

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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	Lauren
Surname	Blekkenhorst, Dr Josh Lewis, Dr Marc Sim
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

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).

Establish current knowledge on the implications of climate change for health in Western Australia (WA) and recommend a framework for evaluating future implications - Dr Lauren Blekkenhorst, Dr Josh Lewis, Dr Marc Sim

A better understanding of the impact of climate change on the nutrient content of fresh fruits and vegetables is essential for ensuring the wider population are obtaining vital nutrients for good health. Recent research has indicated C3 plants such as grasses (wheat, rice, barley), legumes (soybeans and field peas) and tubers (potato) have lower concentrations of essential nutrients when grown in an increased atmospheric CO₂ environment. If the nutrient content of fresh fruits and vegetables is declining due to climate change and an increase in CO₂, this could have detrimental effects on the health of the population.

We propose the Department of Health, in collaboration with Edith Cowan University, to analyse selected nutrients and phytochemicals in fruits and vegetables grown in Western Australia over a 10-year period to establish whether there is a decline in vital nutrients found in these foods.

Establishing current knowledge on the potential decline of vital nutrients in fruits and vegetables that coincide with rises in atmospheric CO₂ will inform future initiatives to act on change.

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