

A spokesman for The Australian

Why didn't The Australian include the views of credentialed climate scientists in its recent coverage?

The issues raised did NOT involve matters of climate science, they concerned issues of proper record keeping and data management.

We included extensive comments from BOM chief executive and director of meteorology Stuart Minchin and the BoM.

Why didn't The Australian include the history of independent reviews of the BOM's climate records, including findings that they have repeatedly withstood scrutiny?

The article was concerned with raw data. The reviews referred to by ABC concern the homogenisation process which was not the subject of the latest articles.

Earlier reports on homogenisation have explicitly acknowledged BoM's position on homogenisation and the recommendations of in-house reviews which have still not been fully delivered.

The BOM says the roughly 200 errors identified among 7 million records were transcription errors linked to 1960s punch-card systems, and that their effect on long-term temperature trends is statistically insignificant. Has The Australian overstated its claim of "widespread errors" in BOM climate data?

BoM had the opportunity to but did not explain how the errors occurred.

BoM was quoted as saying the issues would have limited impact.

Forty per cent of errors were post-1990.

Only a proper independent audit will determine how widespread the issues are.

The Australian describes Tom Berger as an investigator and former computer engineer specialising in data-based deception analysis. His website describes him as a "Perceptionist, Mind Reader & Entertainer". Why does The Australian regard

him as a credible source for such serious allegations and why didn't it explain to its readers Mr Berger's full biography

Tom Berger is a former computer engineer and has the expertise to undertake the work he did.

Mr Berger's findings of duplications and errors in the raw data have been accepted by BoM as accurate.

The Australian has also relied on Jennifer Marohasy, who is a biologist but not climate or data scientist, and who is also a widely reported climate change sceptic whose climate analyses have been widely criticised, and Geoffrey Sherrington, who is also not a climate or data scientist, but a retired chemist who has a history of climate change scepticism. Why not test the allegations in your story with practising climate scientists with expertise in the field?

Jennifer is published in the literature on this subject.

The articles concerned data management not climate science.

One Climate Scientist we spoke, when asked about Berger's report and The Australian's coverage, told us "ironic that [The Australian] accuse the BoM for pushing an agenda, when in fact it is actually them doing the agenda pushing. What is your response?

We did not accuse BoM of pushing an agenda.

We reported that independent analysis had identified errors in what BoM claimed to be its raw data.

These errors have been accepted by BoM which has said they will be corrected.