

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Climate Health WA Inquiry. As a General Practitioner, I am trained to practise evidence based medicine. The facts and evidence for the adverse health effects of humankind's contribution to global warming are irrefutable. Additionally, as a member of Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA), I am privy to that organisation's enormous body of knowledge and evidence, free of emotion and heavy on facts.

The science is crystal clear that the burning of fossil fuels has accelerated the heating of the planet towards a critical tipping point. It may already be too late. Federally Australian government is not prepared to confront this. Maybe State governments will step up instead - and maybe not. However, as a concerned, terrified and appalled citizen, more informed than many citizens, but certainly not an expert, it is not an option for me to do nothing. So, for the first time ever, I am writing a submission in the hope that others like me feel the same way and that maybe local action can contribute to a change.

I have read the DEA's submission and support it in entirety. In particular, I support the DEA's recommendations that:

1. The WA Department of Health (DoH) and the health sector in general lead a visible public process to draw the link between the climate crisis and health and articulate the need for immediate emissions reduction.
2. The DoH establish and resource a Sustainable Development Unit based on the UK's model of the same, as per the final recommendations of the Sustainable Health Review.
3. The DoH lead and coordinate a comprehensive adaptation process to prepare WA communities for climate health impacts.
4. The DoH with consideration of the health impacts have a regulatory role in setting WA emissions reduction targets and regulating high emitting industries.
5. The DoH call for a renewable energy target that will allow for a planned transition

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and a net-zero emissions target by at least 2050 with an interim target of at least 60% on 2005 levels by 2030, in line with the science.

6. The DoH set a mandatory target for all health services to have net-zero emissions by at least 2050 with an interim target of at least 60% on 2005 levels by 2030, in line with the science.

7. Consistent with the science and the need to rapidly reduce emissions, DoH advocate for no further major fossil fuel developments in Western Australia.

I am also mother to an adult son and daughter. They look at my generation with incredulity and ask "how did you not consider the global warming consequences of burning fossil fuels?" For their sakes and for the sake of the world they and their children will live in, it is simply evil for my generation to even entertain the option of doing more nothing. Thus, I hope that your inquiry listens to the science and adopts the recommendations of the experts.

Dr Deborah Field

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