

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.

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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).

Healthy Active by Design is a resource from the National Heart Foundation.

A considerable body of literature exists relating to the association between the community food environment and diet quality (such as through purchasing and consumption behaviours); the association between the community food environment and obesity; and the association between neighbourhood characteristics (i.e. disadvantage) and the food environment. Studies predominantly from Australia, UK and USA, have shown that the density of, and proximity to, food outlets has an influence on food purchasing and consumption. For example, a higher proportion of healthy food outlets can increase the purchasing and consumption of foods such as fruit and vegetables, which is associated with good health. Conversely, evidence suggests that people living in areas of greater disadvantage also have poorer access to healthy food outlets and experience poorer health outcomes (Hector et al., 2016).

Greater attention to urban food production is increasing, as concerns about food security due to climate change, rising transport costs etc. and sovereignty rise (Burton, 2013). Literature has called on governments to preserve agricultural land on the urban fringe, which is increasingly used for residential development (Satterthwaite, 2010). Evidence suggests there are a range of factors that contribute to the built food environment and its impact on encouraging healthy eating behaviours.

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The National Heart Foundation commissioned Edith Cowan University and HASSELL to expand their Healthy Active by Design website to incorporate a 'Healthy Food' design feature. Local government staff, elected members, planners and developers from public and private sectors were part of the consultation. A conceptual framework underpinned the project and included actions for the Natural, Built, Social cultural and Economic environments as key considerations for local government and town planners and designers.

Design outcomes included 'Health impact', 'Evidence', 'Checklist', 'Case Studies', 'Policies' (links to relevant national policies) and 'International examples' sections. Evidence identified in the literature was separated into 'food retail facilities', 'healthy food community amenities', 'healthy food transport opportunities', which examined the relationship between community food environment concepts, food purchasing and consumption behaviours. An Advocacy Checklist highlighted best practice evidence-based considerations to create healthy built food environments across existing design features. Case studies showcased local, national and international examples of a range of environmental challenges and solutions that typically address components of the food supply chain and links to relevant policies were included.

This website and resource supports local governments, town planners and other target groups to prioritise healthy food access and availability via retail facilities, community amenities and transport opportunities in order to create neighbourhoods that support healthy eating behaviour. The resource is the first of its kind in Australia and is a leading example of cross-sector consideration of current and future population health.

<http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/design-features/healthy-food/>

Burton, P., Lyons, K., Richards, C., Amati, M., Rose, N., Des Fours, L., Pires, V., Barclay, R. (2013). Urban food security, urban resilience and climate change. Retrieved from Gold Coast:

Hector, D., Boylan, S., & Lee, A. (2016). Healthy food environment scoping review. Retrieved from Sydney: Australia.

Satterthwaite, D., McGranahan, G., Tacoli, C. (2010). Urbanization and its implications for food and farming. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 365(1554), 2809-2820.

Recommendations for the WA Department of Health:

Work with relevant departments including Dept. Planning, Land and Heritage to promote and use the Healthy Active by Design resource when planning/retro-fitting suburbs, health services to consider the built food environment, peri urban space, natural bushlands and social cultural and economic impacts.

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Health services to support local growers and food producers by sourcing and using food products from farmers markets, urban and peri-urban agriculture, food cooperatives and food hubs for food supply within services such as hospitals. This will reduce cost, food miles, food freight/delivery services and increase seasonal use of products and improve local livelihoods.

Health services to consider the location of healthy food retail facilities close to their services.

Health services offer healthy food on location.

Ensure health services are accessible by public transport and active transport.

Advocate for health in all policies with Local Government.

Advocate for greater health and climate considerations in town planning regulations to increase the density of healthy food outlets in the community and other activities that mitigate climate change such as food hubs, market gardens, communities amenities with fresh drinking water through water fountains; provision of community purpose sites; community gardens; verge side and residential food growing; urban orchards and edible landscapes.

Support Local Government Authorities to prioritise local food availability and access in their Public Health Plans.

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