Climate ‘is now critical’

Padraic Murphy

THE atmosphere has warmed to critical levels, glaciers are disappearing, and there is already an increased risk of death from heatwaves, the first report from the government’s Climate Commission has concluded.

The problems are so critical, the report says, Australia must “decarbonise our economy” and move to clean energy sources by 2050, and if steps aren’t launched soon, “we will struggle to maintain our present way of life”.

The report also is highly critical of climate change sceptics, whom it claimed were intimidating climate scientists and confusing the public.

Prof Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, the Director of the Global Change Institute, University of Queensland, said the report should guide politicians and compel them into action.

“It is vitally important that responsible governments everywhere face up to the urgency of the situation that we face with respect to climate change, and to act on the recommendations of their experts,” he said.

“They must listen to the experts, devise meaningful responses and act immediately on this important issue.” he added.