



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MATTHEW HUGHES MLA JP

Member for Kalamunda

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for the Environment
12th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

26 November 2019

Dear Minister

Climate Change in WA consultation

Thank you for enabling Western Australian citizens to respond to the *Climate Change in WA* consultation.

As you know, I organized two events with students in the Kalamunda District to enable them to make submissions. I wrote to you last week with a submission from the Primary students.

Here attached is the formal submission from the secondary students following the second consultation. I am sure you will find their ideas and initiatives enlightening.

As well as writing to you, I am making this submission electronically directly to the consultation. I have also copied this letter to all the students who formulated and prioritized their responses.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Hughes JP MLA

Member for Kalamunda

A secondary student response to the State Government consultation *Climate Change in Western Australia*

Dear Minister Dawson

As senior high school students in the Kalamunda District of WA, we worked with our local Member of Parliament Matthew Hughes MLA JP to consider your climate change paper.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have our voices heard. This is our formal submission to your consultation. We concentrated on four aspects of the paper and four specific questions (noted below). We created all the following responses to your questions and the ones we have underlined are the responses we considered - as a cohort - to be the most likely to be effective

Question one (page 19)

What can we do to encourage Western Australians to use water more efficiently and adapt to a drying climate?

- Increase the public accountability and transparency of water usage by mining, agriculture and other commercial activities
- Use incentives to improve the usage of greywater and rainwater systems in households
- Impose a higher water tax and higher charges on domestic water use
- Encourage technological improvements to clean all household water so it can be reused
- Ration water in households
- Subsidise the costs of buying native plants
- Organise community-based water harvesting systems
- Increase water harvesting through subsidised rainwater tanks in each household
- Enforce the use of programmable showers
- Increase spot fines for water leakage and wastage
- Impose new regulations that mean that there is a lawn tax for people watering grass lawns
- Tighten building regulations to ensure water conservation is built into new buildings
- Incorporate rainwater tanks into domestic roof voids
- Regulate the amount of space that can be covered by lawn as a percentage of the total land area of a lot
- Use all forms of media to educate everybody about greywater
- Lead the cultural shift to conserve water and change thinking (one example of this is to use something like the "Slip slap slop" message that everybody knows; let's find something that does the same for saving water)
- Reduce council rates for people who plant native plants on verges rather than grass

Question two (page 15)

What can households, businesses and government do to reduce waste?

- Freeze food leftovers
- Increase community-organised kerbside collections
- Encourage the use of waste for public art and jewellery
- Encourage the use of sustainability committees in organisations: schools, businesses, sporting groups, governments etc
- Introduce waste audits for schools
- Promote zero waste days
- Use every means to improve the understanding in households for composting and recycling
- Ban single-use plastics like straws and plastic cutlery
- Introduce colour-coded bin systems so that foodwaste can be made into compost by businesses, community or government
- Increase the use of biodegradable and compostable packaging
- Encourage the use of "waste free pantry" so people buy things in bulk and cheaper from shops using their own containers, rather than using packaged stuff
- Create a system of incentives and rewards for businesses to reduce waste
- Government should positively publicise waste-conscious businesses
- Government should ban or tax unnecessary plastic packaging
- Use planning rules to increase the number of local shop so people can shop locally
- Sell more fruit and veg of second quality
- Use "stick and carrot": provide grants as incentives to compost, but also impose taxes on hospitality and shops that do not compost,
- Encourage the use of seasonal foods;
- Create many more community gardens

Question three (page 9)

How can we further encourage use public and active transport like walking and cycling?

- Better public transport access – more regular and more frequent services to outer metro areas and country areas
- Use advertising in all forms: social media, traditional media to show the downside of private internal-combustion motorised transport;
- Increase duties and taxes on private cars
- Increase the security at train stations so that families feel happier about children catching public transport
- Increase the CCTV coverage on trains and buses
- Increase safety on specific bus routes by adding additional security staff on-board to stop antisocial behaviour
- Just as we organise walking buses for schools, we can also organise cycling pelotons for schools so that friends ride together

- Reduce parking space at schools
- Introduce bike hire schemes or even free bikes so that people can pick up bikes in one place and leave them in another
- Increase separated bike paths - not on roads
- Make public transport cheaper
- On certain days public transport could be free to use
- Introduce a subsidised or free scooters-for-schools scheme
- Make regular, reliable, comfortable and more frequent services to outer metro areas and country areas
- Improve the quality of the cycle paths and walking paths
- Improve the lighting for pedestrian and cycle paths, particularly by increasing the use of solar
- Increase the provision of scooter racks
- Increase the reach of ferries and make them free or cheaper
- Introduced discounts on school fees and charges for people who use active transport to or from school
- Increased the shade cover on bike path and footpaths so it's not so hot in the summer, using native trees and shrubs
- Introduce information system so local commuters using paths can learn about the area around them
- Radically improve the number of bridges that cross busy roads
- Introduce guide rails at places that seem dangerous
- Increase the use of pedestrian crossing countdowns
- Increase the time pedestrians are allowed to cross roads
- Introduced drinking fountains at bus stops and train stations
- We need more bus stops so they are more frequent along the route
- The airport train should have a maximum fee of five dollars so that people can use it cheaply – this will encourage us to leave our cars
- We need a more frequent review of the bus routes in WA so that where communities are changing fast the need for a change in bus routes happens in tandem
- Introduce electric scooter hire like in Singapore
- Prioritise crossings for pedestrians and cyclists in city centres
- Use more seat belts on public transport
- We need extra staff on public transport - on buses, for instance, you could have a trainee driver working as a guard
- In multi car households, limit the use of the car to a single car on a single day by - for instance - using odd or even numbers at the end of the number plate (as in China)

Question four (page 21)

How can we improve the retention of vegetation, particularly tree canopy, in our cities and suburbs?

- Subsidise the cost of buying native plants
- Trim trees in urban areas instead of chopping them down as much as possible
- Increase the tree and shrub planting that councils do near bus stops and in parks
- Increase the physical security (barriers for instance) to stop vehicle access in natural vegetation areas
- Manage natural vegetation in the urban and outer-urban areas by using patterned or spot strictly-controlled burns
- Use laws to protect native trees in residential areas
- Increase depth of front property verges to allow more planting of native trees and vegetation.
- Increase the number of native park nature-play playgrounds in natural bushland
- Use all forms of advertising to promote community nature trails that exist so people learn to value the native vegetation
- Use building regulations to increase the minimum tree canopy and natural vegetation in urban areas
- Give away native seeds in newspapers
- Increase the regulations that require offset planting for tree removal in developments
- Impose regulations that mean that all property has to have a portion given for native vegetation
- Introduced a tree tax so that if you don't actually plant a tree on your property you pay tax to pay for trees to be planted elsewhere
- Introducing national tree day where everybody plants a tree
- Introduce a regulation that means that there's a tree removal penalty for every tree removed during development
- Create new laws so the trees have legal statutes and rights to ensure their protection
- Increase the use of vegetation in centre reserves of highways
- Encourage community planting in suburbs towards a target - for instance 20,000 a given year - this can be competitive and local schools can be involved
- Reduce the water bills and water costs for household that plant natives
- Introduce a series of native vegetation bridges over roads and freeways
- If possible, tunnel under bushland when building roads or rail