

Dear Senate enquiry

Like many Australians, I am concerned about the increasingly erratic weather that our planet is experiencing and its likely link to climate change.

It certainly appears that Australia is getting hotter and experiencing more bushfires, floods and droughts. Weather well over 40C seems normal in Adelaide during summer nowadays, but when I was growing up my Mum used to keep us home if it was about 38C. That seemed like extreme weather at the time.

While I believe that my workplace, SA Ambulance Service, is very well set up to deal with all types of emergencies, including hotter temperatures, this type of prolonged weather puts extra stress on the SA population and the paramedics and ambulance officers who respond to patients in extreme weather conditions. Over time, it takes its toll.

I desperately want to see major and dramatic action taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in Australia. I am certainly no expert, but it seems to me that quickly and drastically cutting our reliance on polluting energy sources such as coal, broadly making the switch to organic agriculture (which stores a lot of carbon in the soil and isn't reliant on fertilisers and pesticides made of fossil fuels) and investing in passive solar buildings that use much less energy (if any) for heating and cooling is what we need to do, just for starters.

We need to stop making excuses, such as "It will hurt our economy" and think about how devastating constant 'natural' disasters are to our economy already and how hard it will be to adequately feed people if crops are regularly destroyed by extreme weather. Economies change all the time. When such changes come about because of technology we just accept it, so why can't we accept changes needed to ensure human survival? Coal is going to run out anyway and it pollutes the air. So even climate-change sceptics must see that it's prudent to make the switch now.

My husband and I have a baby due in about a week. We ummed and ahhed about whether we should have a child for many years, and one of the reasons for this is the uncertain environment in which humans find themselves right now. We decided to have one child, partly as an expression of hope for the future: that humans can get things together and look after the planet that is our home.

We don't want her to grow up in an inhospitable place, ruled by the chaos of extreme and devastating fires and floods, where food is scarce. We want her to be part of a new start to care for the environment and not see its health as a threat to prosperity, but to appreciate the prosperity inherent in planet earth (which God has given us to look after), which we can all enjoy.

Please get serious about taking action to minimise climate change and get us ready to adapt to the damage we've probably already done to our planet.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Morrison