

Subject: Submission to Extreme Weather Inquiry

I have a small farmlet. I depend on water from rain catchment (domestic) and a dam for my orchard and livestock. Most farmers have had to cart water for the last few years. The period of long hot days, much hotter than usual and for longer duration than usual for this region are killing flora and impacting on fauna. It is visible that the *Acacia Acuminata* are replacing the temperate climate biota indigenous to the region. Wildfires are taking their toll earlier and for longer, cutting into vehicle movement and farming activities substantially. Vineyards which a few years ago were exporting are now triaging grapes when they cannot water, losing years of breeding infrastructure in the process. Studs that have had sheep lines for generations have had to sell thousands of sheep for meat, losing years of work as they cannot feed or water their livestock. Having this as a Biodiversity hotspot isn't just about your tourist dollars. It's about a continuum of biota extant from the Gondwanaland epoch. We really need an acceptance by you that the climate is not something to be played with economically, or for electoral games. If the public don't understand, then educate and subsidise them until they do and STOP all subsidies to corporations for polluting technologies. Use the highest possible green ethos on ALL procedures and policies. Environment first. Fiction of money second. Profits for mining and industry LAST. Honour the people fighting for the environment and gao! the corporations for the damage they have wantonly done. Support community food growing and food security for Australia. Continue to support all volunteer organisations so that we can have preparedness, and coping mechanisms. Train them in the worst case scenario....the failure of food supply chains and the very real risk of permanent urban disruption. Actively encourage living and working in small rural centres and stop urban sprawl.

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