

Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

Submission

Dear Committee Members,

As someone living in Penrith in Western Sydney, my family and I are already experiencing the effects of climate change. Over the 2019/ 2020 Summer, Penrith experienced extreme heat, with the temperature reaching 48.9 Degrees Celsius on 4 January 2020, a new record, surpassing the previous record of 47.3 Degrees Celsius in 2018. The Black Summer Bushfires were unprecedented in their size, intensity and the length of time they went for. For someone living in Penrith, we experienced weeks of thick smoke, with small ash falling at our suburban house. This is not normal.

Adapt NSW – Metropolitan Sydney

Adapt NSW, the NSW Government's Climate Science Agency, climate change projections for Metropolitan Sydney predict temperatures will increase, the number of hot days will increase, rainfall will increase in summer and autumn and severe fire weather days will increase by 2070 (Adapt NSW: Metropolitan Sydney Climate Change Snapshot¹).

It should also be noted that the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has the highest flood of anywhere in NSW, if not Australia, and Climate Change "may further increase the severity and frequency of the flood hazard in the future" (Infrastructure NSW Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Strategy 2019²).

BOM & CSIRO: The State of the Climate Report 2020

This biennial report released in November states that climate change is already happening and it's only going to get worse. Australia had already warmed by almost 1.5C since national records began in 1910, the report found. "There has been a significant increase in the frequency of dangerous fire weather days across Australia, particularly during spring and summer, leading to an earlier start to the southern fire season," Dr Braganza said. "Climate change is influencing these trends through its impact on temperature, rainfall and relative humidity and the resulting change to the fuel moisture content.

"...due to increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the nation is continuing to warm", according to CSIRO Climate Science Centre director Dr Jaci Brown.

The Future: Opportunity, Liveability and Prosperity

The NSW Liberal Government is leading the way and demonstrating how Governments can responsibly address climate change while at the same time create thousands of new jobs, generate billions in new investment and significantly reduce electricity prices, and ultimately reach their target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Australia has an opportunity to lead the world in clean energy and continue to export energy well into the future (e.g. \$20 billion Australia-Singapore Power Link, the world's largest solar plant, which will supply power to Singapore via a 3,750km undersea cable).

The Australian Government must act on climate change decisively and urgently. The first step is to set out a clear roadmap and make a legislated commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

¹ Metropolitan Sydney Climate Change Snapshot: PDF

<https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/Climate-projections-for-NSW/Climate-projections-for-your-region/Metro-Sydney-Climate-Change-Downloads>

² The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy

https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/93051/Infrastructure-NSW-Resilient-Valley.-Resilient-Communities-2017-January.pdf

Australia has so much to lose by delaying action any longer. If we do not act now the worst effects of climate change will eventuate; more severe and frequent droughts, bushfires, coastal erosion, storms and heatwaves. This is not the legacy we should leave for future generations.

Justin Murphy

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