Table 2: Impacts associated with changes to climate variables

Change to climate variable	Examples of impacts
Higher mean temperatures	→ Increased evaporation and decreased water balance. → Increased severity of droughts (see below). → Reduced alpine winter snow cover. → Reduced range of alpine ecosystems and species. → Increased stress to coral reefs.
Higher maximum temperatures, more hot days and more heat waves	→ Increased incidence of death and serious illness, particularly in older age groups. → Increased heat stress in livestock and wildlife. → Increased risk of damage to some crops. → Increased forest fire danger (frequency and intensity). → Increased electric cooling demand and reduced energy supply reliability.
Higher minimum temperatures, fewer cold days and frost days	→ Decreased cold-related human morbidity and mortality. → Decreased risk of damage to some crops and increased risk to others. → Extended range and activity of some pest and disease vectors. → Reduced heating energy demand.
Decrease in precipitation	→ Decreased average runoff, streamflow. → Decreased water quality. → Decreased water resources. → Decrease in hydro-power potential. → Impacts on rivers and wetland ecosystems.
Increased severity of drought	→ Decreased crop yields and rangeland productivity. → Increased damage to foundations caused by ground shrinkage. → Increased forest fire danger.
Decreased relative humidity	→ Increased forest fire danger. → Increased comfort of living conditions at high temperatures.
More intense rain	→ Increased flood, landslide and mudslide damage. → Increased flood runoff. → Increased soil erosion. → Increased pressure on disaster relief systems.
Increased intensity of cyclones and storms	→ Increased risk to human lives and health. → Increased storm surge leading to coastal flooding, coastal erosion and damage to coastal infrastructure. → Increased damage to coastal ecosystems.
Increased mean sea level	→ Salt water intrusion into ground water and coastal wetlands. → Increased coastal flooding (particularly when combined with storm surge).