

## > 8.7 Improve your writing

In this lesson you will...

- write a report about extreme weather conditions.

- 1 **Read the report on the opposite page. Choose a heading for each of paragraphs a to d.**

On fire    Getting hotter more quickly in Australia    Summer heatwave    Then the rain came

- 2 **Answer the questions.**

- a How does the headline get your attention?
- b Why does the report have several paragraphs?
- c Is the style of the report formal or informal? Is it descriptive or factual?
- d What kind of detail does the writer include and why?
- e Why do you think the writer includes a quote?
- f Can you tell what the writer's own opinions are from the text?
- g Where would you expect to read a report like this?
- h Do you think the photo is a good choice to illustrate the report?  
Why? / Why not?
- i What is the purpose of the photo caption?

- 3 **Write a report about weather conditions that have been in the news recently. Use the report about Australia as a model. Have you done the following?**

- written a good headline
- organised the information in short paragraphs
- included sub-headings for each paragraph
- included information and evidence
- written a conclusion for the final paragraph
- illustrated the report with a suitable image
- written a caption for the image.



Headline	● <b>Drought, bushfires and floods in Australia</b>
Introduction	● The summer of 2019–2020 was the second hottest on record in Australia. Temperatures were above average across almost the whole country.
Facts and figures	● <b>a</b> ..... In December 2019, the heat was exceptional. The average temperature across the country was above 40 °C on 11 days in the month. On two consecutive days, 17 and 18 December, Australia recorded its hottest days on record. The heat continued through January and into early February.
More information	● <b>b</b> ..... The extremely hot, dry conditions led to the worst bushfires in over 50 years. Low rainfall meant that moisture levels in the ground were very low. The fires burned 5 million hectares, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out wildlife. A resident of New South Wales said, 'Australia has always had bushfires, but the fires in 2019 were like nothing we'd ever seen before.'
Detail	●
Quote	●
Detail	● <b>c</b> ..... Fortunately, rain started to fall in January and February 2020. In Sydney, there was more rain over four days than the city had had in the entire second half of 2019. In inland areas, the storms led to flash-flooding and rivers overflowed. However, some areas did not have enough rain to restore reservoir levels and ground water.
Conclusion	● <b>d</b> ..... Scientists believe that the exceptional heat in summer is due to climate change and they are concerned that Australia's average temperatures are increasing more rapidly than in other parts of the world. Although the summer heat was followed by heavy rain, the driest parts of the country will continue to suffer from droughts.
Photo	● 
Caption	● Drought conditions in Victoria, Australia