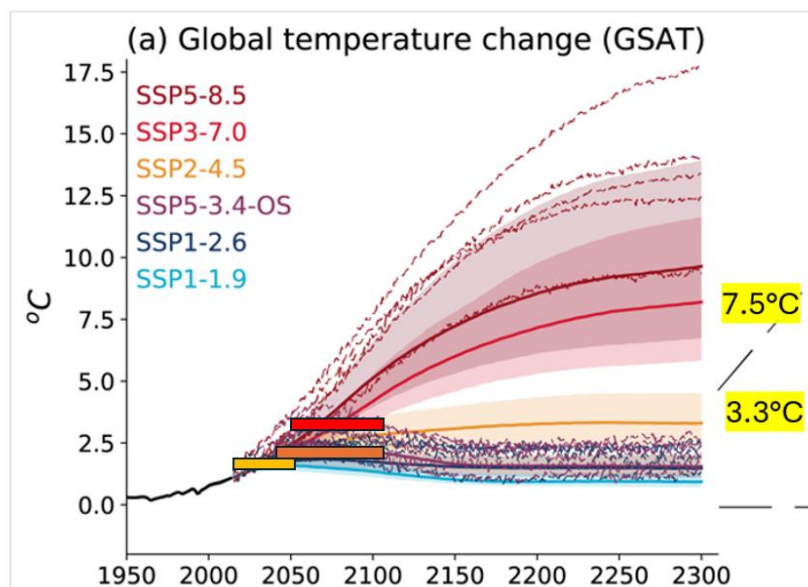


The National Climate Risk Assessment

The long awaited National Climate Risk Assessment is much needed and welcome but misses a couple of critical opportunities to improve the public's understanding of the inevitable trajectory we are on.

Firstly, these are not climate “risks”. Use of this term implies the “possibility” of climate impacts. As the report points out the identified scenarios lead to different levels of impact. None identifies that any of the impacts are avoided. A more appropriate title is National Climate Impact Assessment.

Secondly, the selection of temperatures (1.5, 2.0 and 3.0C) rather than the SSPs in the IPCC Assessment Report 6 is problematical because it implies that this is the range of extremes we will face. However, as the following graph (IPCC_AR6_WGI_Figure_4_40) shows, any future that hits 2.0C is likely to exceed 3.0C thereafter. The only exception is the SSP5-3.4-OS scenario that briefly overshoots 2C and then declines because of a rapid reduction in emissions after 2040 together with carbon removal (negative emissions).



Hitting 3C during this century likely means far higher temperatures changes thereafter. SSP3-7.0 and beyond all reach 5C or beyond by 2300, noting that 2023 global emissions are higher than in any of these scenarios. So, there is a massive difference in long term climate outcomes if 3C is realised in this century. The NCRA misses the opportunity to communicate the criticality of avoiding the exceedance of 2C which is of course the essence of the Paris Agreement.