

## 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: Emergency Management Australia,  
Department of Home Affairs

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The following information will not be published without your permission but enables the Inquiry to contact you about your submission if required.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

Australian science agencies have stated that climate change is causing heatwaves, fire weather and drought to become more frequent and intense. Some rainfall events are also becoming more intense. Australia is projected to experience more extremes into the future. When combined with a growing and ageing population, and the infrastructure needed to support it, more people and assets will continue to be exposed to these hazards.

The new National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) is the nationally agreed roadmap to reduce the causes and impacts of disaster on Australian communities and the economy. The Framework sets the agenda for the foundational work needed across all sectors to reduce existing risk, prevent new risk being created and ensure we have the information to do so. The Framework is available at:

- <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/national-disaster-risk-reduction-framework.pdf>.

Western Australia was a key contributor to the Framework, which was co-developed by the Australian Government with all states and territories, and key industry and community stakeholders.

The implementation of the Framework is a priority for the Australian Government. The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) is currently leading the development of the National Action Plan to drive implementation of the Framework.

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The National Action Plan will be developed with Commonwealth, state and territory and other sectors. It will set out – on an annual basis - clear areas of focus, roles and responsibilities for risk reduction and a clear plan of the coordinated action needed to reduce disaster risk.

Each calendar year commencing in November this year, the Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management will deliver a statement of action to the Australian Parliament on progress implementing the Framework and detailing projects and initiatives in the National Action Plan.

Ongoing measurement and reporting on progress made against the National Action Plan over time will be critical to the process. As such the Department of Home Affairs will ensure that suitable monitoring and evaluation arrangements are also established.

Further, as part of the 2019 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$130.5 million over five years from 2019-20 to reduce the risk and impact of disasters on Australians in line with priorities of the Framework. The funding includes:

- \$104.4 million to support states and territories in reducing disaster risks at the state and local level, and
- \$26.1 million to deliver initiatives that reduce disaster risk at the national level, for the benefit of all Australians.

Funding negotiations between the Commonwealth and the states and territories have commenced. Once the national partnership agreement is finalised, spending on risk reduction activities under that agreement can start.

To support the Framework's implementation the Department has developed two additional key resources:

- [\*Profiling Australia's Vulnerability: the interconnected causes and cascading effects of systemic disaster risk\*](#)
- and
- [\*Guidance for Strategic Decisions on Climate and Disaster Risk.\*](#)

These resources were developed in partnership with all levels of government, peak bodies, industry, academia, business, non-government organisations and community sectors. These resources seek to address long standing gaps in knowledge at the national level to inform disaster risk reduction policy. These resources can be used to inform policy and provide deeper insights for better understanding systemic disaster risk. These resources could be used to inform

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the Terms of Reference, scope and preferred methods for undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment for the health sector.

The approach outlined in these resources could be used to identify a program of work to manage the implications of climate change for health in WA, and strengthen the preparedness and resilience of communities and health services when extreme weather events occur

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