



Shire of Goomalling

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Est. 1895

In reply please quote ref:

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1 April 2016

Dear Humankind

CLIMATE CHANGE UNFORSEEN ACCELERATION

In 2015 the COP21 climate conference in Paris signed an agreement saying the world should pursue a target of limiting global warming to 1.5^c above pre-industrial levels.

On Monday 14 March 2016 Australia's chief scientist Dr Alan Finkel said that the world is losing the battle against climate change. "There is genuine reason for concern," he said. "For all the effort we are putting into trying to avoid increases of emissions, we are losing."

On 15 March 2016 Professor Tim Flannery of the Climate Council wrote "New data released yesterday revealed that global temperatures surged in the last two months to temperature targets we didn't expect to breach until 2100."

Professor Stefan Rahmstorf, visiting professorial fellow at the University of NSW, said the warming was "completely unprecedented." "We are in a kind of climate emergency now," he said. "Governments have promised to act and they need to do better than what they promised in Paris."

Council would like to know what you and your party have done, and will do, to:

- urgently reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused by human activity, and
- make our communities safer and more resilient from the dangerous and disruptive effects of climate change.

Farming and biodiversity in WA's southwest have been under increasing pressure from climate change for decades, and scientists say the changes are accelerating faster than expected. Governments must fight climate change urgently and with determination. Losing the battle isn't an option people want our leaders to be a part of.

Two ways governments can help are by driving a rapid transition to clean, renewable energy and industries, and by supporting farmers to adopt farming systems that sequester carbon into soils and vegetation.

We look forward to hearing from all our local state and federal representatives about their past, current and future activities to help limit global warming to 1.5^C above pre-industrial levels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clem Kerp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clem Kerp
Chief Executive Officer

CC All Federal Members
 All Federal Senators
 All State members of parliament
 Open letter in Goomalling Endeavour Newspaper
 Shire of Goomalling Facebook page and website
 Avon Region Organisation of Councils
 Avon-Midland Country Zone of WALGA
 WALGA

More details at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-14/february-smashed-all-time-global-heat-record/7246356>