

I am frightened by the changes to climate I have noticed over the past 20 years. Australia has always had an unpredictable climate, prone to drought and flood. The early European settlers struggled with the lack of certainty as they attempted to introduce European farming Practices to this continent. However, over the past two decades, the frequency of the occurrence of extremes of weather has increased, resulting in loss of life, property, habitat and security for all Australians.

The fact that unpredictability and extreme conditions are now the rule, rather than the exception, suggests that we need to plan for them, be better prepared for these events so that we can survive them and minimise their negative impact. I have never had a house fire, but I have insurance to protect me should one occur. It is extremely unlikely, but the prudent thing is to be prepared should it happen. A responsible government should also have this approach. In fact it does, with respect to funding a military force. Australia has not needed to defend its borders from foreign military aggression in nearly 70 years, yet we maintain a powerful defence force just in case it will be needed in the future. It would be prudent to have the same attitude to preparations for extreme climate events, just in case... Although it is likely these preparations and adaptations would be needed sooner rather than later.

Please help us prepare for the unexpected.

Regards

Elizabeth Long