

## 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: City of Bunbury

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

██████

Surname

██████

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).**

Increases in temperature is likely to see dramatic changes in the eco-system which could result in an increase of current diseases and new/emerging diseases becoming more prevalent. Mould and fungus that do not currently cause issues for humans are already mutating and may adapt to survive in higher temperatures, therefore having a potential to affect humans in the future. In addition, vectors of disease such as mosquitoes, flies and rodents will change and adapt also having the potential for greater public health risk to the community.

The issue of sea level rising is of concern as places that the community associate with may no longer exist in the future, therefore causing people to feel depressed or have a sense of loss of a significant place. Not only will sea level rise will cause physical damage to coastal infrastructure (natural and built) it will also result in saline intrusion into groundwater bores and aquifers which may impact on drinking water supplies and parks ares used by the community. Already local governments are planning and implementing strategies to mitigate sea level rise but more needs to be done in this area.

Due to experience and expertise, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) would be able to offer valuable insight and assistance in emergency situations, pandemics or serious public health risks to limit the impact on the community. However ongoing training, support, resourcing and appointments of suitable qualified EHOs in local governments (especially rural LGs) needs to be maintained.

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