

This paper aims to provide some peer-reviewed support for one of the high-level IPCC assessment statements, namely that current temperatures are higher than any previous temperatures of the last (at least) 100,000 years.

I originally reviewed this paper for another journal, and many of my previous review comments have been addressed in this version, but here are some new/outstanding comments:

[I should also comment that I didn't read the other review prior to completing this one, so my review is independent]

My two main comments are that:

(1) it is not always clear in the paper when the present (recent) warming is being compared with the past, and when future warming is being compared with the past. This should be delineated more clearly. For example, in the abstract the first four lines are all about paleo and recent warming, whereas the final sentence suddenly brings in future warming, which is not mentioned previously. Also line 22 could mention future as well as recent warming. The concept of "upcoming" warming is introduced later in the paper, but I am still unsure whether the actual assessment statement relates to warming that has happened already, or warming that may happen in the future.

(2) I feel that in a "Technical Note" such as this, it would be good to have a bit more technical detail. For example, exactly what are the new papers that have come out since AR5 that allow us to go further back in time? It would be great if these were listed in e.g. a table, and the time period at which they give a paleo warming of 1.1 degrees given. This would allow us to clearly understand the new assessment in IPCC. In other words, I would have hoped that by the end of reading the Technical Note I would fully understand why IPCC assessed a date of 100,000 years, rather than 110,000 years, or 90,000 years. Indeed, looking at Figure 1 I would have expected an older date than 100,000, more like ~120,000 years.

In addition:

- it might be good to add a sentence or so stating that the new structure of AR6, with paleo integrated throughout the report, was one of the contributing factors that facilitated this new assessment of future warming with paleo time periods (if the authors believe this to be the case).
- The abstract should be more quantitative, in particular including the 1.1°C of recent warming, the 1.5°C maximum warming of the last interglacial, and the 1°C maximum warming of the Holocene.
- Page 2, line 53-57, "This includes committed climate change, which arises because slow-moving components of the climate system will continue to react to the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere for centuries to come.". Yes, but bear in mind that after zero emissions is achieved, CO<sub>2</sub> starts to decrease, and this largely cancels out the effect you mention, so that committed "warming" is actually quite small. See MacDougall et al, 2020.

MacDougall, A. H., Frölicher, T. L., Jones, C. D., Rogelj, J., Matthews, H. D., Zickfeld, K., Arora, V. K., Barrett, N. J., Brovkin, V., Burger, F. A., Eby, M., Eliseev, A. V., Hajima, T., Holden, P. B., Jeltsch-Thömmes, A., Koven, C., Mengis, N., Menviel, L., Michou, M., Mokhov, I. I., Oka, A., Schwinger, J., Séférian, R., Shaffer, G., Sokolov, A., Tachiiri, K., Tjiputra, J., Wiltshire, A., and Ziehn, T.: Is there warming in the pipeline? A multi-model analysis of the Zero Emissions Commitment from CO<sub>2</sub>, *Biogeosciences*, 17, 2987–3016, <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-17-2987-2020>, 2020.