

Statement from Dr Linden Ashcroft, senior lecturer in climate science and historical climatologist at the University of Melbourne:

The idea of sending energy into the sky to affect the weather has been around (particularly in Queensland) since [the 1800s](#), with little success. It's amazing to me that these sort of activities are still prevalent, but I also know how desperate people are when water is running out.

Cloud seeding is a different approach used around the world, [including in Australia](#). By delivering particles into the air through planes, drones or from the ground, seeding can sometimes increase the amount of rainfall received in a small region by 10–20%.

My understanding is that weather manipulation methods only work in a small area, and only if there is already weather on the way. If there is no moisture in the atmosphere—which is what happens during a dry spell—all the 'weather manipulation' in the world is not going to make it rain. This requirement for good background conditions is often left out by companies spruiking this kind of 'service'.

There is no proven technique to bring rainfall to an area in drought. No credible meteorologists or climate scientists that I know would support the claims made by this story. These companies are not supported by robust scientific evidence, and the technology they describe to shift the paths of weather systems seems deliberately vague and obtuse.

While we are having a huge impact on the weather and climate thanks to climate change, that is very different to 'controlling the weather'.