

12 January 2013

Attn Sophie Dunstone
Acting Committee Secretary

Dear Ms Dunstone,

Please accept this public submission to the current Senate Inquiry regarding extreme weather events as follows:

While I have great sympathy for recent victims of bush fires in Tasmania and elsewhere, as well as the flood victims of Brisbane in January 2011, it is difficult to understand approval decisions by the Federal Ministers for Resources and Tourism, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability and Environment involving growth in coal and LNG exports from Queensland, NSW and WA.

Climate modelling predicts even larger extremes of the El Nino and La Nina weather cycle due to global warming and climate change in part associated with the burning of Australia's fossil fuel exports. Further growth in fossil fuel exports compounds this problem for all Australians.

A loophole in the Kyoto agreement is being used by the Queensland Government to avoid consideration of the burning of coal when assessing the environmental impact of a project involving massive expansion of thermal coal exports to India. Yet India is a country that refuses to install technology to offset greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation.

How can such an approval be given at the expense of the future sustainability of coastal communities such as Coolum Beach and for the Great Barrier Reef? More damaging bush fires and floods throughout Australia will also occur as a result of such State Government approvals. In no circumstances should the Federal Government continue to delegate its environmental protection responsibilities to States to perform the essential EIS assessments that are required in the national interest and approve inadequate State Government assessments involving growth in fossil fuel exports.

Yours sincerely,
Amy-Rose West (Ms)