

CASE STUDY: Global Warming - the forest from the trees

13. Postscript – The Newcastle High Quality Dataset.

Earlier in this case study, on pages 7-9, our examination of the temperature data for the Newcastle Meteorological Station revealed a downward linear trend for the High Quality maximum temperature dataset (*BOM, 2009 c*). This was in contrast to the mainly upward trends in both the minimums and maximums that we have been observing for most stations.

Could it be that this dataset is in error; that the data adjustment process for Newcastle was over zealous and that the downward trend is thus a human artefact rather than reflective of the real atmospheric conditions between 1910 and 2008?

Examine the graph on page 7, consult **Appendix 8** in the separate **Appendices** document, and **see what you think**. Remember that despite the objective tests that are brought to bear on the question of discontinuities in the raw temperature data, there is always a significant subjective component in the decision to as to whether an adjustment is required and to what extent.

Use your judgement and see whether you think the Newcastle raw data should be revisited.

How important is this issue and for what purpose is it important? Could it be that Newcastle's heavy industrialisation in 20th Century had a local cooling effect on the maximums? – What could be the mechanism for such a cooling? **What do you think?**

Science can never be left up to robotic computers.