

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

██████████

Phone

Email

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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).

Current and future impacts and risks to health from climate change, including worst case scenarios, 'unthinkable events', and high-end risks.

- My community in Toodyay already has to deal with hotter summers and cold winters and a drying climate. Bushfires are intensifying.
- The river level is lower, but extreme weather events could lead to more regular flooding of parts of Toodyay.
- Our nearest hospital is Northam, a 20 min drive.
- We have quite an elderly community, they are at risk of heat stroke
- We are surrounded by forests, we are very much in danger already by out of control bush fires.
- the main road to Perth is for a large part surrounded by dry forest. So is the train line. This is a risk.
- we don't produce much of our own energy in Toodyay, most of our energy comes from the SW connected grid. This is a risk if we get cut off.
- I am unclear where our drinking water comes from, apart from water tanks at the top of the hill. River, rain, piped from Perth? This in itself worries me.
- Our food is already more expensive than Perth, especially fresh produce. We have farms in the area, but they don't cover all our needs.
- air pollution in the valleys from people's fireplaces/woodstoves in winter is a health issue.

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- I am concerned about my own mental health, and that of others, as the risks increase. Already, I am very anxious every time I smell or see smoke from my house, and I live in the town site!

Define the role of the Department of Health in leading public policy on climate change and health;

- the DoH needs to be talking more about climate, talking about the multitude of issues of a changing climate, but also the direct impacts of emissions from coal, gas, burning diesel and wood(or waste incineration!), on air pollution.

- need to talk about the costs, economically, of not acting now. It will cost more in the long run to mitigate, and deal with the costs to health. A bit like not dealing with asbestos or tobacco. Industry can not be part of setting policy on this stuff!! Why would they even be 'consulted'. We, our government, need to be telling them what to do.

The WA Government as a whole need to make stronger climate change policy. The recent 2050 target is a great step forward, but nowhere near enough. We need yearly targets, that have to be met. We need to be reducing our emissions, not increasing them (offshore and onshore gas!!!).

We need a stop to all NEW fossil fuel projects, including onshore unconventional gasfields across the state.

Renewables, carbon farming, (regenerative) agriculture, tourism, should be the main parts of our regional economies.

The WA Government and/or DoH should establish a working group to look at the Wellbeing Economy ideas/alliance, that NZ, Iceland and Scotland ministers have gotten involved with: <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/how-we-work>

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