

National Assembly for Wales
Environment and Sustainability Committee
WFG 05
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill
Response from JJ Wood

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) BILL

I would like to make a contribution to the Future Generations Bill especially in relation to the matter of Climate Change. I applaud the intentions of the Welsh Government to attempt to produce legal obligations in respect of the type of Society in which our descendants will live for many years/decades to come in contrast to so many government actions which aim to alleviate mostly short term and frequently immediate problems.

It seems to me that climate change is probably the most important of these long term problems as its effects are so far reaching and can rarely be addressed with short term solutions.

We all understand climate change to most likely produce more unpredictable and extreme weather events some of which we hope may be beneficial. But the effects can be and I believe are already showing themselves to be vitally important. We live on an already overcrowded world where any habitable environment is already well occupied; climate change effects which include sea level rise, floods, droughts and temperature extremes will result in huge movements of people from newly uninhabitable areas due not only to flooding but equally also from crop failures, water shortages, extreme heat or cold resulting in severe overcrowding, resource and water shortages and general stress. Future generations in those areas still habitable will inherit an increasingly unpleasant and possibly aggressive - ridden environment in which all the present facilities and enjoyable pursuits will no longer be available. Already large numbers of people are leaving areas of dubious habitability; this will increase¹

It is vital to reduce the impact of Climate Change and I fear failure to do so will render most other actions intended to produce a better future doomed to failure and overtaken by events related to overcrowding and shortages of the essentials of life.

Perhaps the Welsh Government can provide a rallying call to tackle this major world problem, one which seems to have been ignored in the face of events many of which have their roots in climate change and can only increase.

Yours sincerely

(J. J.Wood)