

Climate Health WA Inquiry

About your submission

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

No

Yes

If yes, please identify the organisation:

Your contact details

The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.

First name

██████

Surname

██████████

Address

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Publication of submissions

Submissions will be published with the name of the submitter unless otherwise indicated below. Do you consent to be identified in the published submission?

Yes, I / my organisation agree to be identified

No, I / my organisation request to remain anonymous

Terms of Reference

You are encouraged to address at least ONE of the Terms of Reference as listed below. Please select which item/s you will address:

1. Establish current knowledge on the implications of climate change for health in Western Australia (WA) and recommend a framework for evaluating future implications.

2. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will protect the public from the harmful health impacts of climate change.

3. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will strengthen the preparedness and resilience of communities and health services against extreme weather events, with a focus on the most vulnerable in the community.

- 4. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will reduce the contribution of WA health services to climate change and other detrimental impacts.
- 5. Identify and recommend a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, which will enable WA Health services to implement change, including energy efficiency, to a more sustainable model.
- 6. Evaluate the likely benefits (health and wellbeing, social and economic) arising from climate change mitigation strategies, with a focus on WA health services.
- 7. Define the role of the Department of Health in leading public policy on climate change and health.
- 8. Recommend the Terms of Reference, scope and preferred methods for undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment for the health sector.
- 9. Recommend the Terms of Reference, scope and preferred methods for developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the health sector.

Submissions response field

Please type your response to the item(s) selected above into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submission as a separate attachment (suggested maximum 5 pages).

1. Establish current knowledge on the implications of climate change for health in Western Australia (WA) and recommend a framework for evaluating future implications

The Department of Health document: Health impacts of climate change: adaptation strategies for Western Australia identifies a number of impacts that climate change may have upon health in WA, including those associated with extreme events and diseases that are waterborne, vector borne and foodborne. Potential impacts are identified that are related to food production, air quality, UV exposure, biodiversity, the built environment, dislocation, mental health, community, lifestyle and the economy. The following strategies may be used by local government to address the limitations identified by the Department of Health:

Lack of preparedness and education in remote indigenous communities - local government presence may be increased to remote indigenous communities to ensure that they are receiving the same information and responding accordingly in preparation for an emergency.

Lack of specific heat wave response plan - state government may work with local governments to develop a response plan that is specific to heat waves

Waterborne health effects - state and local governments may work together to identify needs for upgrade of water treatment and supply systems to populations

Local government EHOs may increase the comprehensiveness of their existing water monitoring programs, including the frequency of sampling

Water supply to isolated areas - supply may need to be increased to remote areas and new rules may be developed for regulation and licensing of grey water

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management

Mosquito management - surveillance and treatment of mosquito breeding sites may need to be increased. Local governments will require more resources in order to keep up with an increased demand for mosquito management work

Foodborne impacts - require public education and awareness campaigns around food safety

My personal perspective on awareness about climate change in Port Hedland is that it is not spoken about, and there are not concerns raised that indicate responsibility for the ways that we contribute to climate change. However, I also believe that there is gradual progression toward environmentally responsible initiatives which are not realized to be related to climate change. For example the elimination and reduction of single-use plastics and the provision of local recycling facilities have gained momentum recently.

7. Define the role of Department of Health leading policy on climate change and health

It would be beneficial for local governments to receive a clear set of responsibilities and/or actions that could be taken by local governments to reduce their greenhouse gas footprint. I believe that most local governments would be willing to contribute to emission reductions, however they would require specific guidance as to which areas of operation to focus on and how emissions can be reduced.

Please complete this sheet and submit with any attachments to: Climate Health WA Inquiry