

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Surname Ross

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).

Western Australians, in particular the young people I listen to and speak to, are very concerned about climate change and flora and fauna extinctions.

A University of Western Australia student survey revealed that 80% of students noted that their primary concern is climate change.

A young woman explained to me that she and her friends were considering not having babies because of the uncertainty of the condition of the world their children would inherit.

At an extinction event at the Environmental Defenders' Office this year, two young ladies representing the Fremantle Youth Network, spoke of the need for urgent action, of anxiety and of fear of the future. At the same event, the WA Scientist of the Year, 2016, spoke of the likelihood of 2000 local extinctions. A Special Counsel outlined the need for stronger environmental protection laws in Australia.

Western Australia is becoming hotter and drier. The weather is less reliable. There will be an increase in extreme events with increasing climate change. What of the vulnerable?

Practices like fracking have the potential to pollute water resources and the environment far into the future. Students and families are concerned about the destructive nature of fracking to source energy, including health impacts.

All these concerns, fears and loss of confidence in the quality of life in Western Australia in this century, have health implications. Individuals, families, providers of health care and the costs of health care can be impacted.

I suggest health authorities can act to:

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).

Promote an increase in the rate of climate change mitigation through urgently reducing emissions.

Promote renewable energy over gas fracking, coal and oil.

Argue the negative impacts of new gas, new coal and new oil.

Argue for the regulation of use of domestic air conditioners. We are mammals; we are designed to tolerate variations in ambient air temperature, yet domestic air conditioner use is now excessive, thoughtless and demanding of scarce energy resources. Energy is wasted. Emissions are increased. There are electricity supply crises as a result. The disadvantaged, sick and elderly are unfairly impacted.

Argue for the clever development of public transport over private transport, the extended carriage of bicycles on public transport including during peak periods, and the planning of more walker-friendly and cycling-friendly cities and towns. Personal fitness and cleaner air will result.

Argue for the conservation of our beautiful, peaceful, relaxing and valuable natural environments, ecology, flora and fauna.

I have been sharing concerns by:

Corresponding with government ministers on climate change, environment and extinction.

Attending climate, environment and conservation seminars, including those at the University of Western Australia. I am a UWA science graduate.

Contributing as a citizen scientist to Birdlife WA and Birdata.

Continuing to develop and maintain my one hectare of private bird habitat in Kangaroo Gully.

Removing all man-made debris from my local beach each week.

Participating peacefully and lawfully in protests.

Encouraging the respect of all of Creation in the Catholic Church.

I am a biological scientist so I read as much as I can on relevant topics.

I am willing to assist according to my capabilities following the enquiry.

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