

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Surname Glance

Address

Phone

Email

### 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).**

I fully support the points submitted by Doctors for the Environment and have added some additional comments:

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 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 would also add that the WA Government has a duty of care to citizens and must take this more seriously in relation to climate change. This extends to the health

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impacts that can be directly related to the actions of the government, such as its support for the extractive fossil fuel industries and the use of fossil fuels. While the net zero carbon emissions target recently announced by the WA Government is welcome, it is too little too late. The sooner we reach net zero emissions, the less financial impact there will be on the health system and the better our future health outlook as citizens. The financial costs to the health system from inaction in this area must also be factored into any Climate Health Inquiry terms of reference. Furthermore, the effects of climate change on emotional distress cannot be underestimated, and significantly more research and planning on how it impacts mental health and psychological distress must be undertaken.

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