
1997 to 2002 (115 GL)





Source: Co-operative Research Centre for Greenhouse Accounting, 2001





Source: Adapted from Meinshausen et al. (2009)

*To have a **better than even** chance of keeping global average temperature rise below 2°C, the world would need to be emitting **less than half** the 2000 amount of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050.*

*So **global** emissions need to peak within the next 10 years and then decline rapidly.*

# IEA World Energy Outlook 2008

**“nothing short  
of an energy  
revolution”**

# Implications for rural Qld

- **Water availability will continue to change as rainfall patterns alter and temperatures rise**
- **Energy supply developments driven by need for low-carbon sources**
- **Energy use constrained ?**
- **Problems transporting produce ?**

# Changing land-use patterns

- Throughout rural Australia, larger land - holdings absorbing smaller
- Corporatisation of rural production
- Consequent greater pressure on short – term economics
- Changing consumer tastes
- Increasing levels of foreign control
- Greater need for action to maintain ecological values

## **IPCC chair Rajendra Pachauri**

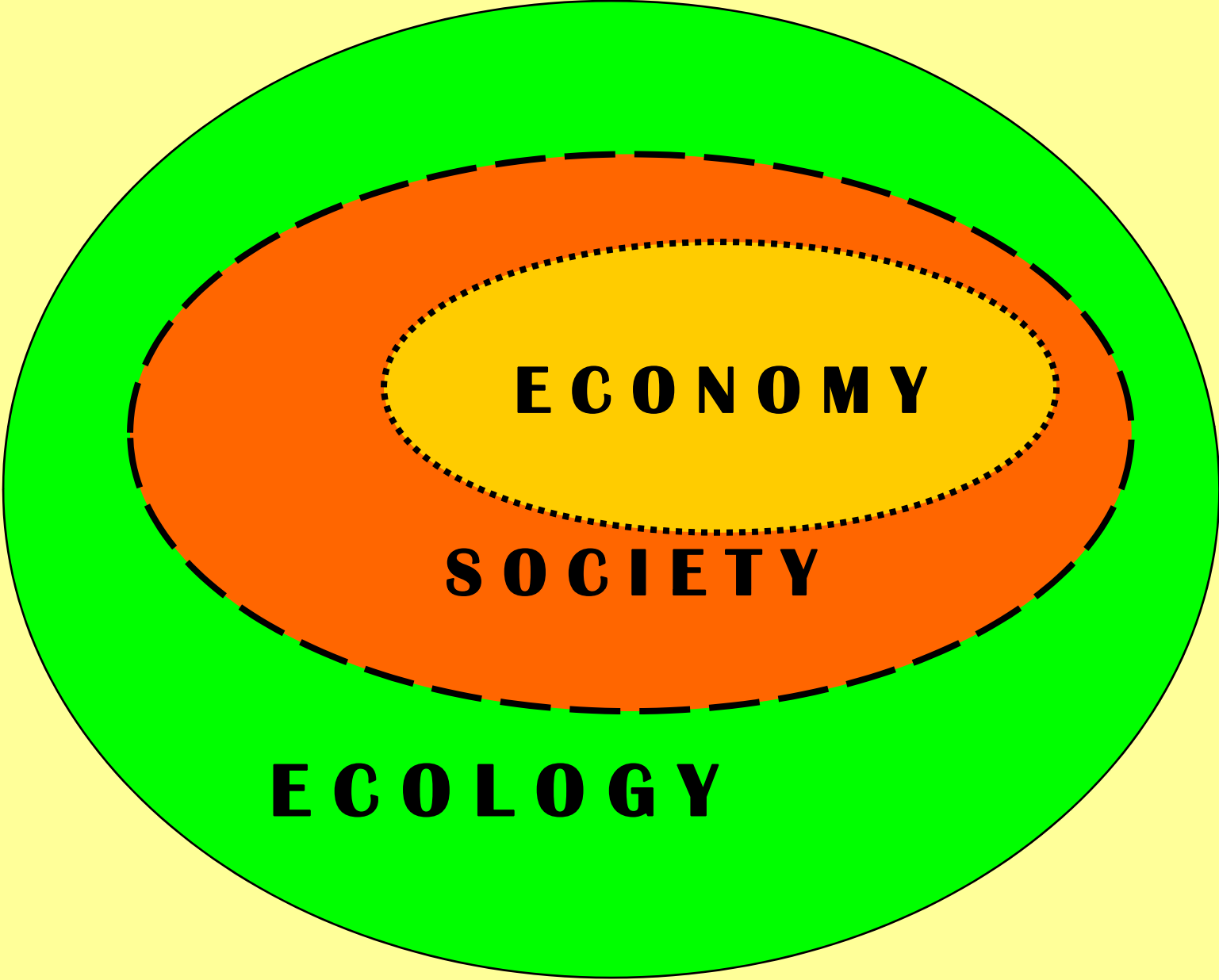
**“We need a new ethic by which every human being realises the importance of the challenge and starts to take action through changes in lifestyle and attitude”**



# New suite of values

- Domination of nature becomes *ecological sensitivity*
- Consumerism replaced by *quality of life*
- Individualism -> *human solidarity*





**ECONOMY**

**SOCIETY**

**ECOLOGY**

# Utopian?

- 1800: end slavery
- 1900: votes for women
- 1989: Berlin Wall

South Africa without apartheid  
apology to stolen generations  
African-American US president  
female Prime Minister  
good coffee, civilised licensing  
laws in Queensland !

**Practically all features of modern life**



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What we do *today*  
will determine the  
sort of world we  
live in *tomorrow*



# Conclusion

- Our decisions shape the future
- Landcare significant achievements
- Aim: a sustainable future
- Recognise long-term trends
- **Work toward a new vision of a sustainable future**
- Our moral responsibility to other species and to future generations