



Hon Secretary, Terry Dunleavy MBE, 14A Bayview Road, Hauraki, North Shore City 0622
Phone (09) 486 3859 - Mobile 0274 836688 - Email - terry.dunleavy@nzclimatescience.org.nz

21 December 2009

Mr John Morgan
Chief Executive Officer
National Institute of Water & Atmosphere

By email: j.morgan@niwa.co.nz

Dear Mr Morgan,

I write as a New Zealand citizen, and in my capacity as honorary secretary of the Climate Science Coalition of New Zealand.

The Coalition is a group of experienced scientists and others with a professional interest in improving the public debate on the very important subject of climate change. In pursuit of this objective, we recently co-operated in the preparation of a paper entitled "Are We Warmer Yet?" dealing with the national temperature record displayed on your company's website. A copy of this paper is attached for information.

The attached paper deals with the raw data sourced from the sevenSAe temperature stations referenced in the website graph in question (Graph 7). The graph itself is based on adjusted data, and we understand that most of the adjustments used were amongst the wide range of possibilities described in the climate science literature. However, despite requests, we have been unable to obtain details of the actual adjustments made to the raw data and the reasons therefor. In the absence of this information, our interested members have been unable to replicate the scientific work undertaken by your staff.

As you may know, several parliamentary questions were set down by Hon Rodney Hide MP for written answer by the Minister for Climate Change Issues, and a meeting was also held at the minister's office. For diverse reasons these attempts to access the missing data have proved unsuccessful.

This letter should be regarded as a formal request under s.12 of the Official Information Act 1982 for NIWA to make available to me (either personally or publicly through the company's website) the following information:

1. Copies of the original observations from the seven stations chosen by NIWA; and justification for the website statement that "they provide a representative spread of locations across NZ and have reliable records dating back at least to the early 1900s".
2. An explanation of how those original observations were processed to provide the current individual records. Please provide copies of the original worksheets and/or computer records used for such processing.
3. NIWA's justifications for the adjustments that were made to the seven station data, including their calculations of levels of accuracy/reliability?
4. NIWA's calculation of the accuracy/reliability levels (including margins for error) of the temperature trends shown in the seven station graph, along with the full basis for those calculations.
5. An explanation of how the raw data from the "eleven station dataset" have since been processed by NIWA, including justification for the adjustments made when 9 of those stations were automated. (This dataset is shown on the NIWA website at www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate/news/all/nz-temperature-rise-clear/temperature-trends-from-raw-data)

6. Copies of all documents (including details of data adjustments) supplied at any time by NIWA to the Hadley Centre, NASA or NOAA (or any of their affiliates) regarding New Zealand temperature records, and intended for use by those agencies in the compilation of global records; as well as communications in relation to same.

Please note that the terms “processed” and “adjusted” are used in the same sense as “corrected” or “homogenised” or “standardised” or “sanitised” or “removed anomalies” and are intended to include all changes to original raw data.

We would like this request to be treated as urgent. The publication of the attached paper has aroused considerable public interest and the Coalition is receiving constant requests for our attempted replication of the record. We believe NIWA climate scientists are also fielding demands for further explanations. If transparency in this matter is further delayed, it might well give the impression that the scientists are reluctant to expose their science to questioning.

The need for that urgency has been heightened by criticism of the Coalition on the NIWA website at www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate/news/all/nz-temperature-rise-clear specifically in view of the following extract:

For more than two years, New Zealand Climate Science Coalition members have known of the need to adjust the “seven station” data. They have had access to:

- * the raw data*
- * the adjusted data (anomalies)*
- * information needed to identify the adjustments made by Dr Salinger*
- * information needed to develop their own adjustments.*

I am advised by our scientists that key aspects of these assertions are incorrect, and that they need the further information requested above to allow completion of a detailed and useful analysis.

Sincerely



Terry Dunleavy MBE, JP