

Subject: Submission to Extreme Weather Inquiry

I am a teacher and a parent. I am concerned for the futures of my children and those I teach in a world in which climate is radically changing due to human behaviours. Human health in a hotter, dryer Australia which is prone to more and more extreme weather events and natural disasters such as bush-fires, are particular areas of concern.

In my own school there are classrooms which have no air-conditioning and which become insufferably hot during summer. This of course, affects the ability of students to learn and of teachers to effectively teach. Will there be a future policy on minimum temperatures in schools, above which staff and students will be sent home? Will there be investment in keeping schools at comfortable temperatures to maximise the learning of young Australians?

I am prepared to make sacrifices to my wonderful lifestyle here in Australia in order to slow down global warming and prepare for the changes caused by global warming which may be irreversible at this time. There are other Australians who would support short term sacrifices, such as increased energy costs, in order to contribute to a global slow down of carbon production and to allow time for the development of alternative energy technologies. Education of the general public and rational discussion is essential for this support to grow. In the meantime it is clear that we are experiencing increased extreme weather events and that we must look ahead to ways in which the whole community can prepare for them.

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