

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Dear Inquiry,

As an entomologist with a Doctorate in Ecology, I am particularly concerned about the affects climate change will have on invertebrates and in turn humans.

Besides the likely increased spread of disease vectors and novel diseases in WA, the broader impacts on invertebrates could be catastrophic. Research is starting to show a major decline in invertebrate populations around the world, where there is long-term data to analyze. The potential cascading impacts of this decline are worrying. As it will have a direct impact on ecosystem services e.g. pollination, waste recycling, which is likely to impact human health through food quality and quantity etc. Simplified ecosystems are likely to be dominated by 'pest' or 'weedy' species, which are more likely to have negative impacts on humans.

Other research starting to demonstrate the negative impacts on increased CO₂ on food nutrition is also of great concern. Like humans eating junk food, elevated levels of CO₂ cause crop plants to produce excess carbohydrates and decreases the concentration of vital nutrients in grains. This will have increasing negative impacts on human health via malnutrition.

Given the large range of potential and likely health impacts of climate change it is vital to set ambitious emission reduction targets. Advocating for a stretch target of net zero emissions by 2030 is prudent taking a precautionary principle approach.

Kind Regards

Dr Peter Langlands

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