



Enhancing the News

March 2007

Human face to Mother Nature

Following the recent spate of tropical cyclones across northern Australia, scientists warn there is more extreme weather to come. There is concern Mother Nature may be given a helping hand as higher sea levels and more intense storm surges are predicted as global temperatures rise.

Cyclone George wreaked havoc along the north coast of Western Australia, killing three people and leaving behind a path of destruction. The battered region was again bracing for a second cyclone, Jacob, however it weakened bringing heavy rain and gusting winds. Although there is no proven link, the ferocity of George may suggest a connection to global warming, as this was the most violent storm to strike the area in 30 years.

Natural disasters and the effects climate change could have on their incidence in the future is a topic worthy of exploration. Custom produced for young Australians, the [Weather Ed complete series](#) sets a new national standard in learning about weather and geography. For primary students the free feature article, [Our Violent World](#), explores natural disasters and this episode of [Behind the News](#) asks what is a cyclone and will they become more prevalent with climate change? [Behind the News Special: Disasters and Emergencies](#) explains why unpredictable and powerful weather occurs and in [Cutting Edge: Five Disasters Waiting to Happen](#), experts discuss measures to monitor major climate threats and ask if enough is being done to prevent a climate catastrophe. While [Australia Eye of the Storm: La Nina – Ep.1 of 4](#) examines the climate phenomenon that causes massive cyclones and endless rain, [The Next Megaquake](#) reflects on the 2004 Tsunami and reveals that a far bigger earthquake of catastrophic proportions could strike anytime.

