

TO: Alison Barrett (alison@croakey.org)

DATE: 14 December 2022

SUBJECT: Climate change

Please attribute to a NSW Health spokesperson:

NSW Health recognises that climate change represents one of the most significant public health challenges of our time.

We are committed to working with the community and other stakeholders to meet this challenge, which requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

The NSW Government has developed a [NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) setting out an ambitious approach to climate change adaptation, decision-making principles and objectives for adaptation, key priorities and a suite of actions.

The strategy commits to releasing the first state-wide climate change risk and opportunity assessment, and adaptation action plan in 2023.

NSW Health has begun work on a Climate Adaptation plan to support the broader NSW Climate Change Adaptation strategy.

The experience gained in keeping the community safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has provided NSW Health with valuable insights into the strategies required to respond quickly and flexibly to significant global health issues.

NSW Health's strategic approach draws on its extensive network of environmental health practitioners who understand the issue of climate change as a health issue in a long-term, localised, way. Their unique skills and expertise in understanding and working with the social determinants of health will help to ensure our Climate Adaptation strategy is embedded in local realities.

NSW Health also recognises it cannot continue to deliver high-quality healthcare without responding to climate risk and so is establishing a climate risk and net zero program, to coordinate and scale-up action across NSW Health.

Our vision is for NSW Health to become a leading modern, low carbon, low waste climate resilient health system by focusing on quality, value, innovation and equity.