

I would like the committee to consider the following in their considerations of preparedness of extreme weather events:

That the link between extreme weather and anthropogenic climate change is unequivocal. One part of any strategy must also include mitigation of carbon emissions and stronger governmental leadership to tackle carbon emissions both locally (Australia) and globally (export of coal, gas and oil).

Strategies for adaptation to extreme weather caused by anthropogenic climate change are legislated for and financially supported through the taxation system. These will be many and varied.

For flooding events due to storms and sea-level rises...that Australia seeks to learn from the Dutch experience through changes to planning legislation.

Stronger action is taken to ensure that management of public, private and wilderness spaces to reduce and mitigate fuel loads in fire prone areas.

A robust and strong education program for the public seeking to establish in their mind the link between climate change and the need for urgent adaptation measures.

On a personal note, I believe that adaptation to anthropogenic climate change is the single most important role of government over the coming decades. I am appalled at the current level of debate within government over this topic and believe that it shows our great nation in a very poor light.

Stephen Soames