I am writing as a citizen and former teacher who has for twenty years followed the evidence of global warming and climate change and our inadequate response on all levels, with an increasing sense of desperation. A very dark cloud hangs over us all.

I live in metropolitan Melbourne and so preparedness in an emergency is not the central concern, yet! It is clear everyone on the planet will be increasingly impacted by climate change, and many of us dramatically affected. Where is our sense of history and obligation to future generations? The modern human era began 40,000- 60,000 years ago, and yet our discussion of climate change consequences seems to end at 2100!!

I am a mother, grandmother and a humanitarian and I care deeply about the legacy we leave future generations. We cannot look the next generation in the eye and say, as a country, we have grasped the urgency of the situation, and acted accordingly. We need to put the country on a war footing- war against emissions!

Wake up Australia. We must respond emphatically to this emergency.

Lyn Shiells