



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

WA urged to vote for climate and health on Saturday

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Voters in Western Australia are urged to consider the climate as they cast their vote in the Senate election on Saturday.

The call comes from the national coalition of health groups, the [Climate and Health Alliance \(CAHA\)](#), whose members collectively represent hundreds of thousands of health professionals across the country, including doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists, rural and remote health professionals, health services, primary health and health promotion practitioners, academics and researchers.

“The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report released this week paints a stark picture of the impacts on ecological and human system on our warming planet. And Australia is very vulnerable.” said CAHA President, climate and health researcher, Dr Liz Hanna.

“This report makes clear that the time for discussion is over and we must act quickly to avert further damage from global warming.”

The report has been five years in development. It includes research from over 700 of the world’s top scientists, and has involved 1729 reviewers from over 70 countries.

“People in Western Australia who have suffered through some of the most extreme summers ever would be aware of the risks that this report makes very plain: that the health of human populations is very sensitive to the shifts in weather patterns being caused by climate change. Heatwaves, bushfires, floods and drought all carry serious health impacts, including injuries and deaths,” Dr Hanna said.

Dr Hanna said global warming had contributed to the decline in rainfall in the southwest corner of WA, and it will get even drier.

“You must ask yourselves how will Perth and these communities survive with less water?” Dr Hanna said.

“It is vital to the health and wellbeing of the WA population that the community supports strong national and local action on climate change. This Senate election provides an opportunity for the WA community to support policies that will be effective in cutting emissions so Australia can contribute its fair share of this global task.

“Many other countries are acting; we cannot risk our health, and our good standing as global citizens, by prevaricating any longer.”

“West Australians are urged to consider their own health, that of their families, of the WA population, and the health and wellbeing around the world when they vote on Saturday. CAHA urges WA to vote for health and climate - for a safer healthier future for our nation, and for all nations around the world.”

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**The health chapter of the IPCC report is now available online here: http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WGIAR5-Chap11_FGDall.pdf*