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To whom it may concern,

I am taking this opportunity to comment on the WA government's climate change discussion paper. As a marine scientist, I am aware of the changing marine conditions as a result of global warming and CO2 emissions. The 2011 marine heatwave is an example of the type of impact that climate change-induced event that is still having ramifications of our marine environment in more sub-tropical and temperate regions, where biodiversity and fisheries have been impacted and still recovering. Furthermore, we are seeing changes to estuarine systems as rainfall and catchment run-off have been declining in recent decades. These changes are altering the balance between freshwater and marine inflow, which is affecting the biodiversity in those systems, as seen in the Swan River Estuary for example. As a result, I am extremely concerned about climate change and believe that local, state and federal governments need to prioritise strong and urgent action against further contributions to this issue.

WA's policy on climate change should work rapidly towards achieving zero net emissions, through drastic reductions to WA's carbon emissions to help Australia and the world to deliver the Paris Agreement targets of keeping global warming under 2°C, and preferably to no more than 1.5°C.

To achieve this, WA's energy sector needs to transition to renewable energy, and phase out fossil fuels. WA is well positioned to develop renewable energy and become a world leader in this area. We should be joining other nations such as Norway, Sweden and France who have already legislated for net zero carbon by 2050 (or earlier). Western Australia should be supporting a transition to a productive low-carbon economy, which through the collective efforts of other regions and nations will benefit the present and future generations of Western Australian.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the Climate Change Discussion Paper.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Hyndes

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