

This question on climate change was originally directed to the Premier for his view it was then redrafted and referred to the Minister for Environment. The Premier clearly has no view on this substantive issue.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 6 March 2012

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to an article published in the *Sunday Times* on Sunday 18 December 2011 entitled '2011 to be Perth's hottest year ever' and ask:

1. Does the Minister support the quoted statement by the director of the State Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Mr. Giles Hardy that "The rising temperatures we are seeing is climate change"?
2. Does the Minister support the quoted statement by the Commonwealth Climate Commission that "there is significant evidence that climate change has contributed to the marked drying trend in the South-West of the State"?
3. What instructions has the Minister given to all members of Cabinet to mitigate the causes and impacts of climate change in their portfolios in light of 2011 being Western Australia's hottest year on record, as stated by the WA Bureau of Meteorology?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

1. - 2. The Minister supports the research of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative. Research has found that *"like global temperatures, WA temperatures have also increased since 1910. The strongest trend has been observed since the 1950s, though in the far north of WA there has been a slight cooling in average temperatures"*. Research in the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative Stage 2 program in 2002 concluded that in south-west Western Australia *"[m]ost likely, both natural variability and the enhanced greenhouse effect have contributed to the rainfall decrease."*
 3. Ministers and their departments are already developing mitigation measures and have outlined actions being taken to address climate change in response to parliamentary questions from various members in 2011.
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