



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the  
Public Service and Cabinet**

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Dr Ingo Weber  
No Time for Games Campaign Coordinator &  
Professor Kingsley Faulkner  
Co-chair  
Doctors for the Environment Australia  
67 Payneham Road  
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14 OCT 2019

  
Dear Dr Weber and Professor Faulkner

I refer to your letter of 13 September 2019 concerning the No Time for Games pledge regarding climate change.

We are fortunate that Australia has a strong and resilient health system. Australia's response to the long-term and acute effects of climate change are managed through its existing health systems, including through a range of programs to address health conditions that are susceptible to environmental pressure.

These national programs have the capacity to respond to short and long-term changes in disease prevalence and are regularly reviewed to ensure they best meet the health needs of Australians. This includes regular engagement with state jurisdictions, peak bodies and other Commonwealth agencies.

The Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group, led by the Department of Home Affairs, also supports collaboration across all government departments to manage climate risk. Through this Group, my department recently contributed to the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

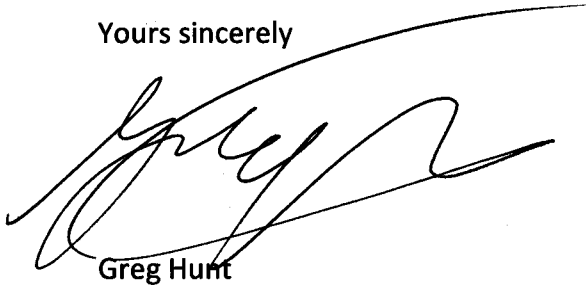
The Australian Government also has a comprehensive suite of policies to meet its emissions reduction commitments, encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector. The Government continues to recognise the importance of global action in relation to emissions and remains committed to the Paris Agreement to reduce our emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Our national target is achievable, balanced and responsible, and is part of coordinated global action to deliver a healthy environment for future generations while keeping our economy strong.

In addition to these initiatives, the Government continues to strengthen and invest in primary and mental health services, especially for rural and remote Australians. The 2019–20 Budget committed \$1.1 billion to the Strengthening Primary Care package and a \$5.3 billion forward commitment to mental health. Earlier this year I announced the development of a 10 year plan to drive primary health care reform over the next decade.

I encourage you and your colleagues to provide a submission to my department when the consultation to inform development of the plan commences.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hunt', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greg Hunt

This document was released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health