



Climate change in Western Australia - Issues paper

Submission summary:

‘Bushfire Threat’ campaign (source unknown)

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Overview

A total of 59 submissions were received via email and hardcopy. The following template response was submitted by respondents:

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WA government’s climate change discussion paper. I am deeply concerned about climate change and extreme weather events like bushfires currently raging across the Australian continent.

We have the whole summer ahead of us. We’re now more vulnerable to fires as hotter and drier weather becomes the new normal because of climate change. The south-west of Western Australia is one of the most fire prone regions in the world. The number of days of severe fire danger weather is projected to almost double in south west Western Australia by 2090, with a clear scientific consensus linking climate change and the increasing number of heatwave days to higher bushfire risk in Western Australia. Very hot, dry and windy days create very high bushfire risk. As the only state with rising pollution (23% increase since 2005) and the only state with no climate change legislation, Western Australia desperately needs a climate policy which helps to mitigate these risks and protect our unique environment and communities.

To keep Western Australians safe from extreme weather, we need to better resource our firefighting & public services and take real action on climate change. By 2030, the number of professional firefighters in WA will need to more than double to meet the increasing risk of bushfires. The economic, social and environmental costs of increased extreme heat and bushfire activity is likely to be immense:

In Perth, from 1994-2006, there were over 20 heat attributable deaths per year. If average maximum temperatures were 2°C warmer, this number would almost double to 40 deaths.

Some of Western Australia's most fire-prone regions may become unlivable as the risks to lives and property caused by bushfires continue to increase.

Without effective action on climate change, there will be 20 times the number of dangerous days for outdoor workers by 2070, reducing productivity.

We are in a climate emergency and new fossil fuel projects like thermal coal and LNG production make the problem much worse for

Western Australians. Here in WA our carbon pollution is rising out of control, but we can do so much better. Real action on climate change will deliver thousands of new jobs and opportunities as we become part of the global solution.

I call for a comprehensive state-wide policy on climate change that includes the following at a minimum:

1. Immediately reduce WA's carbon pollution and achieve zero net emissions as soon as possible. Legislate to deliver science-based interim targets and an emissions reduction pathway in line with a fair and equitable contribution to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.
2. Deliver a billion-dollar Clean State Jobs program to unlock thousands of new jobs in clean industries and support a just transition for affected workers and communities.
3. Completely repower WA with renewable energy, phase out climate damaging fossil fuels, and prevent any new or expanded coal, oil or gas developments in WA including LNG and fracking.
4. Hold WA's biggest polluters to account. Require companies to reduce emissions and offset their climate damage by investing a portion of profits in clean industries, carbon farming and renewable energy.
5. Permanently protect natural carbon stores in WA's forests and other ecosystems, and rapidly transition away from native forest logging and clearing.
6. Support climate adaptation programs and partnerships, including with Aboriginal people and communities, farmers, local governments, businesses and other sectors.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Respondents

Please note that duplicate names have not been moderated as the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation could not verify respondent details.

Alison Hood	Heather Brennan	Lotta Thambert
Amy Butler	Ingrid Wilson	Louisa-Jill Fowler
Andrea Raddatz	Jacinta Casey	Lyn Weigall
Angela Lensink	Jacqueline Kelly	Maria Knappers
Antoinette Winrow	Jade Bonny	Mark Forde
Barbara Sing	Jamie Moir	Maureen Huxley
Bernie Masters	Janice Atkins	Michael Bellman
Brendan Franke	Jason Bruce	Mike Payne
Charlie Batchelor	Jenny Meyrick	Miranda Kippert-Hughes
Cheryl Bradley	Jill Brown	Pam Farrall
Chris England	Joan Day	Paula Stewart
Christine Brown	Joan Jenkins	Peter Bonser
Clare Caldeira	Jukka Lehtonen	Rita Poll
Clive Jamieson	Julian Sharp	Rosalie Bell
Colin Clarke	June Moore	Sharon Harper
Danielle Tyrls	Karen Kuhl	Sheila Mitchell
Denise Meyrick	Kerry Fewster	Stephanie Darcey
Dhyani Dsouza	Kiera Mollentze	Susan Starr
Donna Chapman	Kylie King	Wayne Shalders
Eva Cicmirko	Linda Hoddle	

Modified responses

The table below lists respondents who have modified the content of the pro forma submission. All text is verbatim and therefore has not been corrected for spelling or grammar.

Respondent	Modified content
Alison Hood	<p>To whom it may concern, I live in on a large bush block surrounded by state forest. My only way out is to drive through many kms of bushland. I am afraid that I would have no escape from a bushfire near me. There is virtually no mobile phone reception here.</p> <p>So, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WA government's climate change discussion paper. I am deeply concerned about climate change and extreme weather events like bushfires currently raging across the Australian continent.</p> <p>Also, please fund our fire departments so that they are well equipped and manned to get any bush fires under control quickly and safely.</p>
Angela Lensink	<p>To whom it may concern, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WA government's climate change discussion paper. I am deeply concerned about climate change and extreme weather events like bushfires currently raging across the Australian continent.</p> <p>Stop relying on mining,there are no jobs for women,and the airplane gases from FIFO contributes to carbon pollution,not to mention all the social problems with towns and families.</p> <p>Stop all clearing of the bushland and forests immediately.We have cleared too much and this has decreased rainfall.</p> <p>Stop the urban heat trap.Increase tree cover and open space to 50% of suburbs.This becomes difficult to achieve as soil is lost to concrete and there is no protection for establishing plants.</p> <p>Stop foreign takeover of our country so that people can have jobs in manufacturing,agriculture and tourism.</p>
Bernie Masters	<p>While I support greater resources being provided to bush fire brigades and for undertaking greater areas of prescribed burning in WA's natural areas, I do not support further 'investment' in actions that will reduce the state's CO2 emissions as, by itself, the state's emissions make no measurable difference to global atmospheric GHG levels. Instead, all such 'investment' should be redirected towards R&D and commercialisation of new or upgraded technologies that have the potential to make significant, measurable differences to global CO2 emissions.</p>
Clive Jamieson	<p>To whom it may concern, The way the Jarrah forest is managed now is a disgrace, the build up of trash is just asking for trouble. It has to be burnt EVERY</p>

	<p>YEAR or at the very least every second year. I believe they burn every six years that is just way too long, only got to use your eyes and see the burns they do are to hot and it scorches the trees because there is way too much trash on the ground, and when you get a out of control fire it gets up in the trees because of the high fuel loads. If it was burnt every year or every second year the fire would stay down on the ground and not harm the tree tops. These massive fires we have today have only been happening the last 200 years since European settlement, when the aboriginals were stopped from regularly burning the country.</p>
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