



Our ref: [REDACTED]
Enquiries: [REDACTED]

Adj. Professor Tarun Weeramanthri
Climate Health WA Inquiry
Department of Health Public and Aboriginal Health Division
PO Box 8172
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849
[REDACTED]

Dear Professor Weeramanthri

Climate Health WA Inquiry - Invitation for written submissions

Thank you for your letter regarding the Climate Health WA Inquiry - Invitation for written submissions.

The Transport Portfolio recognises the risk of climate change to Western Australia (WA) and the need to take action now to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. There are a number of climate change risks the Portfolio is aware of that may overlap with Health.

Increasing severe weather events

During times of severe weather events access to health services could be impacted or cut altogether. The issue is further compounded in regional and remote areas where access to health services can involve large distances. This issue mostly impacts roads but also applies to maritime services, aviation, ports and rail. Consideration needs to be given to acceptable levels of service for transport for all communities and in particular those communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Bush fire events

Bush fire events are expected to increase in frequency and severity. It is recognised that the transport network is essential for access to health and emergency services at risk of being impacted during bush fire events.

The Transport Portfolio will continue work across agencies to ensure that appropriate measures are implemented during such events

Utilisation of Active Transport

Increasing severe weather events and higher temperatures may discourage walking and cycling as means of everyday transport and affect people's ability to find time to exercise. This may lead to less healthy lifestyles overall and impact health services.

The level of service for cycling and pedestrian infrastructure will require review and provision of additional services such as green and resilient infrastructure and equipment, shelter, shade, drinking water, end of trip facilities, and educational support.

Encouraging more people to walk and cycle can help mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicle use.

Air Quality

A significant global trend in reducing the climate impacts from transport has been to increase the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs). Action to increase the uptake in EVs in WA will ultimately improve air quality, which is now being recognised as having a greater health impact than from traffic accidents. The Transport Portfolio is supporting the uptake of electric vehicles through its participation in the WA EV Working Group chaired by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

If you require further information, please contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Richard Sellers
Director General Transport

30/8/2019

