

Subject: Submission to Extreme Weather Inquiry

MORE RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Effects of global warming are, collectively, the greatest threat to Australia's security. Evidence is strong that the frequency of extreme weather events—which is among the most damaging effects of global warming—is increasing. Given that enquiries following recent disasters (Black Saturday, Queensland floods) show we could have been better prepared, it is obvious that the federal government needs to allocate more resources to preparedness and to galvanise state and local government, industry, education providers and the community generally to do the same. Research, job creation and improved training in emergency services are some of the areas in need of federal government support. It is scandalous that several state governments are cutting funding to emergency services and environmental programs.

This matter is urgent. Funds could well be sourced from the defence budget as military threats to Australia are insignificant by comparison. It is ironic that the decisions to spend billions on 'state of the art' military capability are unrestrained by any consideration of the amount of CO2 this capability is likely to add to global warming.

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