

State Pol

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November 20, 2019

Climate Change Consultation
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC
WA 6919

Re State Climate Policy Submission

Please find enclosed my state climate policy submission.

Yours sincerely

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Anthony Ross

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WA State Climate Policy Submission

Anthony Ross November 20, 2019

Transforming Energy Generation

Please do not set soft targets, the second half of this century is too late. Accept all possible responsibility to contribute to a successful global outcome. Respect our island neighbours. Respond to the United Nations' condemnation and do more!

The planned GHG emissions reduction of 26 – 28% below the 2005 level by 2030 is insufficient: WA's total emissions have increased since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement; WA's emissions have been increasing; WA's LNG industry is contributing disproportionately to this increase; WA's emissions reduction target needs to be increased to counter WA's emissions.

WA must take seriously the IPCC's science-based recommendation to limit mean surface global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Immediately reduce WA's carbon pollution to achieve zero net emissions as soon as possible. Legislate to deliver science-based interim targets and an emissions reduction pathway to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Completely repower WA with renewable energy. Phase out climate damaging fossil fuels and prevent new or expanded coal, oil or gas developments, including LNG and fracking. Deliver thousands of new jobs in renewable energy generation and clean industries. Support a transition for affected workers and communities.

Ensure that the Climate Solutions Fund mitigation outcomes are not eroded by WA's biggest polluters.

Hold WA's biggest polluters to account by requiring companies to reduce emissions and entirely offset their climate damage by investing a portion of profits in renewable energy, carbon farming and clean industries.

Support climate adaption programs and partnerships with Aboriginal people and farmers.

Reduce energy demand by placing restrictions on the use of domestic air conditioners in summer and winter. Restrictions could be based on forecast daily temperature, the period of daily use, or a combination of the two. Water restrictions conserve water; air conditioner restrictions can reduce electricity demand. The elderly and chronically ill can be exempt. We are mammals, we are physiologically adapted to changes in ambient temperature and we can adapt behaviourally to changes in ambient temperature.

Industry Innovation

Develop and market plant-based meat substitutes.

Legislate to deliver a scheme to return e-waste to its manufacturer to encourage efficiencies.

Future mobility

Extend and diversify the Perth Metronet: to replace the construction of more arterial roads and freeways, to reduce dependence on domestic vehicles, to reduce traffic congestion, to reduce air pollution and its negative health impacts, and to offer clean, convenient transport to a much larger portion of the population of Perth.

Enable unlimited bicycle transport on WA trains at all hours. Ensure adequate bicycle space on trains during peak periods. Make the cities, towns and suburban commercial centres bicycle friendly for all. Provide for bicycle security.

Make cities more pedestrian and people friendly; increase vehicle free precincts.

Regional Prosperity

Transition from inefficient and GHG emitting livestock based protein production and consumption to mainly plant based protein production and consumption. The manufacturing of plant 'meats' could be regionally located.

The protection of native forests and ecosystems will benefit regional tourism.

Waste Reduction

Legislate to ban all single use plastic as a matter of urgency, transition to genuinely biodegradable replacements.

Build an industrial composting facility and network which will compost plant-based bio-products, such as containers, bags, glasses, cups, plates and utensils.

Legislate to reduce packaging, so much of which is unnecessary.

Legislate to provide a scheme to reduce the unnecessary or purely aesthetic use of paper bags.

Legislate to provide a scheme to introduce a user pays by weight system for the use of domestic waste bins, to encourage a reduction in domestic waste.

Legislate to provide a scheme so e-waste is returned to its manufacturer to encourage efficiencies.

Safe and Healthy Communities

Value, respect and protect the Aborigines' sense of country.

Act on the recommendations made by Doctors for the Environment Australia.
Reduce pollution because Western Australians are dying from pollution related illnesses now.

Declare a Climate Emergency – diminished water resources; increased frequency of temperature extremes; increased frequency of severe storms; increased frequency of catastrophic rain, drought and fires; ecological collapse; mass extinction; rising sea level; impacts on food production; impacts on mental and physical health!

Other jurisdictions have declared a Climate Emergency! I am told that in a University of Western Australia survey, 80% of students nominated climate change as their biggest concern.

Contribute to the Green Climate Fund.

Water Security

Cease fracking for gas immediately.

Cease logging of old-growth forests immediately; old forests use less water than regrowth forests.

Cease logging and clearing of forests and native bushland, to reduce dry land salinity and the salinisation of water courses.

Liveable Towns and Cities

Enable unlimited bicycle transport on WA trains at all hours. Ensure adequate bicycle space on trains during peak periods. Make the cities, suburban commercial centres and towns bicycle friendly for all. Provide for bicycle security.

Extend and diversify the Perth Metronet to offer time saving, less polluting, healthier, clean transport to a much larger portion of the population of Perth.

Plant trees to shade and cool cities, suburban centres and towns; there will be health benefits and the trees will contribute to climate change mitigation. Create beautiful, vehicle-free, quiet, green areas and precincts for people to enjoy.

Promote green design and architecture.

Resilient Infrastructure

Refocus expenditure from interim coastal and river sea level rise protection structures to transition to long term planning and strategies which accept sea level rise and the inevitable vulnerability of man-made structures.

Protecting Diversity

Increase the area of national parks specifically in south western Australia. Totally protect all national parks, heritage areas and endangered species from exploration and mining by strengthening laws; the threats of climate change pose more than enough risk already.

Mature, biodiverse, ecologically intact forests capture and store the most carbon. Old trees draw down more carbon than young trees. Of logs sourced from WA native forests, 85% become paper, fuel wood and sawdust which quickly release carbon to the atmosphere. Burning of residues and reject logs releases stored carbon. Land clearing in south-western Australia has contributed to the region's rainfall decline.

Support a rapid transition away from native forest logging and clearing to protect natural carbon stores in WA's forests and ecosystems, permanently. Restore cleared and degraded ecosystems.

Ban the use of native forest biomass for energy. Redirect subsidies to renewable energy.

Transition the timber industry to sustainably managed plantations.

Reduce prescribed burning by abandoning the annual burning target, by burning small, strategic areas adjacent to town sites and infrastructure to keep fuel levels low and by protecting low-fuel-level, long-unburnt ecosystems.

Support farm forestry and landcare initiatives for climate change mitigation, targeted salinity control and management, improved water quality, wildlife habitat and corridors, sustainably grown sawlogs and income diversification.

Totally ban polluting single use plastics derived from fossil fuel.

Legislate to make all marine parks total exclusion zones, to assist fisheries and ecosystems to be more resilient to ocean heatwaves, ocean warming and ocean acidification.

Strengthening Adaptive Capacity

Value and protect native flora and fauna species, their habitats and ecosystems. Adequately fund and protect endangered species. Respect the relevant Western Australian and Australian scientists and their science.

Provide more financial support and incentives for scientific research and development.