Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, C8417–C8418, 2009
www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/9/C8417/2009/

Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

Interactive comment on "Recent increase in aerosol loading over the Australian arid zone" *by* R. M. Mitchell et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 15 December 2009

Australia is subject to the El Nino/La Nina cycle, as well as other recently identified climatic influences. In the past 5 to 10 years, these have conspired to produce one of the biggest droughts in the past century or more. The Lake Eyre Basin is an inland drainage basin, occupying over 10% of the continent. It is hardly surprising that this drought has been felt strongly in this region. It is equally unsurprising that one consequence is a marked increase in dust elevation. This has led to many observable consequences, including the massive dust storms which covered much of eastern Australia on September 23 and 26. The work of this paper attempts to make use of the relatively sparse data which is available from the LEB to quantify the increase in dust elevation in recent years, and discern the relevant trends. Within the obviously limitations of such sparse data, it manages to achieve these aims in a convincing manner. It is an important paper.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 21619, 2009.

ACPD

9, C8417–C8418, 2009

Interactive Comment