GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Climate Health WA Inquiry findings and recommendations

| Findings | Recommendations |
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| Next decade (2020–2030) is vital to address irreversible climate risk | 1 **Act early** and establish a Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) in WA Department of Health (Chapters 5 and 7; Findings 1 and 5) |
| Climate action is necessary for health system sustainability | 2 **Allow and incentivize** a 'new normal' in hospitals and health services (Chapters 5, 6 and 7; Findings 5 and 8) |
| Different Western Australian regions exhibit different environmental and health impacts from climate change | 3 **System Manager** to lead in reform of policy, procurement, performance, training and research (Chapters 5, 6 and 7; Findings 5 and 9) |
| Connections between climate change and health, between physical and mental health, and between vulnerability and resilience, need reinforcing | 4 **Strengthen adaptation** in the specific areas of extreme weather events, heatwaves, mosquito control and air pollution (Chapters 4 and 8; Findings 6 and 10) |
| The health sector in Western Australia is close to the starting line in a race to reduce its own emissions and waste, but is keen to go further and faster | 5 **Establish data and early warning systems** across environment and health, linked to effective mitigation and rapid adaptive response as required (Chapters 3–8; Findings 3, 5 and 6) |
| Adaptation can be strengthened | 6 **Create a new governance structure** across mitigation and adaptation (Chapters 5 and 9; Findings 9 and 10) |
| Benefits of change far outweigh costs when health is factored in | 7 **Think strategically** across a 10-year horizon (Chapters 2, 6 and 9; Findings 2, 8 and 9) |
| Climate risk is both strategic and operational | 8 **Communicate, consult and partner** to raise public awareness of climate-health links and co-benefits of action, and reach vulnerable individuals and groups across the State (Chapters 4, 6 and 9; Findings 4, 7, 9 and 10) |
| Good governance, clear metrics and broad partnerships are the key to sustain change over time | 9 **Seek complementary action** at a national level in a federal system (Chapters 5, 6 and 10; Finding 9) |
| Aboriginal stewardship is as vital now as in our past | 10 **Contribute to learning, innovation and research** (Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 10; Findings 3, 9 and 10) |