



Queensland  
Government

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Queensland Health

Dr Andrew Robertson  
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Dear Dr Robertson

Thank you for your letter dated 4 July 2019, regarding your invitation for a submission to the WA Climate Health Inquiry.

As you may be aware Queensland is now establishing frameworks that will reduce the climate emissions from the State as well as prepare the capacity of the State's eight key economic sectors in adapting to the expected risks from climate change. This approach means that while we are adapting we will also seek to reduce future climate impacts.

In 2017, the Queensland Government committed to the Queensland Climate Change Response which encompasses the Climate Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS) and Pathways to a Clean Growth Economy (QCTS). The Queensland Climate Change Response seeks to transition Queensland to a clean growth economy and adapt Queensland to the impacts of a changing climate. This is consistent with a number of state jurisdictions and the Paris Agreement.

The QCTS sets a number of mitigation targets, these are:

- 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030
- An interim emissions reduction target of at least 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030
- Zero net emissions by 2050

While it is expected that different sectors of the Queensland economy will contribute in varying ways to these targets, Queensland Health recognises its contribution to state and national emissions and is now planning and working towards the second target of 30 per cent reduction of emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. This will in part be achieved through the uptake of renewable energy, but also through energy reduction and savings programs. Many of our hospitals have already taken up this approach through the development of on-site solar power generation and implementation of energy savings practices.

Under Q-CAS the Queensland State Climate Adaptation response is captured under each of eight (8) separate key industry sectors, one of which is the Human Health and Wellbeing Sector. In 2018, Queensland released a Health and Wellbeing Climate Adaptation Plan (H-CAP) developed with the health, aged care and childcare sectors. The H-CAP identifies 10 priority adaptation measures to be used as a guide in developing service and policy responses to climate change in the health sector.

Under the broad direction provided by the QCTS, Q-CAS, and the H-CAP priority measures, Queensland Health has recently developed a draft Climate Risk Framework to ensure a planned and coordinated approach to strengthen the Queensland health system's climate resilience and adaptability. The development of the draft Framework was also informed by a series of risk assessment workshops involving public health physicians, senior level Hospital and Health Service operational and planning staff, and external stakeholders such as the Australian Medical Association of Queensland, Doctors for the Environment, Public Health Networks, and others.

The Draft Climate Risk Framework is underpinned by a series of guiding principles that promote responsive and collaborative leadership at all levels, without compromising standards of care. It seeks to incorporate sustainability principles as part of risk management, with key focus areas being infrastructure investment, health system planning, asset management, advocacy, workforce, and procurement and delivery of goods and services. A key expectation of the Framework will be that Hospital and Health Systems develop Climate Risk Management Plans.

Queensland Health has also participated in the organisation of an industry forum on Low Carbon Healthcare with the Australian College of Health Service Management. The forum included climate and health response advocates David Pencheon and Forbes McGain, as guest speakers, in an effort to raise awareness and promote the need for action to the broader industry.

It is proposed that the draft Framework will be underpinned by a Climate Risk Strategy and a Climate Risk Guideline to support the development of climate risk management plans by Hospital and Health Services and other areas of Queensland Health. The Guideline will be based on accepted risk frameworks and will allow for a consistent approach to climate risk planning. It will also encourage the various Hospital and Health Services to share learnings and provide peer to peer support in preparing Climate Risk Management Plans.

I look forward to the findings and outcomes of your Inquiry and any potential learnings for Queensland Health.

Thank you again for requesting our input into the WA Inquiry on Climate and Health. If you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Uma Rajappa, Director, Environmental Hazards Unit, Department of Health, on telephone [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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15 / 08 / 2019