

Climate Change

Position Statement

March 2020

WHA Position Statement on climate change

Wildlife Health Australia accepts the overwhelming scientific evidence that human activity is contributing to climate change. Climate change poses an enormous and growing threat to Australia's wildlife and natural environments.

Climate change is already having a negative impact on wildlife in Australia (and globally) and is a significant and immediate issue for wildlife health. Wildlife populations already made vulnerable through human-mediated impacts such as habitat loss, introduced predators and diseases, will be further endangered by the cumulative effects of a warming, drying and more extreme climate in Australia. There is a growing body of research demonstrating the effects of climate change on emerging infectious diseases of both humans and animals.

Wildlife Health Australia calls for urgent action to mitigate the impacts of human-induced climate change. We support government and non-government policies and community practices that will help to achieve this aim. We undertake to actively promote efforts to monitor and manage changes in pathogens and disease in wildlife, including zoonotic diseases, due to climate change.