

Submission on WA Climate Policy

Email to climate@dwer.wa.gov.au

Visit <https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/climatechange/issues-paper/>

1. My details

Nicholas Woods



2. My motivation for making a submission

I feel very strongly about the issue of Climate Change. I am a fifth generation farmer and like to think that this has taught me a great deal about being environmentally aware.

The need for thoughtful clear policy direction is urgently needed to deal with all the challenges with a new decarbonized future.

Good policy will help enable future generations enjoy the fruits of this wonderful planet, hopefully in a more sustainable way than the past.

I am also motivated by what seems to be the lack of willingness on the WA government's enthusiasm to deal with this enormous issue.

3. My opinion on the state of West Australian climate policy or environmental conservation in 2019

I believe that commercial interests are put ahead of the environment. A business at any cost approach seems to exist which is unacceptable in this era particularly with the LNG and Forestry industries.

On the positive side I acknowledge all the good work that is done in the state to protect the environment.

4. The most important things I would like to see included in WA's 2020 climate policy are:

Hold the big polluters to account for their emissions. This is imperative if we are even going to get close to meeting our commitments with The Paris Agreement.

Net Zero Carbon Act to be put in place. This will bring WA in line with other forward thinking governments.

A clear direction for the Agricultural Industry in WA and how it will be affected by policy. Hopefully more positive than negative impacts.

Permanently protect natural carbon stores in our forests and ecosystems.

Create a Clean State jobs and investment Program to assist in the transition ahead to a low carbon economy.

Clear targets and schedules for implementation of 100% renewable energy and the decarbonisation of the Transport industry.

5. The opportunities good climate policy can bring to WA and good examples I know of include:

Carbon Farming Opportunities. A real price on Carbon will incentivize farmers to adopt more sustainable practices that sequester carbon. The Ag sector is an imperative link to solving our climate issues and ensuring a sustainable food production system that will be required for generations to come.

A voluntary buyback program of marginal farming and Pastoral land so it can be rehabilitated for Biodiversity Credits or similar.

Better utilization of our waste such as turning our Biosolids (sewage sludge) into carbon rich fertilizer for our poor soils.

A well-funded state of the art science hub that develops technologies to deal with the Climate Issues that could be sold and exported to the world.

6. My comments on the Issues paper include

I believe it doesn't go far enough to address the real issues such as the big polluters being held account for their emissions and how we can transition the Agricultural sector into this new era.

7. Conclusion

I am generally hopeful that the future ahead will be positive but we must get on with the job and today. The opportunities for employment and sustainable growth in this new low carbon economy I believe will be awesome. We need to continue supporting our existing Science based organization so that we are well informed to make decisions about the future of this great planet.

Thank you very much for allowing me to have my thoughts heard.

