



Education and Health Standing Committee

Guide for submissions

Inquiry into the response of Western Australian schools to climate change

The Committee welcomes your submission, no matter how brief. You may address the issues generally, or one or all of the terms of reference more specifically.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

The Committee will consider various questions within its **terms of reference**, including:

a. The co-benefits of climate action in schools

- What are the co-benefits of climate action in schools for:
 - student learning
 - student and staff physical health
 - student and staff mental health
 - financial savings in the education system
 - the community?
- Are these co-benefits recognised and promoted?
- Is there an opportunity to cross-promote existing environmental and health activities being undertaken in schools as climate action?

b. Climate change mitigation and adaptation actions currently being undertaken in schools, and the benefits they are achieving

- How and why have these actions been initiated within schools?
- The Committee is particularly interested to hear about examples of climate action in schools which:
 - are low or zero cost
 - have been locally developed
 - involve community partnerships
 - are Aboriginal-led and recognise indigenous knowledge.

c. Barriers that schools encounter in undertaking climate action and how these can be addressed

- Barriers may include (but are not limited to):
 - complexity
 - resources and cost
 - policies and regulations
 - reluctant attitudes towards climate action.



d. What more can be done to support schools to respond to climate change

- How can capacity be built within schools to prepare for and respond to climate change?
- How can schools be equipped to make well informed decisions about undertaking climate action?
- How are schools outside WA being supported to undertake climate action, and could aspects of this be adopted in WA?

What actions is the Committee considering?

The Committee will consider school-based climate change mitigation and adaptation actions including (but not limited to):

- water
- energy
- transport
- healthy and ecologically sustainable diet
- biodiversity and green spaces
- purchasing and waste
- built environment.

Note: This Committee is limited to oversight of particular government portfolios – in this instance, Education. It is not responsible for overseeing climate action more broadly. However, the Committee is interested in how the education sector fits into cross-government climate action and how government agencies that operate in areas relevant to climate change work together with the education sector.

Your submission

Submissions should be received by the Committee no later than Thursday, 11 November 2021. Submissions can be sent electronically to laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au or by post to:

The Principal Research Officer
Education and Health Standing Committee
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

For more information on making a submission and how the Committee may use the information you provide, please see the Legislative Assembly's guidelines on [Giving written evidence to a Legislative Assembly committee](#).

If you have a question about the terms of reference or the inquiry process, including the preparation of submissions, please contact the Principal Research Officer, Catie Parsons, on 9222 7480 or laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au.