

Global temperatures: hottest March in modern history, says NOAA

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<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/global-temperatures-hottest-march-in-modern-history-says-noaa/news-story/95c9581845228c7deccb2ebf874c2dfa>



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Last month marked the hottest March in modern history and the 11th consecutive month in which a monthly global temperature record was broken, US officials said yesterday.

Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the string of record-setting months was the longest in its 137-year record.

The globally averaged temperature over land and ocean surfaces for last month “was the highest for the month of March in the NOAA global temperature dataset record, which dates back to 1880”, the agency said.

Planet-wide, the average temperature was 1.22C above the 20th-century average of 12.7C, NOAA’s report said.

“This surpassed the previous record set in 2015 by 0.32 C, and marks the highest monthly temperature departure among all 1635 months on record.”

These temperature spikes indicate the pace of global warming is accelerating.

Last year was the hottest on record, edging out 2014, which held the title previously.

“The nine highest monthly temperature departures in the record have all occurred in the past nine months,” NOAA said.

“March 2016 also marks the 11th consecutive month a monthly global temperature record has been broken, the longest such streak in NOAA’s 137 years of record-keeping.”

The report showed that most of the Earth’s land surfaces were hotter than average in March, “with record warmth notable across eastern Brazil, most of eastern and central Africa, much of southeastern Asia, and large portions of northern and eastern Australia”. Northwest Canada and northern and western Asia saw temperatures at least 3C above the 1981-2010 average.

The Arctic region marked its second highest March temperature on record. Land readings were at 3.34C higher than the 1981-2010 average.