

**To:** [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to Senate Inquiry into Extreme Weather  
**Date:** Friday, 18 January 2013 3:36:04 PM

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**To:** ec.sne@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Submission to Senate Inquiry into Extreme Weather

My name is Ruth Ann Haig and I am 77 years old. I am a Science graduate and taught biology in schools for many years. I have three sons, eight grandchildren and have an eighth great grandchild on the way. For forty years my husband, David, who died in April and was an economist of the old school, tried to persuade every level of government to recognise the moral aspects of our actions and the limits which our finite planet imposed upon those actions in our interconnected life supporting home, the earth, which I like to call Gaia. I've been part of that forty years of persuading and our disciplines informed our campaigning. We have tried to live our lives without being part of the consumer society that the fundamentalist, capitalist ideology of recent years has imposed on the earth, destroying community and a deep concern for people and their relationships with each other and with earth on which we are dependent.

My husband and I was/ are also Quakers. Last year Quakers worldwide met in Kenya at Kabarak University for a once in a generation World conference. They issued a Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice. I will ask a member of our legislation committee to send a copy to the inquiry. As the call says what is needed is a campaign such as the abolition of Slavery, a complete change around in the way things are done. It needs the cooperation of the society in a focused way to overcome the crazy direction in which we as the west and more recently such a large part of globe has been moving. Australia Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) will be making an approach to political leaders, involving all ages from our recent annual meeting in Canberra, in this matter. We have a member employed to involve us in meeting the challenges for peace and ecojustice, to help change direction. This is Robert Howell at [ecpvoice@gmail.com](mailto:ecpvoice@gmail.com).

The Wisdom of the Ages, of all major religions and philosophies and of the indigenous peoples of the earth have recognised that we depend upon the earth for our wellbeing. That we need to respect and be grateful to the earth and the other living things as we depend upon them. The earth's life support cycles sustain us all.

A number of statements have helped me. "Small is beautiful" When corporation become too large they are no longer aware of the needs of individuals or how what they decide will affect the basic life supports. "Live simply so that others may simply live" Since 17<sup>th</sup> century, Quakers have adopted a testimony of simplicity. Australians have a far too large ecological footprint. The weather events in the last 18 days are a reminder to us that things are far from well. My son, a civil engineer with Lismore council has been called on with others of the local rural fire brigade to relieve the exhausted fire fighters in Narrabri.

We must work together to turn around the Titanic of rampant consumerism, reducing our

energy demands and the demand for material resources. We need to build things for the long term and pause in our manic, cancerous demands for the new.

I'm sending this because I became aware of the enquiry through the Greens.

Sincerely,

Ruth Haig.

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