

I am not in the emergency services, nor any sector which will be directly affected by climate change and extreme weather events. I am not a climate scientist, nor any other type of scientist for that matter. I am a concerned individual with an interest in science and who is seeing more and more extremes occurring.

I do read New Scientist, and do watch science programs on television. I do also listen to ABC podcasts that cover science. It doesn't make me an expert, but it does make me reasonably well educated. There is absolutely no doubt amongst climate scientists that humans have increased global warming on this planet. There is no doubt that climate change is going to cause more and more extreme weather events.

Sydney traditionally has cool, dry winters and hot, wet summers. However the last two years were abnormally wet, and we lost long-established plants because their roots got too wet. By contrast, this summer has been much drier (and much hotter), and I am now losing plants that were here when we bought our house 18 years ago, that should have been good for another 15 years. I have even lost normally dry-tolerant plants because the heat as well has been too much for them.

Although we live in a bushland area of Sydney, we have been lucky so far, in not having fires near us. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. The 2003 fires in the ACT prove that, as did Black Saturday in Victoria, and what has been experienced in Tasmania and Coonabarrabran in the last two weeks.

Politicians of all flavours need to take climate change seriously and provide the resources needed to help fight it, and to help sectors prepare for what is unavoidable. Too much is at stake to leave maintain the status quo. This is a threat that needs to be dealt with now. It cannot be left for future generations to deal with.

I want to be able to look my children in the eye and say honestly that I did my bit to help fight climate change. This is a first step.

Thank you.

Christina Martin