

Supplementary information to Committee inquiry into extreme weather events

We submit the following supplementary information to the *Inquiry into Recent Trends and Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events*

1) Forest health and impacts of climate change

The attached document entitled *EPA Forest Health Talk* is a presentation on forest health in Western Australia provided to the WA EPA as a submission to their assessment of the Draft Forest Management Plan by Professor Giles Hardy from the Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health. We particularly draw the committee's attention to slides 16-22 in the presentation covering climate change impacts on forests, and large-scale forest mortality due to drought/heat events in recent years.

We have serious concerns that the current Forest Management Planning process in WA is not adequately taking into account these impacts when making decisions on timber allocations to the native forest logging industry. The result of such failure will be to significantly increase the threats and impacts to threatened species listed under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which already have an increased likelihood of extinction due to the impacts of forest logging and inappropriate fire regimes.

We also attach CCWA's recent submission to the EPA on the Draft Forest Management Plan, which outlines a range of fundamental failures of the current forest management planning process, including the inadequate examination of climate change impacts. A submission to the Mid-term review of the current Forest Management plan from CCWA's member Group the Denmark Environment Centre forensically details the failure of past Forest Management Planning to address climate change impacts, and we believe that this situation has not improved significantly with the development of the next Forest Management Plan.

2) Adequacy of climate change planning in Fisheries Resource Management

It is clear that no-take areas provide the most cost-efficient and currently only logistically feasible method of monitoring and managing the interactions between fishery impacts and climate impacts, and developing robust risk assessments for fisheries management in the local context.

This is a key issue in WA, where fisheries managers expect significant change in the distribution and sustainable catch levels of key fisheries over the next 50yrs. Several important fisheries collapses that predate that 2011 marine heatwave, such as the western rock lobster fishery and the Cockburn sound crab fishery, have arisen as a result of heavy fishing pressure occurring in combination with known or unknown environmental changes. This identifies that WA fisheries management has not succeeded in incorporating the environmental uncertainty associated with climate change into fishery management planning or harvest strategies.

We attach three scientific papers documenting various climate change impacts on WA fisheries and the marine environment (separate email 2 of 2)

Regards

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