

Extreme Weather

Sir/Madam

I would like to submit the attached report as PwC's submission to the Extreme Weather Inquiry.

This report was produced by PwC as part of its thought leadership program in collaboration with a range of experts from government, industry, the community sector and the Bureau of Meteorology.

It is the first time that a national analysis has been done of the human impact of heatwaves nationally using a single definition. It shows that deaths from heatwaves are greater than deaths from all other natural disasters in Australia combined. It also shows that, under reasonable assumptions about future climate and demographic change over the coming decades, it is likely that there will be a major escalation in deaths from heatwaves on an unchanged policy basis. The report points out that heatwaves are the silent killer often affecting the most vulnerable in the community. While many governments around Australia have taken action around heatwave response and preparedness, which are to be commended, the report came to the conclusion that there would be major benefit in developing a national strategy, and outlined what such a strategy might look like. Many of the recommendations in relation to a proposed national heatwave strategy may be equally valid in terms of responses to extreme weather events more generally.

Yours sincerely
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