



22 August 2019

Att: Climate Health WA Inquiry
The Project Director
Public and Aboriginal Health Division
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Dear Sir/Madam

CLIMATE HEALTH WA INQUIRY

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (WA) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the State Government's Climate Health Inquiry (the Inquiry) which will review the current planning and response capacity of the health system, and make recommendations in relation to the health impacts of climate change.

CME is the peak resources sector representative body in WA. CME is funded by our member companies who are responsible for over 90 per cent of the State's mineral and energy production and workforce employment.

Our sector employs over 118,000 people in WA and in 2017-18, the value of WA's mineral and petroleum industry was \$115 billion. The sector is a major contributor to both the State and Australian economy.

Climate change is a uniquely global challenge and therefore an issue best addressed through global agreement by nation states co-ordinated through global bodies such as the United Nations. Given Australia's ratification of the Paris Agreement and current (and future) Nationally Determined Contribution, a nationally consistent policy framework is critical to deliver on this commitment. In CME's view, such a framework must balance the social, economic and environmental aspects associated with emissions reduction.

In this regard, CME is pleased to see the Inquiry acknowledges a coordinated approach that is reflective of robust evidence and national policy is required.

The current Inquiry presents an opportunity to contribute valuable evidence and robust information on the management of health impacts of climate change. CME recommends the Inquiry take a broad approach to gathering information and obtain evidence from multiple trusted sources to ensure any policy response is effective.

Health and safety is the number one priority of the WA resource sector. On behalf of our members, CME helps facilitate a collaborative and best practice approaches to safety and health to assist industry in driving leading practice outcomes in safety and health.

The sector is a world leader in the management of health and safety risks and takes a risk based, continuous improvement approach to managing exposure to hazards in the workplace. This approach extends to risks to worker health and safety associated with extreme weather conditions and a changing climate more broadly.

Many resource sector operations are located in remote areas of WA where extreme weather events (such as cyclones) and ongoing exposure to extreme weather conditions (such as the high temperatures in the state's north) have the potential to occur. CME's members have robust management systems in place for managing the risks associated with these situations, including controls to ensure workers are not exposed to unnecessary risk. In relation to extreme weather events, a key component of companies' response strategies involves effective coordination with state emergency services and health services.

Ensuring these systems and practices are based on the best available evidence and information is an important component of ensuring the sector can effectively manages related risks.

Given our experience in this area, general leadership in health and safety and as a major employer in the state, CME is keen to be kept informed of the Inquiry's progress and findings to ensure the sector is able to contribute any expertise and practical insights in this important.

For further information or should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Elysha Millard, A/Manager – Workplace Health and Safety on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Robert Carruthers
Director – Policy and Advocacy