



Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group Advocacy Position 2022 - 2024

This position statement outlines the actions Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group (PHCCIG) Western Australia urges the Federal Government to undertake to address the impacts of climate change on Perth Hills communities.

The PHCCIG is focussed on the Federal electorates of Hasluck and Canning.

Local government areas within the electorates are the:

- Shire of Mundaring
- City of Kalamunda
- City of Armadale
- City of Swan
- Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
- Shire of Murray

The climate change risks specific to the Perth Hills are:

- Bushfire risk
- Air pollution
- Decreasing rainfall and run-off
- Heat dangers to well being
- Biodiversity loss

The PHCCIG advocates:

- A commitment to emissions mitigation targets informed by sound science.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies specific to the Perth Hills.
- National emission reduction targets based on international scientific consensus.
- A vision for a carbon neutral future.

We call upon the Federal government to:

- lead a firm, positive response to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.
- respond appropriately to the pace and scale of climate change events.
- adopt an approach based on rigorous science, and in accordance with the international scientific consensus that global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) must fall by at least 50 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' by 2050.
- set and achieve meaningful climate change reduction targets by taking responsibility for:
 - promoting collaboration and cooperation across all levels of government.
 - encouraging and supporting the private and not-for-profit sectors to respond effectively to climate change events.
 - ensuring consistency with current and emerging science-informed strategies.
 - clearly defining the responsibilities of different levels of government.
 - providing support for and resourcing Australian climate change science and innovation.

Perth Hills climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies

Mitigation

To mitigate risks we request that the Federal government:

- provides support, advice and incentives to businesses, not-for-profits, local governments, and residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Priorities for the Perth Hills are to:
 - improve energy efficiency in building upgrades to ensure houses are safe and comfortable.
 - accelerate solar and wind power initiatives and expand current renewable energy projects.
 - improve the availability and affordability of storage batteries for households and communities.
 - continue funding support to Hills local governments to fast-track conversion of all street lights to LED lighting, thereby reducing their emissions by at least 50 per cent.
- encourage and support the uptake of electric vehicles to reduce emissions and improve air quality and introduce fleet subsidies and expand accessibility to EV charging stations.
- introduce fuel efficiency standards to reduce transport emissions, save motorists fuel costs, and increase the availability of electric vehicles and reduce Australia's reliance on oil.

Adaptation

We call upon the Federal government to help the Perth Hills adapt to the effects of climate change by:

- supporting Perth Hills businesses, not-for-profits, communities, and local government authorities to undertake regular climate change risk assessments and implement risk management strategies.
- ensuring access to adequate and affordable insurance cover for family homes and assets, businesses, not-for-profit services, and local government authorities in the Perth Hills by underwriting insurance.
 - where insurance is unaffordable because of climate change risk, to act as insurance underwriter to ensure that insurance remains affordable and accessible to all.
- in accordance with the principle of 'betterment', providing sufficient funding to repair or rebuild local infrastructure damaged or destroyed in a climate disaster to readiness standards for a climate-changed Perth Hills environment.
- strengthening the National Construction Code to require new buildings to be more energy efficient, safer, and resilient to the effects of climate change.
- ensuring all planning and building development adequately responds to accelerating climate risks, for example, no new housing or industrial estates to be approved within or near catastrophic fire risk areas nor where safe evacuation of residents is impossible in the event of a catastrophic fire.
- providing support to communities and individuals to build resilience and capability to prevent and withstand extreme weather events and bushfires.
- urgently implementing the findings of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disasters and applying closer attention to food security infrastructure.
- increasing funding for natural resource management programmes, particularly those that protect waterways and biodiverse ecosystems and linkages.