

To the Senate Inquiry into Extreme Weather Events:

I am very concerned about the recent extreme weather witnessed across Australia, and the threat that climate change poses over the medium and long terms to our nation.

I work for the national governing body of one of Australia's largest sports, in the infrastructure provision unit. My portfolio includes attending to sports field turf management for over 300 community sporting groups across Queensland. During the recent Queensland drought, the inability of many local sporting clubs to deal with turf management issues was so great that my organisation was forced to employ an 8-person Turf Management unit to assist clubs and ensure that sports fields remained safe and playable for local sport. Subsequent floods throughout Queensland have since placed additional pressure on our work and the costs associated with preparing turf fields. Additionally, tens of millions of dollars worth of damage was sustained to local clubs' built infrastructure.

Many of the fields that we maintain and their associated built infrastructure are located in low-lying, flood-prone areas. My concern is that if, as predicted, an increased frequency of extreme weather events accompanies climate change, that the ongoing maintenance of community sporting fields will become unsustainable, necessitating the closure of sporting clubs that contribute greatly to Queensland's social capital and active lifestyles.

I would very much like the inquiry to examine what the possible impacts might be on community sporting assets if climate change predictions are realised, and what policy measures may be implemented to prevent the closure of community clubs.

Jacob Anson