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**Will Steffen**

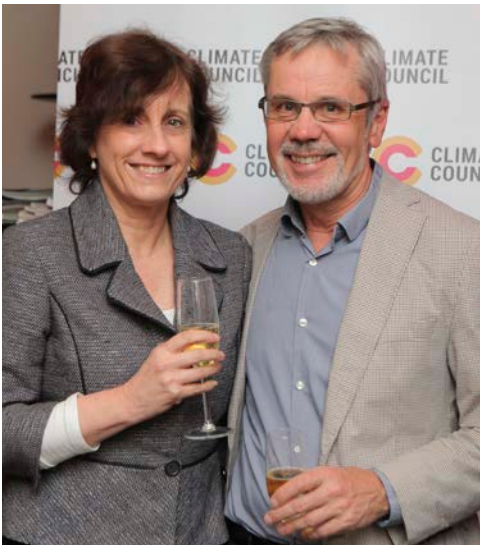
**1947-2023**





Will Steffen (1947–2023)

Earth-system scientist and climate advocate



TOP: Will and the Climate Council team. BOTTOM L: Will at a press conference for Land Clearing report with Dr Martin Rice  
BOTTOM R: Will with Prof Lesley Hughes at the Climate Council's First Birthday.

Will Steffen was a driving force in Earth-system science as it emerged in the 1980s and 1990s, bringing together disparate fields such as ecology, biology, oceanography and climate science. He was an influential mentor and a passionate public advocate of science-based climate-change policy, speaking truth to power in his adopted home of Australia and worldwide. He has died, aged 75.

Steffen was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1947. Having trained in chemical engineering at what was then the University of Missouri in Rolla and in chemistry at the University of Florida in Gainesville, he emigrated to Australia in the late 1970s to take up a postdoctoral fellowship in X-ray crystallography at the Australian National University in Canberra. He later moved to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), also in Canberra, to work in science management, editing and communication.

Steffen's passion for science and his exemplary people skills led to him being headhunted for the International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme (IGBP), which aimed at understanding the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the whole Earth system. He eventually served as the IGBP's executive director from 1998 to 2004.

He was attracted to tackling complex problems in an interdisciplinary way, and with Earth-system science he blossomed as a researcher. Many ideas that he developed and popularized were at first considered radical but are now mainstream. These include the 'Great Acceleration'<sup>1</sup>, which describes the dramatic increase in human environmental impact since the 1950s, brought about by population growth

and fossil-fuel burning. He was also a significant advocate of the Anthropocene, the idea popularized by his colleague, Nobel prizewinner Paul Crutzen, that the planet has entered a new geological epoch because of human activity. Steffen served as the climate-science expert on the Anthropocene Working Group.

Among many seminal publications, Steffen is particularly known for the 2009 Nature paper 'A safe operating space for humanity'<sup>2</sup>, which introduced the key conceptual framework of 'planetary boundaries'. Along with Johan Rockström and colleagues, Steffen identified nine planet-scale processes that regulate Earth-system stability, together with thresholds that, if crossed, could lead to large-scale environmental tipping points. He also led work on Hothouse Earth<sup>3</sup>, exploring how self-reinforcing feedbacks might push Earth into a regime in which its climate could no longer be stabilized even if greenhouse-gas emissions were substantially reduced.

Steffen was fearless in his advocacy of science and science-based policy, communicating the risks of climate change with sobering clarity. In 2011, he was appointed to the Australian government's Climate Commission, which was dedicated to deepening public understanding of climate change and its impacts. When the commission was abolished in 2013, Steffen co-founded the Climate Council of Australia to continue the work, funded by public donations.

In 2016, Steffen publicly challenged the Australian government after it lobbied the United Nations scientific and cultural agency UNESCO to censor all mentions of impacts on the Great Barrier Reef,

1 Steffen, W., Broadgate, W., Deutsch, L., Gaffney, O. & Ludwig, C. *Anthropocene Rev.* 2, 81–98 (2015).  
2 Rockström, J. *et al. Nature* 461, 472–475 (2009).  
3 Steffen, W. *et al. Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* 115, 8252–8259 (2018).



the Northern Territory’s Kakadu National Park and Tasmania’s forests from its report World Heritage and Tourism in a Changing Climate. He and colleagues also challenged CSIRO’s decision to cut more than 100 climate-science staff. Following international condemnation, the government announced a new CSIRO Climate Science Centre based in Hobart, Tasmania.

Steffen frequently acted as an expert witness in court cases seeking to limit new fossil-fuel developments. In 2022, his evidence helped to block a proposed opencast coal mine in the Galilee Basin in Queensland on the grounds of unacceptable impacts on climate change and human rights, including those of children and First Nations peoples.

Steffen was a kind and generous mentor, and an even-tempered and patient man. But he was scathing in his disdain for “the fossil fuel elite”, writing that “these people have no right to destroy my daughter’s future and that of her generation”. His last major project with the Climate Council, where both of us worked with him, was a report titled Aim High, Go Fast. It provided a damning assessment of the inadequacy of the scale and pace of policy action to meet the climate challenge, and reiterated the concept of a “critical next decade” for action.

An outdoors enthusiast and mountaineer, he hiked with his wife, daughter and friends in the Australian wilderness, climbed mountains all over the world and in 2010 published Himalayan Dreaming, the definitive history of Australian Himalayan climbing. He commented on the similarities between his passions: “When you come off a big climb, you really appreciate the beauty of what’s around you. That’s the buzz you get in science when you solve a big problem and suddenly see how it all fits together.”

Will Steffen epitomized the ethos of a social contract between scientist and society in his pursuit and sharing of knowledge relevant to the grand challenge of climate change. His visionary academic publications represent a track record of which any scientist would be proud, but his even greater legacy is the thousands of people he educated and inspired to work for a better future.



Professor Lesley Hughes,  
Climate Councillor



Professor Martin Rice,  
Research Director (Strategy &  
Engagement), Climate Council

Message from  
Climate Council CEO, Amanda McKenzie

I am devastated beyond words that Will is gone. He was a wonderful colleague, friend and mentor. Many of the best collaborative moments in my career have been with him, puzzling over how to communicate science powerfully and move audiences. He will be enormously missed in the Climate Council community where people have valued his clear, calm, but powerful communications for many years. I know in the dark moments many people, including me, would look to him for hope and to hear that our efforts have been worthwhile. He projected hope, energy and kindness and this is what I will carry with me. My deep condolences to Carrie and Sonja who he loved so much.



Amanda McKenzie,  
Climate Council CEO



Will with (L-R): Blair Palese, Greg Bourne, Amanda McKenzie at the Climate Council’s First Birthday.



# Messages from Climate Council Board and Councillors

Current and Former

The Board acknowledges Will Steffen’s enormous contribution to the Climate Council. His kindness, generosity with his time, expertise, strategic ideas and ready laugh will all be remembered very fondly by the organisation and its thousands of supporters, as well as so many in the wider community.

## Climate Council Board

Will was a visionary; a brilliant scientist and gifted communicator who was so generous with his time. He was so supportive of people like me coming through the ranks. He leaves an extraordinary legacy as one of the greats of our time. It is such a loss for our community. Rest in peace Will.



Joelle Gergis

Will was such a wonderful person and so generous in spirit, he will be sorely missed by all who knew him right around the world. My thoughts are with his family and friends.



Greg Bourne

What an incredibly knowledgeable, approachable and impactful person the world has lost. What struck me when I first met Will was his humility, and that he was just so NICE. He had the knack of making complex scientific information and concepts understandable, and helped me and millions of other people to grasp exactly what is happening to our planet, how urgently we must take action, and what the solutions might be. Will was a one-off, a unique and wonderful human being who touched so many people’s lives personally. In the years, decades and centuries ahead, I’m sure that humanity will look back and reflect that Will courageously put himself out there for all of us and for future generations. I feel absolutely blessed to have known him, and I feel for his family. Thanks for everything Will.



Greg Mullins

For Will’s family: my sincerest condolences. He was a remarkable man who made an extraordinary contribution to climate science and climate action, in Australia and internationally. He will be greatly missed.



Kate Charlesworth

Vale Will. The world feels very different with your passing. Our leader in Earth System Science, our hero in the courts, and wise friend and mentor to all in the Climate Council. Someone we could always turn to for advice and support. We at the Climate Council miss you in so many ways. But as you knew, the fight will go on. Without you by our side it is a lonelier fight, a harder fight. But we will persevere. To your loving, supportive family we offer our deepest condolences.



Tim Flannery

I simply can’t believe he’s gone. No one could have asked for a more inspiring or generous colleague, and loyal friend, not to mention his outstanding work as a scientist. Will was one of those people whose positivity simply emanated from every pore, who made you feel good about yourself and the world, even in the face of potential global catastrophe. In our deep sadness, all we can now do is carry on his work, look to the future with hope, and always remember the enormous privilege of knowing one of the greatest human beings ever..



Lesley Hughes



Will with (L-R): Roger Beale AO, Prof. Lesley Hughes, Gerry Hueston, Prof. Tim Flannery, Scientia Prof. Veena Sahajwalla.

The world has lost an enormous light. Will was brilliant, kind and generous - a rare combination. My life was enriched by working with him, albeit for a short time, and I send you deepest sympathies and my commitment to carry on his fight against climate change.



Nicki Hutley

Will was a wonderful man. His kindness and bravery were an inspiration to me and so many others. Will's insight and advocacy made a big difference to our world, helping to change it for the better. I came to know him in my years on the Climate Council, a time far too short. My heartfelt condolences to you, his family.



Andrew Stock

Tragic news. A great friend and mentor from the early days of the Climate Commission. He will be sorely missed but he leaves a phenomenal legacy.



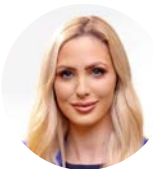
Gerry Hueston

Utterly heartbreaking. Much love to all



Hilary Bambrick

Words can't describe the inspiration, power, and expertise Will brought to so very many people, especially the climate movement. His legacy of championing attribution science, the first to pioneer and convince our courts that climate change must be taken into account for energy developments, and a true gentlemen to all is nothing short of awe-inspiring. He will be deeply missed and sending heartfelt condolences to his family



Madeline Taylor

This is incredibly sad and tragic news. Will be so incredibly missed and his efforts have been extraordinary. My thoughts are with his family.



Martijn Wilder

Will's contribution to the Climate Council was huge. The ripple of his work travels far and he leaves an incredible legacy. His vision, generosity, kindness, curiosity, passion and humbleness were inspiring and he is missed. Thinking of you at this very sad time.



Kirsty Gold

Will was a complete gentleman who has had such an incredible impact on climate science and climate politics in this country and globally, giving us all the information we needed to demand action in an understandable format. He was a mentor and leader to many and an honour to have known and worked with. I'm shocked and saddened by this news and thoughts are with his family, colleagues and friends.



Matt Honey

Will was a tower of strength in the climate debate. I was lucky enough to spend time with him a few years back on a boat around West Papua and got to know him on a personal level, we had many interesting long chats and my admiration for him as an inspiring man and scientist just grew.



Rob Purves

Will was one of the most beautiful humans & it always felt like he would be with us forever - tirelessly leading the most persuasive discussions on our climate crisis, giving us all the knowledge to play our parts. It is almost impossible to imagine him not with us. My thoughts are with everyone who has worked so closely with Will at Climate Council, his colleagues around the country & the rest of the world, and of course his family and friends. This is such a devastating loss, and almost impossible to put into words just what an extraordinary person Will was, how he moved us all, and how desperately he will be missed.



Sam Mostyn



Message from

# The Hon Chris Bowen MP

Will Steffen was a first-class climate scientist and a world-class communicator of the climate crisis. I know that the Australian broad climate family—if I could use that term—is mourning his passing very deeply. He served as a climate adviser to the Australian government in the Climate Commission, and was then a founding member of the Climate Council after the abolition of the Climate Commission. He was a renowned professor and the inaugural director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at ANU. I know the member for Fenner knew Will Steffen well, and he has corresponded with me about his tragic passing.

Professor Steffen was a contributor—and this is no small thing—to five Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, assessment reports. It is a serious undertaking for the scientists who contribute to the IPCC reports. It's a massive commitment of time, energy, and, frankly, scientists who contribute lay themselves open to all sorts of personal attacks and conspiracy theories that somehow they're in it for themselves. We've all heard those tropes; we've heard them all too often. I want to pay tribute to Professor Will Steffen. His passionate advocacy to advance action on climate change and his narrative as a skilled scientist and equally skilled communicator are sorely missed in Australia. He was dedicated to fighting for better climate action and he kept his life's work up until almost the very end.

I know that Professor Steffen mentored many people throughout the climate movement, which is probably one of the reasons why he is so missed and so mourned. He took people under his wing and talked to them about the challenges of communicating action on climate change. I know that many people in the Public Service in many different organisations were mentored by him. He was a pioneering advocate of the concept of the Anthropocene and

planetary boundaries—no small concepts, I know, but ones which are important contributions to the debate, and they are well-understood concepts now around the world.

We can be very grateful that Will Steffen made Australia his home for a number of years. He contributed so much to the climate debate, working with governments and with non-government organisations. He is sorely missed, and I give my condolences to all who knew him, his colleagues and his family. May he rest in peace.. His was a life very well lived.



**Chris Bowen,**  
Minister for Climate Change  
and Energy

Message from

# Senator David Pocock

I rise to pay tribute to a great scientist, a great communicator and a great Canberran, the late Emeritus Professor Will Steffen. William Lee Steffen was a gifted scientist and a powerful communicator. He was kind and generous, and loved by many in the science community and at the ANU. Will Steffen was an intellectual giant—a leader in climate change and earth-system science. He dedicated his career to advancing the science on climate change, and, importantly, sharing those findings with Australians and the global community. He was a world-renowned scientist and, I believe, one of the most influential thinkers of our time. He was a contributing author and reviewer on five IPCC assessments and special reports, as well as scores of other critical scientific publications. Professor Steffen helped to advance our knowledge on the Anthropocene, planetary boundaries and tipping points.

He was a powerful leader and a cherished mentor to so many within and outside the scientific community, known for his clear, crisp communication style. His voice has been heard in classrooms; within this very building; in courts; at the United Nations; and in our homes, through the TV and the radio and on countless podcasts.

Professor Steffen has left an incredible legacy, a wealth of advice that our parliament would do well to heed. I'm pleased to echo his advice in this chamber in his honour. The climate has tipping points beyond which lies an irreversible path to a new state. Our next actions will shape the future of the earth and its inhabitants for centuries, potentially millennia. Vale, Professor Steffen.



**David Pocock,**  
Senator, Australian Capital Territory

Message from

# The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP

I rise to speak about one of Australia’s greatest climate scientists, the late Professor Will Steffen who died at the end of January aged 75. Will Steffen was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, and trained as a chemist at the University of Missouri before getting his PhD at the University of Florida in 1975. He came to Australia with his wife, Carrie, in the late 1970s after a detour working for the Peace Corps in rural Fiji. He did a post-doc at ANU and then joined the CSIRO as an editor and information officer.

He quickly became one of the leaders in the emerging field of geosphere-biosphere analysis. He helped to bring together disparate fields of ecology, biology, oceanography and climate research into a larger study of earth system science. He moved to Stockholm from 1998 to 2004 as executive director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and then, when he returned to Australia, quickly became an adviser to the federal government on issues of climate. He became director of the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society and the inaugural director of the ANU Climate Change Institute.

Australians came to know him best as a foundation member of the Australian Climate Commission, which was dissolved, as he put it, within what seemed like hours of the election of the Abbott government in 2013. In response, Will Steffen and his fellow commissioners Tim Flannery, Lesley Hughes and Amanda McKenzie launched a crowdfunding campaign, raising more than \$1 million in a single week, enabling them to set up the Climate Council.

As a researcher, he was a significant advocate of the concept of the Anthropocene—the idea that humanity has entered a new geological age. He is known for a 2009 paper, ‘A safe operating space for humanity’, with Johan Rockström and others, which

was published in Nature and introduced the concept of planetary boundaries. He and his co-authors identified nine planetary-scale processes that regulate the stability of the Earth’s system. That later turned from a paper in Nature to a documentary on Netflix narrated by David Attenborough, brilliantly illustrating the way in which Will Steffen was at the forefront of science and the forefront of science communication.

He continued to appear regularly in the media, where he was always willing to take on climate change deniers. I recall a forum at the Canberra Labor Club in Belconnen in which he talked calmly about the science and the importance of acting on climate change. That earned him vitriol on social media and a number of death threats, but he was undeterred and continued to speak out about the concerns that he had for the planet’s future, presenting the scientific data rigorously and calmly in a jargon-free way in which Australians could understand it.

He was a keen Canberran. I mentioned just now the way in which he engaged in the local Belconnen forum. He was always speaking at local Canberra forums and loved his adopted city. He co-founded the Canberra Urban and Regional Futures initiative in 2010, and he said of it:

How we design, build and live in cities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a daunting research challenge. What better place to start meeting this challenge than in our own city and region? And what better way to build the required knowledge than through collaboration among our region’s research institutions.

He was concerned about the need for acting and concerned that the risks didn’t sit equally on the sides of acting too fast and acting too slowly. As he said in an interview with the Guardian in 2018, discussing tipping points:

*Maybe we have 20 to 25 years and then we might be committed to losing Greenland. But the time we have left to intervene to stabilise coral reefs, for example, is a lot less than 30 years.*

He concluded:

*To err on the side of danger is a stupid thing to do.*

He was extraordinarily generous to me as a member of parliament and as an author. When I wrote a book called *What’s the Worst That Could Happen? Existential Risk and Extreme Politics*, it included a chapter on climate change. I sent the chapter through in draft form to Will Steffen. He came back very speedily with a series of line edits which were generous, incisive and detailed, and I dealt with all of his suggestions and produced a better book as a result—though, I’m sure, not as good a book as Will Steffen would have written if he’d been writing on the same topic.

He was a keen outdoorsman. He enjoyed trekking and hiking, from the Himalayas to the wildest parts of Australia. He carried out extreme ascents in the New Zealand Southern Alps and the Canadian Rockies and was part of a 1998 ANU Mountaineering Club expedition to climb the 7,000-metre Mount Baruntse in Nepal. He wrote the definitive history of Australian Himalayan climbing, *Himalayan Dreaming*. Here I’m indebted to an article by Carrie Steffen, John Finnigan and David Finnigan which ran in the Fairfax papers, in which they quoted Will Steffen as saying:

*Climbing is like science. To get up a hard rock or ice climb, just like when you’re solving a problem in the carbon cycle, you have to be ultra-focused, you have to make holistic decisions and you have to be absolutely aware of your surroundings. When you come off a big climb, you really appreciate the beauty of what’s around you. That’s the buzz you get in science when you solve a big problem and suddenly see how it all fits together.*

His wife of 51 years, Carrie Steffen, said:

*He was a wonderful, kind and passionate man and he was the same as a husband. He was the most marvellous companion and the best dinner companion I would ever have, and ever will have. He brought the world to me.*

I offer my particular condolences to Carrie and to Will and Carrie’s daughter, Sonja. Will Steffen was a remarkable Australian, an extraordinary Canberran and a citizen of the world, and we’re lucky to have had his contribution on climate change and on helping to shape a better planet.



Andrew Leigh,  
MP



Some thoughts on my connections  
with Will Steffen, a friend and a hero



Professor David Karoly and Will. Photo by Susan Karoly.

I was so sad to hear of Will’s sudden death in late January while I was away on holidays with my wife in South America. I felt so far away and unable to share my grief.

Will has been a leader in climate science and earth system science in Australia and the world for more than two decades. Our careers have circled and touched each other multiple times over this period.

Almost everything about Will’s contributions to science, science communication, policy advice, mentoring, his family, his humanity and his humility has been said about Will already.

I would like to touch on two important examples of Will’s contributions that appear to have been overlooked somewhat.

I returned to Australia from the US in 2007 and Will had just prepared a landmark review of *Australian Climate Change Research* with another good friend of mine, Susan Solomon from the US. That review changed the direction of the Australian Climate Change Science Programme and provided the impetus for five major university climate research groups to establish a joint Centre of Excellence in Climate System Science a few years later, dramatically increasing the climate research capability in Australia, along with CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology.

I then spent time with Will as members of the Australian Government’s High-Level Coordination Group on Climate Change Science from 2009 to 2011, seeking to implement the recommendations from the Solomon and Steffen (2007) review.

Solomon, S. and W. Steffen (2007) *Australian Climate Change Research: Perspectives on Successes, Challenges and Future Directions*, Aust. Govt. Dept of Climate Change, 18 pp. ISBN 978-1-921298-07-3

My second example is much more recent, from last year and the year before, when Will became a film star in the new prize-winning documentary *Carbon: the unauthorised biography*. I was a technical adviser to the Australian producer and co-director of the film, and Will played a key part as one of the experts who helped to make the technical details easy to understand. As Will said Carbon has gone from being a benevolent force, a protector of the earth system in a stable state, but now she’s being released and increasing in the atmosphere. She is becoming a destroyer.

I was on a panel with Will at the Australian launch of *Carbon* at the Classic Cinema in Elsternwick in Melbourne on Thursday 31 March 2022, the last time that I was able to have a chat with Will in person (and to meet his daughter for the first time).

In September last year, I agreed to join the Climate Council as a Councillor, as Will became less available. I knew that I would never be able to fill his very big shoes, but I will always use Will as the guiding light for my directions, always thinking how would Will handle this?



**Emeritus Professor David Karoly,**  
University of Melbourne.



# Messages from Climate Council Staff

Current and Former

Will taught all of us so much about the Earth and about the climate system, but above all about being a better human. Working alongside Will was such an immense joy and privilege, an absolute career highlight for so many of us, and one that will forever change the way we look at the world and each other. I will forever be grateful for everything Will did for Climate Council, for each of us individually, for the planet, and for humanity. He will always be with us in spirit, as we will always, whenever working on any big challenge, find ourselves asking what Will would have done. We will do our very best to live more like Will and to keep building the future that he believed in and showed us was possible.

- Dr Simon Bradshaw, Sydney NSW

Will was one of a kind. A kind of wonder. Wonderful. He made everyone else feel special, and was quick to turn the spotlight onto others. He was deeply thoughtful, and generous with his own time and knowledge. He was steadfast in the face of opposition - a bravery that was contagious for those who worked alongside him. His energy and determination knew no bounds. Such an inspiration!

- Dinah Arndt, Brisbane

Working with and getting to know Will was both a career and life highlight, that will not be topped. He was a rare gem, and I will always count myself so very lucky to have been able to work alongside him and soak up his brilliance, warmth and kindness. Thinking of his family and sending them so, so much love xox

- Bri Hudson, Melbourne

Sincere condolences from my family to you all. I feel very privileged to have worked with Will for 7 years at the Climate Council. Will was so patient and brilliant at communicating the impacts of climate change and the intricacies of climate science. He was kind, generous with his time and knowledge and such easy company to be around whilst being passionate in his advocacy. He will be missed by so many.

- Katrina, Sydney

I was incredibly saddened to hear that we had lost Will. Will was so smart and had a brilliant mind. He did so much for Climate action globally. He was also dedicated to his critical work at the Climate Council, where he always said yes enthusiastically, whether to more report launches, fundraising videos, adventure treks, webinars or media interviews. But the thing I will remember most about Will is that he was a kind and caring person who loved nothing more than chatting about his dogs or his latest travels.

- Cassie Bremner, Sydney

Will was one of the kindest and most doggedly brilliant people I ever had the privilege of working with. A truly brilliant human, I'm absolutely gutted at the news of his passing. I can only imagine the grief that those of you who loved him most all must feel. Thank you for the love, care and support you showed him that in turn supported him to do so much to change the world.

- Tim Baxter, Melbourne

I had the great pleasure of working with Will on the Cities Power Partnership launch and growth from 2017-2019 whilst working at the Climate Council. Together with Professor Leslie Hughes, Will was a mainstay of support and encouragement- travelling across the country to build awareness and capacity for climate action at the local level. He was exceptionally generous with his time and his extensive climate science knowledge was always on offer to media, stakeholders and staff. You will be sorely missed. We all hope to continue your legacy to strive for a better future.

- Sonya Williams, Sydney

# Messages from the Community

Will's legacy will continue to inspire, but won't make up for the loss of a wonderful man. Your loss is a loss to many. Vale, Will.

- Anna, Goulburn

We will all miss you Will but you will remain in our hearts and the history books on climate change forever. Your wisdom and generosity in spirit are matchless. A colleague, friend and mentor; thanks you for everything. To Will's family my deepest condolences. Vale Will

- Greg Bourne, Birchgrove

Thank you for your tireless work in addressing our climate crisis. You will be remembered as a beacon of light against the forces of denial. The task of continuing your work now rests with those who remain.

- Selwyn Mcfaul, Camp Hill

I want to send my heartfelt condolences to Professor Steffen's family. I cannot add anything to the countless tributes - his death is indeed a terrible blow to climate science - but his legacy will be us acting on his work. As a journalist I have only spoken to him a few times - but it was the fact that he always took the trouble to talk (despite the time difference) or reply to emails, that I so appreciated.

- Angeli Mehta, UK

God bless his soul may we have more Wills to help our Climate Control globally.

- Sue V, Dundas V

Please accept my condolences for the loss of Professor Steffen. Most certainly a man to be admired and respected for his tireless work of educating people at all levels of society of the dangers of climate change. He will be sorely missed. Vale Will Steffen.

- David, Brisbane

His life will live on through his work and the inspiration he provided.

- Lou, North Fitzroy

Sorry to read of the passing of Prof. Will Steffen, Much respect for all the important work he did for us all.

- B

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Prof Steffen and, sense of loss notwithstanding, Will would have been gratified to hear the thousands of tributes his loss provoked, from Amanda and Tim to ABC RN. Vale Prof Steffen.

- Penny And Derek Robertson, Tweed Heads, NSW

Thanks Will. You so kindly and thoroughly wrote a scientific supporting reference for a group of us Extinction Rebellion activists appearing in the Adelaide Magistrates Court after an episode of non-violent civil disobedience: we know that you were very busy and tired. The reference helped in our case and was singled out by the magistrate for its gravity.

- Catherine, Adelaide

I met Professor Steffen during a community research program he organised many years ago. He improved my understanding of climate change and science communication. He has informed and educated many people and his legacy will endure. Condolences to his family and friends.

- Paul Bibo, Kambah

Sincere condolences to Wills Family - Farewell Will - your selfless and tireless work on behalf of the planet and the Climate Council will always be remembered and recognized.

- Harley L, Perth

I'm very sorry to here Will has died. Thank you to his close friends and family for supporting him to share his knowledge and passion for communicating climate science with so many people. I knew him a little from his visit to Alice Springs with climate council members, and to the CSIRO lab in Alice where I then worked and which sadly was closed a few years ago. And from an AAS funded project to bring innovation to planning for national scale adaptation to climate change. Vale Will.

- Jocelyn Davies, Alice Springs

Prof Will Steffen was a wonderful person. A man with such integrity, compassion and intelligence, makes his passing even more tragic. He made our world a far better place and will always be remembered as the brave and caring person that he was.

- Robyn Hooper, Katoomba

Thank you for your love and kindness and advocacy for our planet. Love to your family who must be missing you profoundly.

Such a beautiful, dedicated man who died much too soon! Australia and the world has lost a shining light but his enthusiasm and example of what one person can achieve will live on. My deepest sympathy and condolences to the family.

- Cecilia

RIP Will. Condolences to his family and friends.

Will was a true hero of our time and his legacy will be long-lasting. I trust that the affection and respect in which he is held will be of comfort to his loved ones at this sad time.

- Dr Robert Humphries, Perth

So grateful for all Will was, all that he achieved, and all he enabled the rest of us to do. So very deeply sorry for Will's family, friends, and colleagues. Sorry for the loss of the greatest and most important kind of person, one who commits their life to support and protect all other lives. No greater love. Thank you, thank you, thank you Will. Your enabling of us drives us forward to complete your task.

- John Buckley, Doreen

Vale Professor Will Steffen. Thank you for all you have done to stand for Climate Action. Your determination and positivity are an inspiration. As a passionate activist, environmentalist and filmmaker, I will continue to stand up for the most precious natural world that All life on earth calls home. Thank you for your life's work and purpose; a life so very well lived.

- Michelle Dado-Millynn, NSW

So sorry for your loss and the world's loss. He will be remembered by his work and has inspired many more to continue on with his work.That's what he would have wanted.

- Mid North Coast

A man who has inspired so many to follow his lead for positive action to keep our planet safe. Thank You Will.

Will was an exceptional human being and a rare 'out of the box' scientist and his passing leaves not only a void for humanity and science, but also highlights the urgency for other scientists living within 'ivory towers' to come forth and follow the footsteps that my dear friend, Will has so nobly exemplified both in life and death! RIP dear Will! Ushta te!

- Perses Bilimoria, Mumbai India

Will is an enduring inspiration. I first met Will in 2006 when I practised a media interview while doing my masters at ANU. I took no notes and the tape did not work, yet he was so gracious and generous with his time, patiently explaining basic concepts. He was a familiar face when I went to my first international conference, the Earth System Science Partnership 2006 in Beijing. Over the years we met at conferences, workshops and talks in Australia and Europe. I use no hyperbole when I say that his work on planetary boundaries, his mentoring of hundreds of researchers, activists and policymakers, and his exceptional communication skills have nudged the trajectory of the earth's climate system for the better. Just before I moved to Canada in 2018, I attended a seminar Will gave at the University of Queensland where he took a few minutes to chat with me. I am grateful for every moment I spent with Will.

- Liese Coulter, Victoria Bc Canada

Sending you my sincere condolences at this sad and difficult time. Professor Steffen was a great force for good throughout his life and will continue to be a motivating force and inspiration for so many.

- Leonie Walker, Ashfield

Extraordinary figure and life model and one admired by me and a zillion others. Such a big loss.

- Susan Deane, Bullaburra Blue Mountains NSW

Sorely missed. We both studied at Cornell. You did a wonderful life. I highly admired you.

- Denis Evans, Crace

For decades here in the NT's Top End I have tried to persuade people that climate is not too big to fail. Professor Steffen and his colleagues gave me not only the research to back my arguments, but the determination to carry on in the face of much opposition, and to be nice about it. And you all, his family, friends and colleagues, are in my thoughts at this time.

- Denise Lawungkurr Goodfellow, Darwin River

I'm saddened to hear of Will's passing. It's clear he was and will remain one of the world's leaders in hope for a better future for our troubled planet. As I visit my grandchildren in New Zealand (from Australia) I'm so very aware of all he was trying to achieve. As someone who has worked in the area of climate change mitigation at a much humbler lever than Will (back in 2008) I know something of the anger one feels when governments close programs down in favour of polluters and... profits. To Will's family, friends and close colleagues, I offer my sincere condolences. People like Will set the benchmark for others to follow. A life lived well. Grieve well.

- Bill Muirhead, Darwin (NT)

My deep condolences to Will's family and friends. I didn't know Will personally but am forever grateful for his advocacy as part of The Climate Council. It sounds like he was one of those special humans who has made a huge positive difference in the world.

- Nita Kent, North Turrumurra

To the family and friends of Professor Will Steffen, so many of us are profoundly grateful for the Professor's life work. We benefit now and in the future by the ongoing torch he provided for those left to remember and follow. And that is how we remember a true hero for us and our environment. May our messages to you at this time of loss provide some gentle comfort to your grieving hearts.

- Tricia Delaney, Melbourne

Sincere sympathy on the loss if a marvellous man. We are all the poorer for it.

- Anne Marks, Curtin

One of the most outstanding and passionate agents of change that I've ever met.There was no one quite like Will. I feel the loss very deeply.

- Jonathon Porritt, Uk

Thank you Will Steffen for your tireless effort to bring climate awareness to Australians and the wider world and for driving change in our collective thinking about it.

- Palm Beach, NSW

I am very thankful for the wonderful work of Professor Steffen on the Climate Council, I'm bringing the scientific data on climate change continually before our governments.

- Lyn, Sydney

Vale Will Steffen. A giant on the right side of history.

- Rick Nankivell, Littlehampton

Please accept my condolences on Will's passing & for your loss. His writing was my go-to reference when I needed clear understanding of an issue/or needed to take on Philistines.

My deepest condolences to all of Will's family and friends. I knew he was very sick when he stepped down last year, but I am in shock and disappointed that such a great man has been taken from us. We have used Will's Great Acceleration in a free e-learning course we are developing for engineers so we will all be reminded of him and his achievements. Vale Will Steffen, you will be sorely missed.

- Steve Posselt

I am so sorry for your loss, and we are sorry for ours as well, he was an amazing person for the world

- Lidia Roelink, Exmouth WA



So sad to hear of Will Steffen’s passing. He was instrumental in my learning and understanding of climate change and what it means for our planet. My sincere condolences to Will’s loved ones at this time.

A great warrior gone.

- Cath Connor, Forresters Beach NSW

We are all profoundly indebted to Will for the amazing life he lived, even those of us who never had the privilege of meeting him.

Thank you Will for all your work. My deepest condolences to all your family and friends who are mourning your passing.

- Maggie, Eden Creek, NSW

No one was able to deliver the dire news of planetary boundaries and climate change to a group of young people like Will. Guiding through the science to the solutions with grace and humour. It was an honour to learn from him and laugh with him.

- Eav, Sydney

A great man is no longer with us.  
A great loss to all humanity – sympathies to his loved ones.

- Howard, Heathcote NSW

A very special man, essential citizen of our world. Huge admiration from two citizens of Oz now living in Scotland. The world will miss him. Love to all his family. Elrick & Jill Mackie (ex of Geraldton, WA.)

- Elrick & Jill Mackie, Nairn, Scotland

Will Steffen was a climate and planetary health champion. I had the great pleasure to meet him when organising DEA’s 2021 annual conference.

He was approachable, kind, smart and decent, with a huge motivation to save our planet.

A giant has passed.

My heartfelt condolences to all his family and friends.

Vale

- Kate Wylie, Banksia Park

It is very sad to have lost such a brilliant mind and dedicated scientists and activist as Will Steffen was! He will always be a shining example of hope for me.

- Tommy Wiedmann, Kanimbla, NSW 2790

I’m so terribly sad, just sad, to hear that Will has died. What a lovely man. I just met him a few times but he seemed a deep gentleman. And what a scientist, advocate, organizer, leader, contributor, colleague, scholar and friend. Tim and I are sending our sympathy to Will’s family and his colleagues everywhere. Thank you, Will.

- Kate Holden, Austinmer

To the supportive Will Steffen’s family and his friends and colleagues, I send my deepest condolences as there was only one Will Steffento walk this earth he obviously loved so much and dedicated his whole life to protect it. The loss is unfathomable for you and I and the beloved planet we all share and shared with such a brilliant and kind man. I will feel a giant hollow space knowing he’s not here and giving endless inspiring talks and spreading his knowledge to us all and to the realms in power. I hope we will get to see and hear more of the many climate lectures and interviews, he gave us all warnings and solutions and made us stop and think deeply what needs to be done and what we could do. I will not forget Will Steffen and will continue to do what I can as he would want us all to do and never give up on protecting our magnificent and only home. Strength, wisdom, optimism and kindness, vale Dr Will Steffen, a legend of a scientist, communicator and human being

- Stephanie, Ainslie



Will with Climate Council Tassie Trekkers for Climate Action.



To those closest and dearest to Will, with the intent of providing some solace, from a former ANU graduate, in far-off Finland, who never met Will, but who has followed his inestimable contribution to a better future for Australia, and the planet. It just occurred to me, as I have used the phrase, sent with goodwill for some years when signing off messages, that Good Will, is highly apt. On behalf of those of us who have shared the same concerns but have not had the combination of insight and the will to advocate and implement change, I wish to share my appreciation of Will’s achievements with myriad others, and hope that this may be of some consolation as you miss his daily companionship.

- Peter Sorjonen-Ward, Kuopio, Finland

My condolences to the loved ones of Will Steffen. While I did not know him, I know of and very much appreciate his work and commitment to understanding Climate Change and sharing that knowledge with others. I feel sure his amazing legacy will live on!

- Kerin Booth, Meander, Tasmania

We were saddened to hear that Professor Steffen had died. His contributions to our country, both in helping us better understand climate change, and in other related fields of science, were appreciated by many Australians, including ourselves. Nothing can ease the pain of loss at a time like this, but we hope you will find some comfort knowing that we, and clearly many others, respected and valued his generous contributions of his time and knowledge. We thank him and offer our sincerest condolences to you, his family.

- Andrew & Lucy Forbes, Bowral

Please accept my deepest condolences.

- Brian Groth, Central Coast

Will your dedication to Mother Earth educated and changed us all and I thank you so very much. WE WILL STRIVE TO REFLECT YOUR GREAT LEGACY.

- Jo Faith, Newtown NSW

For the world to lose such a warrior as Will is a catastrophe but his loss for is family is far greater. They will be so proud of this wonderful man and the great memories will always be there for them.

- Susan Workum, Sydney

Such a loss, such a climate warrior, such a wonderful person. Such an incredible legacy. Gone too soon. Sadly missed. My condolences to his family and friends.

- Elena Guarracino, Ironmungie, NSW

Kwaheri Will Steffen, the world could do with more people like you.

I didn’t know Will but I knew that he was a tireless man that consistently provided trusted science to the climate change campaign. I am grateful to Will for the enormous efforts he made, we are all better for them. Thank you.

- Natalie, Mount Barker

So sad to hear of the death of Will Steffen. He sounds like a wonderful guy and a linchpin for the climate movement. My deepest sympathy to all that knew and loved him.

- Angela C, Bairnsdale

So very sorry for your loss, which is also a loss for all of us and indeed the planet.... Will’s legacy is huge and inspirational. I am personally inspired in reading about Will’s life to follow his example to take more concerted action about climate change, in whatever ways are possible.

- Jen, Mt Nebo

So sad to hear of Will’s passing. His influence was immense. Our sincere condolences.

- Glyn & Karen Gardner, Molong NSW

So sorry to learn of this untimely passing. My most sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family. May it comfort them to know what impact he had, and how many will miss him and the difference he made to us and to our planet.

- Yvonne Hartman, Lismore

We will all have to work a lot harder to continue Will’s work, such a large void to fill.

- Hollywell, QLD

I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Steffen.

I never met him but his work and clear communication of it has had a profound effect on me.

His work, and clear communication of it, was among the first to wake me up to the true extent of the climate crisis. I motivated me to volunteer for AP4CA where I often cite his work in submissions trying to shift policy and fight for my children’s future.

More than that his work helped me to break free from my carbon tunnel vision to look at all planetary boundaries, the whole earth system, and our need to pull back form overshoot, to quickly foster a radical transformation to an ecological approach.

I will continue to share his work in whatever platform I can to motivate for change.

A loss for all humanity felt most acutely by those who knew him well I’m sure, my condolences.

- Siobhain

A big big shock. An incredible loss for Australia and the globe. Along with other climate scientists, he persevered calmly against the headwinds of climate change inaction and denial. He contributed so much to turning that negative ship around.

He came across as a warm caring passionate man.

One of our admired respected expert scientific minds and communicators.

I only observed him as a member of the public and a contributor to the Climate Council, as someone concerned with climate change and destruction of the natural world.

Will Steffen left us way too young. Australia is poorer for his passing.

Condolences to his family, all colleagues and friends.

Thank you Will.

- Annalisa Koeman, Thredbo Kosciuszko National Park

To Will’s family heartfelt condolences for your loss. May he rest in peace.

- Jan Fahie



Amanda McKenzie, Prof. Tim Flannery, Prof. Will Steffen at the launch of report, *Galilee Basin - Unburnable Coal*.

I didn’t know Will personally but am very grateful for all the work and advocacy he did to help advance the cause of meaningful action on climate change. I am certain he has made a positive difference to the future of the world and of our great city, Canberra. Thank you, Will, and condolences to your family. Gone too soon.

- Jo Egan, Canberra

I am so sorry that we have lost one of our great leaders in the struggle to save the planet. ‘Climate warrior’ doesn’t seem quite right, or indeed enough, but this gentle man was clearly one of the very best. The inspiration gifted by Prof Will Steffen to all of us will be a huge factor in helping to escape our existential crisis.

- Rod Anderson, Earlwood, NSW



Deeply saddened by this news. Had the privilege of meeting and working with Will for a period of time. I know he leaves a strong and profound legacy. Personally, a bit an inspiration. I will never forget witnessing the class and skill of his in-house climate change briefing he delivered to the Howard ministry. I know he made massive contributions in a lot of areas. Few would know or recognise his insights and efforts in establishing policy structures that bought agricultural industries and state governments to the table on climate change. That was 20 years ago now, and these structures still exist today. At a personal level his friendly nature was always a joy. His sound advice has been highly influential at key times in my own life and career. Vale Will. My deepest sympathies to his family.

- Anthony Clark, Bathurst

Sad to hear of the loss of Will Steffen. One of the familiar faces on television calling for strong climate action. He will be remembered for his caring and his advocacy.

- Neil Tyson, Beechworth

Hi Will  
I Will forever remember your dedication to protecting the environment and the climate alongside for plants, animals and us.

- Patrick Li, Ultimo 2007, Sydney



Will on The Project.

The world has lost a fine, caring person. My sympathies for your immense loss.

- Graham Thomson

The passing of Prof. Will Steffen is indeed a great loss and shock. My condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. He was a Champion for Climate Change Action and will be greatly missed. Very sad that he will not see the future fruits of his efforts.

- Greg Murray, Lisarow

I never met Will, but certainly new of him, his work and his influence. This world could do with many more like him.

Sincere condolences to Will Steffen's family and friends. I didn't know him, but the world will miss such an amazing person whose work was essential for us and future generations. RIP Will Steffen.

- Lin Woods, Werribee

Will has been such an optimistic force, encouraging us to fight for action with constant positivity and fact-based science. You can be so proud of his legacy.

- Tanya

To lose Will Steffen, such a wonderful advocate for climate action, is truly a blow. His loss comes with such sadness and such fear that we are now without his valuable input, his knowledge and his optimism. With heartfelt sympathy for his family.

- P Rosier

Thank you Will for your leadership, hard work and inspiration to keep going with the struggle to save our planet and all that lives on it.

- Jill Sanguinetti, Brunswick East

My deepest sympathies to Will's family. He was a remarkable, kind human. I'll never forget his generosity of spirit and humour. It was an honour to have worked with him briefly. His legacy may yet still save this precious planet if we turn up, speak up and stand up to carry on the good fight in his memory.

- Anyo Geddes, Avalon Beach

This is very sad news & my sincerest condolences to all Will's family. From what Amanda & Tim have written, a truly significant worker/prophet, Australian communities & our world will miss greatly.

- Yvonne, Woodville NSW

Will was a supporter of the Faith Ecology Network when he spoke at a FEN event back in the early 2000s, and encouraged me where we were both part of an event in Canberra. He was very supportive of our mission of bringing faith and the sciences together for the good of Earth. I found his work with the Rockstrom Institute in Sweden on planetary boundaries (<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>) very helpful for an untrained scientist like me. May he rest in peace and his work continue to grow from the many plants he has planted. Anne Lanyon, Co-ordinator, Faith Ecology Network [www.faithecology.net.au](http://www.faithecology.net.au)

- Anne Lanyon, Co-Ordinator Faith Ecology Network (Fen)

Thanks for inspiring us to keep going Will. Truly a prophetic soul in all the best senses of the word.

- Mark Taylor, Birkdale

What a loss for his family and everyone on earth! I admired him from afar and he was one of the voices that made me aware of the Climate Change threat. I'm sad for Tim Flannery (another significant voice) and all those close to Will. Let's hope his legacy helps jolt our crazy polities out of subsidising any fossil fuel project or approving new ones. Thanks for using your brilliance and humanity in the battle for our habitat Will.

Sincere condolences from the Finlay-Jones family in Newcastle.

- Richard Finlay-Jones, Merewether NSW

Dear family of Will, His work was more important than most. His dedication and skill will be sorely missed. Condolences.

- Roger Grealy, Blaxland, Blue Mountains

To the family of Will Steffen,

As a supporter of the Climate Council, and as an individual, I send my deepest condolences, love and strength.

I thank Will for what he gave to climate science and action. What a legacy. Many of us could only dream to leave such a profound imprint on Earth.

Much love.

- Lizzy, Melbourne

Will made an incredible contribution to advocating for climate change mitigation. He was an inspiration and champion whose legacy will long live on in our memory. My deep condolence to Will's family.

A true warrior for our world's environment and a clear voice on action to save it. He will be missed but may his gene pool increase!

- Gregory, Murrumbena

We loved his dedication, tenacity and humanity. We share in your loss.

I knew Will briefly while at ANU as Prof of Human Geography in RSPAS, and was honoured to be on a panel with him when he visited the Institute of Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. His research on the Great Acceleration has profoundly affected my work with the Community Economies Institute on building more ethically oriented economies. His dedication to raising awareness of the ecological crisis facing humanity was awesome and has had real effects.

- Katherine Gibson, Sydney

Thank you for your vision and strength. You are one of the great ones and your legacy will shine on.

- Dr George And Helen Manos, Adelaide

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure

- Kim, Moorina

Prof Will Steffen was a mighty scientific voice for climate action. He spoke at our events and rallies, giving his time and knowledge willingly to the cause. He will be greatly missed, and we extend our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

- Peoples Climate Assembly, Canberra

His contribution to climate action is invaluable. He leaves an amazing legacy to the world.

So sorry to hear about your very sad loss of a wonderful human being. So sorry for the world to lose such a champion for the environment.

- Leslie, Canberra

Condolences to family of Will Steffen. He will be remember as our Earth Hero. God bless!

- Mirjana Durovic, Chelsea, Victoria

So sorry to hear about Will’s death. The world needs more people like Will.

- Carolyn, GyMEA Bay

Will was a man who made a difference for all of the right reasons. The climate has lost a very good climate warrior. It is often said that one man can make a difference he is one that really did. Condolence to his family.

- Tony Farina, Kariong

Kind, generous, infinitely knowledgeable and warm. Every interaction I had with Will Steffen over the years was like that. I did not know him well, but feel the loss keenly. As for his contribution to the social fabric - he was truly a generational giant. Vale.

- Jonica Newby

Condolences to family and friends of Will on the sad occasion of his passing. RIP

Such devastating news for us all and specially for the Steffen family. We have lost one of our most notable scientists and brilliant champions for the Environment.

- Marianne Albury-Colless, Reid

I don’t know Will Steffen personally, but his name and face holds a place in my mind that I associate with deep trust and security. They call it ‘Climate Anxiety’ as if it’s an illness rather than a reasonable and credible reaction to scientific truths, but whatever it is, I feel it deeply as do many of my peers. Professor Will Steffen, his name, his face, his voice and his presence, represented...continues to represent...a safe, authoritative rock in an otherwise tumultuous information hurricane. A Climate Hero. If his passing away represents such a loss to me, as a downstream recipient of his leadership, I can only imagine the great loss that must be felt by those who lived and worked with him. I hope you can take some comfort in the fact that the path he forged in climate understanding has become the trailhead for many future tracks each with their own offshoots.

- Sallie Moffatt, Coledale

Will’s legacy is courageous leadership on the most important issue of our times. He was prepared to stand up and be counted against some ferocious misinformation campaigns. I will always remember his warnings about hothouse earth and societal and environmental collapse in the absence of genuine action on climate change. He will be very sadly missed.

- Greg Hardisty, Ashburton

I am so sad to hear, please accept my condolences.

- Memet Doruk, Ascot Vale

So sorry to hear of Will’s sad loss. Fine man and great scientist. We need more like you. Farewell from Kieran Horkan (a fellow scientist)

- Kieran Horkan, Avalon Beach NSW 2107

I never had the pleasure of meeting Will Steffen but his words touched me and so many others in Australia and around the world. My sincere condolences to Will’s family and friends as they have to come to terms with a future without him. His legacy will live on but how I wish he could have stayed with us a bit longer.

- Avril Macbain, Booie, QLD

Warmest condolences to Will’s family and dear friends. His passing is a heartbreak for us all and a huge for the planet.

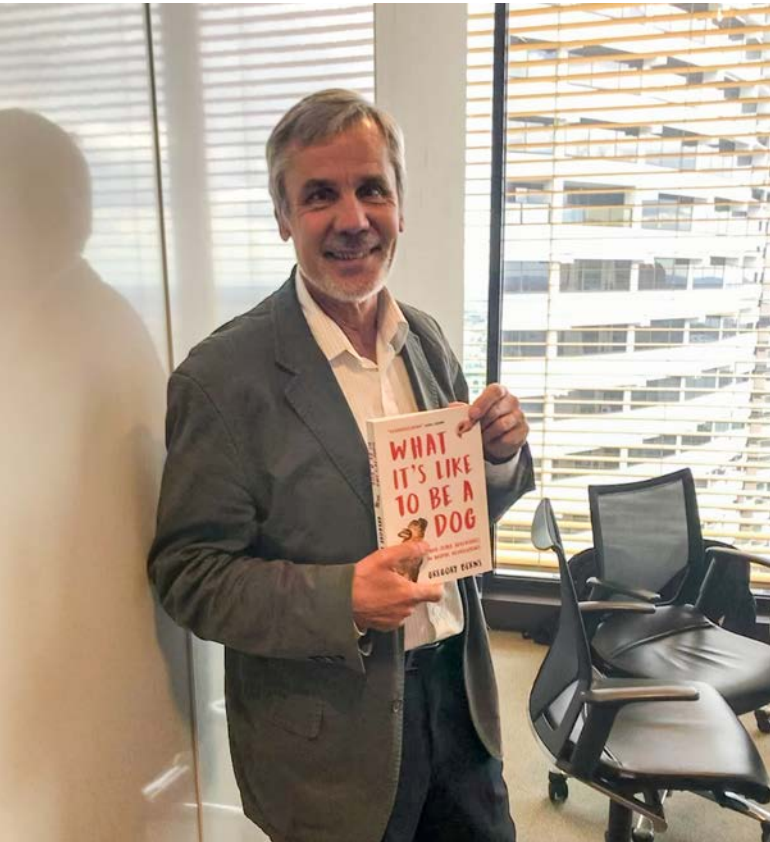
- Jan, Croydon Park, NSW

We here at Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace offer our deepest sympathy on the death of Professor Will Steffen. We were founding supporters of the Climate Council and continue to support the wonderful and inspiring work that Will and his colleagues have done, and will continue to do in his memory.

- Catholics In Coalition For Justice & Peace, North Parramatta

The world is a better place and we all live in hope for a brighter future thanks to people like Professor Will Steffen. Condolences to the family & friends

- Jennifer Berry, Cooran QLD



Will chatting about one of his favourite books at a Councillor Meeting.

My deepest condolences to Will’s family and friends and to the Climate Council. He was a fine gentleman and an inspiration to me from the beginning of the Climate Council’s wonderful work. May he rest in peace now.

- Margaret Hinchey, Oatlands

The world was so much better with Will Steffen advocating for the planet. May the many people who he touched with his message continue to carry the torch.

- Frank Fletcher, Calwell

Thoughts are with you at this time of heartfelt loss. It must be some comfort to you to think that Will has left such a rich legacy of environmental awareness and action. May your fond memories sustain you at this sad time. Kind regards

- Judy Stone-Herbert, Wollstonecraft



Just to extend my condolences to the Steffen family on the passing of Will.  
His contribution to Climate Science and Action speak for themselves.  
He should have been awarded the recognition as a Living National Treasure while he was with us

- Sydney

It was with disbelief and enormous sadness that I read of the passing of Will Steffen this morning. He was a shining light in the battle to address climate change in this profoundly divided country.  
We will miss him terribly. Thanks for your wonderful insights and contributions Will. Vale

- May Smith, Black Rock

What a legacy to leave the world - a greater awareness of the importance of looking after our climate/environment.

Professor Steffen came to visit our environment group in Emerald, Victoria, a few years ago, and gave us a memorable talk on climate change and the work of the climate council.  
We remember him fondly, and will miss his hope and positive determination very much.

- Rose Ovenden, Gembrook

Hi there,

I'm so sorry about your loss.

Although I never met Will, I was always in awe of his work and commitment. He has helped make this planet a cleaner and better one, and nobody could ask any more of a person than that.

He will be sorely missed by so many people.

Thank you Professor Will Steffen, thank you for your courage, your commitment, and for making our planet a better place.

Unexpected and shocking news. I am in sympathy with his loved ones!

- Julianne Pawsey, Coromandel Valley, South Australia 5051

Will was a brilliant, fearless, hard working climate scientist, who's rigorous publications and leadership drove climate action globally. His name appears so frequently in my work that he seems a ubiquitous force that has inspired both myself and no doubt many others to continue the work to reduce our impact on the climate and all life. He will be sadly missed.

- Dr. Jacqueline Balston

Sincere condolences on Will's passing. I do hope that knowing the enormous contribution he made to climate research and education will be a comfort as you mourn his loss. His life really has made a difference to our world.

- Diane Judith Bos, Ipswich

We have lost a giant, but his passion and inspiration will live on in those touched by Will.  
You have shared this wonderful man with us, indeed with the world. My sincere sympathy and thanks go to you all.

- Robin Sevenoaks, Bruce

My first job in the public service in 2004 was under Will when I worked in the Climate Impact Sciences in the Bureau of Rural Science. I was immediately struck by how well he communicated with all and sundry, his passion and commitment for Mother Earth and above all his kindness. He was one of those people you never forget. What a great soul and my heart goes out to you in this time of loss.

- Luke Ingram, Watson

We all must follow his example and continue to advocate for good policies to avert climate disaster.

My deepest sympathies. I recall seeing Will many times being interviewed in the media or quoted in the press. This is a sad loss for the environmental movement. We need more people like him to shake our moribund governments into urgent climate action.

- John Young, Blackburn North

Condolences and love to family and friends of Professor Will Steffen. I join the many thousands of our Country's people in gratitude for all that he has done for Australia.

- Judith Jacques, Flinders Island Tasmania

So sorry to hear of Will's passing. And so grateful for his work for the well-being of sentient life on Earth. My condolences to the family and Climate councilors who are distressed at losing such a great person.

Vale Professor Steffen. Thank you for your lifetime of service in defence of the natural world. Your scientific knowledge combined with your outstanding communication skills made you an exemplary advocate for urgent action on climate change. I never met you but I was genuinely sorry to hear that you had died. My sadness comes from knowing how badly we need people like you to fight the good fight. Now you are gone, but your legacy will live on. Thank you Professor and condolences to your loved ones.

- Monique Mayze

So sorry to hear of Professor Will Steffen's passing. Please accept my condolences. Another bright light and good person leaves our troubled planet. A loss to us all and especially to his family and friends.

- Eli Sky, Currumbin Waters QLD

We are living in a world that needs more people like Will Steffen to give us hope for a better future, by caring for our environment in a real way, not a political, spreadsheet kind of way. His death will leave a huge gap in many of your lives and our hopes.

I sadly never met Will or even sighted him in person. But his regular advocacy of hope and appropriate action in the face of the climate crisis and environmental degradation was moving and inspiring. His loss upsets me.

- Jeremy Evans, Northcote VIC

As a student in U3A Nunawading's recent Climate Change classes, I appreciated so much learning about climate change in Will's inspirational videos and talks.

- Barbara J Fraser, Burwood, VIC

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Will for his passion, clear sightedness and leadership. Sincere condolences to the family

I have been a radio and print journalist for 50 years and Will was both an inspiration and gracious interviewee in every situation. I was absolutely shocked over his passing and unaware of his health issue.  
He will be missed not just by reporters and the general public but in his areas of speciality and profoundly missed as such a brilliant thinker and communicator.  
Much love for producing such a brilliant son. Jim Beatson formally from Byron Bay, NSW and now Kandanga in Qld.

- Jim Beatson

Dear Family of Will, your hearts are heavy with grief. I send my deepest condolences in your loss of such a gentle kind, wonderful man.  
To you and Will's colleagues and friends my sympathy.  
Thank you Will that you were steadfast and touched many hearts and lives.

- Isobel Bishop, Leichhardt NSW



Will with Robert Glasser at launch of Climate Council report, *Hitting Home: The Compounding Costs of Climate Action*.

We are deeply saddened by the death of Professor Will Steffen. He has been an inspiration for us to continue our personal actions and community support to reduce our emissions and environmental footprint to mitigate and adapt to climate change. May he rest in peace after his huge contribution towards urgent climate action.

- Roslyn And Graham Henderson, Turner, Canberra

I was both shocked and deeply saddened by this inspirational and kind man's death. Heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues.  
Vale Prof Steffen

Sad to hear of Will's passing, the world needs more people like him. He did his bit and inspired others to carry on.

- Garry, Meerschaum Vale, NSW

So sad to hear that Will Steffen has died. As a stalwart advocate for action on the climate crisis, his absence will be sorely missed.  
My deepest condolences to his family and friends.  
Vale Will.

- John K., Airport West

To Will's family and friends, Thank goodness for Will's amazing contribution to driving climate action. Thank you.

- Deidre

What a champion and role model for us all. A sad loss indeed.

I never met Will but his name always conjured feelings of confidence when attached to information about climate change. I have volunteered with Engineers Australia for many years, trying to raise the importance of engineering action on climate change, and Will's clear knowledge was invaluable.

- David Rice, West Leederville

Will may have passed but his legacy will live on. Remember him with love and pride, and never give up.

- Marion Ferguson, Strathalbyn, South Australia

RIP Professor Will Steffen, was an outstanding, courageous, kind man and scientist. He gave me so much hope, and admired his knowledge, passion now he tackled, with honesty, and dedication to Driving Climate Action Forward. What a beautiful human being. Hopefully the Climate Council will carry on his excellent work. Condolences to his family and Friends.

- Jan Ma,Oney, Seaton SA

Very sad news. A committed campaigner who worked tirelessly to educate and inform.

- Jann, Mallacoota

Professor Will Steffen, a truly great scientist, and a man who has worked tirelessly for decades to protect our beautiful blue green planet.  
Our thanks and full respect, well done Will!

- Amanda And Craig Linn, Blue Mountains

Will's work was hugely important and inspiring. I met him briefly at a function a few years ago, and found him to be a really nice person. He will be very much missed.

- Eve Sinton, Mullumbimby

Sad to hear about your loss, my thoughts are with you.

- Matthew Kelly, Turners Marsh TAS

Our condolences to family, friends and colleagues, as we honour Will's life. RIP

- Caroline Goosen, Lapstone NSW 2773

Profound sadness and gratitude for your wonderful legacy. We have heard you. RIP

I and the whole team at Ethinvest who have worked closely with the Climate Council to support their great work were so very sad to hear about Will's passing. He was a tireless advocate for science based climate action in some of Australia's darkest years of climate denial. He was courageous, passionate and authoritative. An inspiration to me personally for many years and to so many I know who work in the climate space. Sending our thoughts and best wishes at this time of loss. All the best, Blair Palese and the staff at Ethinvest, the Community Impact Foundation and the Ethinvest Foundation.

- Blair Palese, Sydney

A great man who will be sadly missed. My condolences to his family and close friends.

- Ted Manners, Katoomba 2780

We are so sorry for your loss, and the loss of our compatriot fighting the good fight to save our beautiful planet.

- Liz And Mark Hanson, Lower Snug Tasmania

Dear Steffen Family,  
In sympathy for such a wonderful defender of truth for our planet. His legacy will never fade as truth outlasts lies and subterfuge.

- Suzanne Vaisutis - White, Aranda ACT

The world needs more great men like this courageous, determined, genuine hero. He has the distinction of leaving a remarkable legacy.

- Deborah Mcarthur

With deepest sympathy for your sad loss!!

I'm very sad to hear of the loss of such a climate warrior. Such a Sisyphean task, trying to convince politicians of the immense threat we face. A good man that will be greatly missed.

- Judy Toller, Yarralumla, ACT

My deepest condolences to Will's family, friends and colleagues.

- Ruth Cox, Newtown

My sincere condolences to Professor Will's family. Thanks to Will's tireless work we have major progress in the climate action area and as a mother of two young boys this is critical for their future. The world was a better place with Will in it and it's a huge loss he is no longer with us but the mark he has made will never be forgotten. Thank You Will from the bottom of my heart for all you have done.

- Leanne Hurley, Hawthorndene

Vale Prof Will Steffen.  
for all your wise words and hope filled leadership.  
Sincere condolences to Prof Steffen's family, his colleagues & friends at the Climate Council, and community friends.

- Annie Costin, Kingston TAS

Clearly Will's passion, leadership and knowledge has been a wonderful contribution and sending condolences to you for your loss of such a great man.

- Inge Southcott, Armidale

Will has been an absolute inspiration. I am so grateful for his generosity in speaking at numerous functions. It was a privilege to share the stage with him on several occasions. His is a truly wonderful legacy.

- George Browning, Long Beach NSW

Deep gratitude to Will Steffen for his dedication and tireless work to benefit all living beings. His passing is a tragic loss to the world. His legacy will never be forgotten and will inspire others to continue the path to change. Our sympathy to his family and gratitude for supporting him to achieve all the change he has created and all the work that he did.

- Jacqueline Barnes, Lilydale VIC



Dear Steffen family,  
My sincere condolences to you all at this very sad time. Will made a brilliant contribution to the world in many ways. He was an exceptional scientist and communicator. He was incredibly brave in advancing climate science and in taking on climate deniers at times when it was difficult to do so. The foundations he established and the inspiration he provided for many will long live on. Rest in peace Will.

- John Raison, Googong, NSW

My sympathies to his family.....they must be so proud of him.

The world has lost a treasure, a giant and a true friend. I am deeply saddened by his passing. Condolences to his family and all who worked so passionately with him.

- Rob, Fadden ACT

OMG I have just read that Will has passed away and I am totally shocked and devastated.

Will was my Climate Change Science hero and I first met him in the 90's when I was working with the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and I had acquired funding from the Australian Greenhouse Office to engage Will to go around Australia talking at seminars with regional and urban planners about mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change.

Will was so dedicated to his cause of climate change and climate action for the Climate Council, and it is such a huge tragedy that many of the bungled politicians didn't act as quickly as Will kept on advising them to do so.

My heart is so so so sad that this magnificent man both personally and professionally has passed.

To Will's family and loved ones - sending loving and honorable blessings your way.

We will keep spreading his word to ensure that his work continues to improve the state of the world environment once and for all.

Vale Professor Will Steffen - a brilliant scientist, gifted communicator and kind man.

- Annie Kentwell, Cook ACT

You passed too soon. It's up to us now to continue communicating the climate crisis.

- John Merory, Ivanhoe East

Will took the time to talk to a lowly Honours student from Sydney about climate change and livestock production, he was gracious when I was 20 minutes late after getting lost in the ANU campus and articulate and thought provoking in his answers for the interview. It was only in my Masters, learning about planetary boundaries, that I realised what a giant Will has been in our field. That he took the time to participate in my little research project speaks volumes to his generosity and kindness. And that's not to mention to magnitude of his academic and activist work that we are all so very grateful for. Rest in peace, and we'll keep fighting the good fight for the planet in your honour.

- Anja, Sydney

I am just a humble mum. Will made a big difference to me and my kids through his work and fearless advocacy. He changed the world for all of us concerned mums. I can't imagine how much you would be missing him. All my love.

- Rhiannon, Perth

Condolences to family and friends. Thanks for all you have done for our home, planet Earth.

- Steve

So sorry to hear of Will's passing. He has left an amazing legacy. Thank you Will. My deep condolences to his family.

Sincere condolences to Will's family. A great loss but a great legacy for future generations.

We are so so sorry to hear of Will's passing. He contributed so much to our wonderful country, and was valued by so many. He will be sorely missed.

- Ken And Naomi Henry

Will's voice was one of the first to inspire me to do more. His words helped direct me on a path of environmental campaigning. I have no doubt that my grandchildren will be grateful for Will's wisdom and his tenacity. His legacy will endure as long as the planet needs protection. R.I.P. Will.

- Andy, Ringwood East Melbourne

Will was a man who could look his great-grandchildren in the eye and say I did everything I could to make the world a safer, better place for you.

- Vivienne Skinner, Paddington

Professor Steffen was a very effective communicator of the need for urgent climate action. His contribution will be sorely missed.

- Jonathan Crockett, New Gisborne

Professor Steffen was the main person who inspired me to support the Climate Council from its inception. His intelligence, wisdom, and calm voice of reason formed a bulwark against the attacks on science and gave us reason to hope. Thank you.

- Graeme Mcleay, Torrens Park SA

So sad he has left us. The world needs more good people like him.

- Jenny, Burradoo

My deepest condolences to family, friends and colleagues on your loss.

Our planet weeps at your loss. The government must act quickly in your memory.

- Duncan Bourne, Maleny QLD

A first rate climate scientist and even better human being. The loss to humanity is incalculable and we as a society will forever be in Will's debt for his contribution to science at such a critical time. My deepest condolences to his family. Such a bright light, and such a legacy left - that we now all need to work hard at continuing on.

- Emma, QLD

To Professor Will Steffen's family. I can't find the words to express my sadness at Will's passing. He was one of very few essential people, and will be missed in so many ways. I wish to express my sincere condolences for your loss.

- Dr B Rohan

Blessings to all family and friends. Left us too soon. Sincere appreciation for leading us with science and hope for a rich planet to have a rich future of wildlife and healthy environments!

- Julia Mateljan, Gabbadah

I was privileged to attend a Climate Council online seminar with Will Steffen. What struck me was his obvious knowledge of the science, but more than that his absolute down to earth manner, lack of ego and generous way he shared his knowledge. He was a pioneer and star in climate science and I will miss him. My utmost sympathy to his family.

- Tricia, Malabar

I am so sad to hear of the death of Will Steffen. He was such an inspiration of hope. Many will feel his loss intensely. But none so much as his close family. My deepest condolences.

- Lyn Bender, Yallambie

Dear Carrie, I am so sorry. Will is a huge loss for the world and especially for you. My husband, Tony McMichael, died some years ago and I miss him every day so I really feel for you and your daughter.

- Judith Healy

Will Steffen was a beacon of light, of knowledge and uncompromising courage, and such a kind person. I was always moved and excited as well as informed of the larger picture when I listened to him. He touched and influenced so many.

I cannot imagine the grief you as his family must be feeling to lose someone so special from your family - he leaves a great hole. Please accept my grief and love for you.

- Katy Nicholls, Macgregor

I never met Will but was so impressed by his message as a keynote speaker at a technical conference I attended in Brisbane in 2010 that I am now quite committed and active, in my own small way as a retiree, to urging action on climate change. I have heard of him many times since and remember him as a giant in our efforts to leave a liveable world for our grandchildren. His legacy is our spur to stronger action.

- Jock Churchman, Firle SA



Will at press conference launching *Be Prepared: Climate Change, Security and Australia's Defence Force*.

Why are we losing the best people on the planet? I much admired Will Steffen from afar, for his determined and courageous work and positive attitude despite the forces acting against him. He will indeed be sorely missed.

- Jacqui Sykes, Sydney

As a foundation subscriber to the Climate Council and one who has deeply admired Will's work and his fight for our planet's future I join you in your sense of profound loss which is more personal than mine.

Thank you to Prof Steffen for your life and work. May we who follow you continue your work and save this planet.

Former academic

- Barry Hopkins, East Fremantle

I couldn't believe the news when I heard it. I was sure someone had their wires crossed. He was a wonderful man who devoted his life to a cause vital to humanity. He will be gravely missed by all who knew him or knew of him.

- Margaret Lee, Hawker, 2614

I am very sorry to hear of the passing of such a dedicated campaigner for climate awareness and accountability. People such as Will are role models for the younger generations to inspire them to carry on the fight for a better future. He will be missed by so many people who care about the future and hope for a more rational debate about the challenges we face.

- Des Drever, Flinders Park

Those of us involved with the climate community will deeply miss his presence and his wise Council! And the generosity of time he gave to a wide variety of organisations interested in the impact of climate change.

- Elizabeth Truswell, Campbell ACT

Thank you so much Will for your tireless work and great efforts to make us all aware the crises we all face and the need for urgent action. You were a great inspiration and will be sorely missed.

My condolences to your family.

- Ivan Quail, Innaloo, Perth

Thank you so much Will, & God bless you!!!

- Kerry Thomas, Devon Hills

Thanks for your dedication & persistence as well as your great work. Condolences to the Family & your Team.

- John Keily, Ferntree Gully

So, so sorry to hear this news. So grateful for all Will's contributions to the world.

- Vivien Holmes, Canberra

I was terribly saddened to hear of Will Steffen's death. I'd known of Will for some years before I had contact with him when I was making a documentary about climate change and the oceans. I asked if he would check my facts for the narration for the film and he gladly did that. He also featured in interviews in the film. He was never impatient, always kind and generous with his time. He was also helpful with the Friends of CSIRO group before the 2016 election. I attended lectures he gave at ANU where he explained complex issues, like acidification of the ocean and tipping points and conveyed a real sense of the urgent need for strong climate action. He was a lovely person and was and will remain an inspiration to me and many others. We will miss you deeply, Will.

- Kathryn Kelly, Chifley/Canberra

Professor Steffen was an outstanding scientist, an effective voice for climate action. here in Australia and globally. He was gifted with knowledge, integrity and communication skills to alert all of us about the urgency for action. He was intellectually courageous. His death is a huge loss but what he strived for will endure. My deep condolences to his dear family.

- Sadanandan Nambiar Ao, Hawker, Canberra

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication Will.

Will has left a huge legacy. I am very sorry to hear of his passing.

- Lesley, Wyrallah NSW

Such an amazing man with compassion for all living things. We can carry on his work and life's purpose but will of course miss his presence. I send my deep felt condolences for your loss.

- Frances, Brisbane

Deepest condolences to Will's family and close friends. What a good man and enthusiastic protector of our planet in its current challenges. Will came to give a talk about climate catastrophe to our Climate Action Network in Bowral almost 20 years ago and was well received. Our planet and our community has lost a dedicated foot soldier. Sad news indeed.

- Jill Cockram, Exeter

To Will's immediate family and his climate family

I was shocked to receive the news about Will's death. This is an enormous loss of a man so obviously loved and respected, and so courageous. I can barely believe we have lost him. Please accept my sympathy and condolences.

- Michael Bird, Albany WA

What an amazing, passionate human being. I am sorry I never met him. Will was a precious gift from the Universe and will continue to lead from his new home. RIP Will Steffen.

- Gerri, Bribie Island

This man me and my family actually sit up and take notice, coming to the reality that urgent climate action needs to happen. So sorry for your loss.

Thank you so much Sir. What an amazing Soul.

- Michael Farkas

Thank you for all that you've done for future generations, you were and still are an inspiration.

- Di, Noosa

A hero of our times and an inspiration for ongoing effort to save and protect our home: the Earth. Vale.

Condolences to family & colleagues. Too valuable a human being to lose.

Truly sorry, and a heartfelt loss of his vital kindness.

Thank you mr will steffen for your years of hard work, it was not always heard by all his supporters, but they knew he kept the good work up to the end, how do we replace you?

I was shocked and saddened to hear of your loss. Although I never met Will I truly admired him, for both his climate change advocacy and his work on planetary boundaries. I had hoped to meet with him on that topic this year, sadly now not to be. His legacy is enormous. My deep condolences.

- Jill Sergeant, Sydney



I was only peripherally involved with the Climate Council when Will was the main spokesman, so don't know him very well, but was so glad he was there with his willingness to speak the unpalatable truth, especially in those awful days of the last govt. We just take the presence of such beings for granted, then when they suddenly leave us, it is very devastating. A very good man. Vale Will Steffen, no-one could have done more.

- Virginia White, 2480

A brilliant scientist with a sparkling personality, a determined climate crusader, and endlessly inspiring. A huge loss for the planet as well as his loved ones.

- Miranda Coulson, Freeman's Reach

Dear family of Will,

I met will through a project involving dance/art and communication on moving to zero emissions here in Canberra.

I was completely amazed and overwhelmed by his kindness, generosity and incredible knowledge. His work in small project like this (volunteer) through to global climate strategy has been powerful and felt by many.

I wish I could thank him very deeply for all he has inspired in me.

Thank you Will, rest in peace.

- Alison, Braddon

To Professor Will's loved ones, I am so sorry for your loss, and the world was a better place thanks to Will's dedication to what he believed in, thinking of you all at this sad time.

- Gayle Speight, Avoca

We sincerely sympathise with Will's Family; he will never be forgotten for contributing to our earth community. We hope others will follow in his footsteps and continue with his legacy.

- Sharmini, 2167

I am so immensely sad that Will Steffen has died. Sad for his family. Sad for Australia. Sad for the world. We need desperately him.

Will was my go to source for information on Climate Change. His presentations were clear and insightful. His work was incredibly valuable and will be sorely missed. Love to all his friends and family. Very sorry to hear about your loss.

A true hero of the nation and the age, gone too soon.

- Guy Van Enst, Victoria

A great loss to family and community. I hope you draw strength from his amazing contribution to all.

- Marlene Pearce, East Gosford

I was so sad to hear of Wills death. I only know him via the media but impressed me greatly. A huge loss to you and family, to the wider scientific community and Australia. He will be missed by all.

- Stewart Blake, Salisbury Heights / Adelaide

Heartfelt condolences on the loss of a brave, articulate warrior for the planet. I hope that somehow your hearts' find comfort amidst your grief. May he rest in deepest peace.

- Judy, Albany

I am so very sorry to hear of Will's passing, and send my condolences to his family. Will was a remarkable, considerate scientist who left large footprints on the international climate-action stage, particularly with his work at the IGBP in Stockholm, where I got to know him in my role representing PAGES (Past Global Changes) as member of the IGBP Science Steering Committee. I remember so well his even-keeled stewardship of our meetings. He was very gracious in meeting me in Canberra in 2017 when I interviewed him about carbon taxation history in Australia. He cycled up to the coffee shop there, as spry and effusive as ever, and was typically insightful, candid and thoroughly decent. It is those qualities and many others that will stay with me as I remember and celebrate his many contributions. He made a true difference.

- Thomas Pedersen, University Of Victoria, British Columbia

Condolences to all of Will's family and friends. He was an exemplar for many, a man of considerable passion and achievement. Thank you Will, for your efforts and contributions.

- Peter Sutton, Murrumbreena



Will with Prof. Tim Flannery and the Hon. Julia Gillard AC.

Dear Steffen Family

I was much saddened to hear that Will had passed away. I met with Will a number of time, even in Julia Gillard's office, and also in arranging conference (before cop 19) and indeed as part of the ARC Climate System Science centre of Excellence.

He, as you know, was a marvelous advocate of climate science, and every one of my encounters with Will was a gracious and warm and rational and enjoyable encounter. And indeed that was the most lovely thing about him.

- Prof Nathan Bindoff, Hobart

So sorry to hear the terribly sad news about Will. What an amazing and inspirational man he was. the world was a better place having him in it. Hugs to all the family.

- Jenny, Pearl Beach

I'm sorry to hear of Wills passing His work was priceless and will be missed by many Heartfelt condolences to his family and friends

- Martin Novak, Whian Whian

Very sad news indeed. My sincerest heartfelt condolences to Will's family, friends and work colleagues. We must all carry his beacon of light and make out governments responsible and accountable. Take care everyone.

- Judeen, Coomera 4209

Prof Will Steffen was so generous with his time and expertise, and kind and clear when explaining the intricacies of climate science (to those of us in the climate law and accountability fields). His passing is a huge loss. I have such gratitude to him for his contribution to Australian and global public life.

- Lucy Maxwell, London/Melbourne

My condolences to your family and friends and colleagues. On behalf of my family, friends and colleagues please know of my gratitude for the work of Will. It will continue to help in the saving of our planet.

- Julie

Will was the reason I began to care about climate change and get involved in climate action. He was able to cut through all the noise and talk to ordinary people like me about what it all meant and why we should care about it. Not many people leave a positive mark on the world like that but Will did. I'm very sorry for your enormous loss but I hope there is some comfort in the tremendously positive and courageous legacy he leaves behind.

- Jo Orton, Fairlight

Thank you Will for a life spent in service of science, and keeping all life on earth safe and flourishing. I watched Professor Steffen's work over so many years with profound gratitude and huge admiration. He gave me hope that we can take action to keep this planet safe for our kids and grandkids. We've all lost someone very special. May his incredibly important legacy of work and leadership be of comfort to his family and friends.

- Emma Heyde, Sydney

At a loss for adequate words... but just sending enormous heartfelt condolences to all for whom Will was a part of their lives. I've only listened to him via videos .... So much admiration for such a deeply caring person (who also took action on what he cared about too) What a huge loss!! Thinking of you all.

- Sandy, St Marys

I send my sincere condolences to Will's family. The world is a lesser place for his passing. As someone concerned about climate change for many years I feel grateful and very much appreciate all the amazing work that Will did and achieved. Thank you Will. You will always be fondly remembered

- Christine Racine, Sydney

Dear Carrie and Sonja  
We really feel for you at this sad time. Will was one of the best scientists I have ever encountered and his work is so important. Judy and I would like to attend any commemorative function you may hold.

- Love Peter and Judy Donaldson, Bowral

Thank you for sharing Will with the world. His impact is significant, and he will be a huge loss. He will be sadly missed

- Marlene Laurent, 3165

I am deeply saddened by the news of Prof. Will Steffen's death. He was always so kind and helpful to me and my colleagues (many of us scientists but not climate scientists) who sought his help and advice about issues relating to climate science. To me Steffen was a beacon of light and hope. It is a matter of infamy that one of the first things that the Abbott government did when it came to power in 2013 was to disband the Climate Commission of which Steffen was a member. However, Steffen then played a major role in the establishment of the Climate Council so that leading Australian climate scientists still had an effective voice thanks to direct public support.

- Ian Bayly, Upwey

Although I did not know Will Steffen personally, I have been inspired by him as an eminent scientist and advocate for action on climate change. The Climate Change and Health organisations I am part of have really appreciated his work and applied it to this area of work. We are devastated by his death and send sincere condolences to his family and friends at this very sad time.

You can be rightly proud of such a wonderful person. He has made the world a better place. Best regards

- Sue

There are so few people in this world who really make a significant and positive difference. You will be missed but your legacy will carry on. RIP

- Jen, Drysdale

Science communication is extremely difficult, Will was one in a million, he came off as a genuine, trustworthy reasonable voice whilst still being clear about what a dangerous situation we are in. There are not many that I trust as much as I trusted Will to be a good steward for the climate.

- Ferntree Gully

I'm very sad to hear of your loss and more than a little bit scared for us.

- George, Faulconbridge NSW

Professor Will Steffen's efforts to raise Government and community awareness on the disastrous effects of climate change in Australia and indeed the world was instrumental in initiating conversation and beginning action to address this most important issue. Thank you for your dedication.

- Janice Haviland, Belrose

Will, your love, devotion and commitment to the health and well being of our planet was contagious and life style changing for so many of us with carbon neutral lives. Words cannot express our appreciation for the peace and contentment we can now live with. Rest in peace Climate Warrior.

- Ronnie Cleghorn, Ballarat

So very sad to hear of the passing of this great and fearless man. His words gave hope to those of us who were despairing during the years of climate change denial. He will deeply missed.

- Helen Sloan, Bayview

An enormous loss to the world as he so courageously and clearly expressed the science of global heating and worked tirelessly to wake us all up His work will continue but his death was untimely. My deepest sympathy to his family, colleagues and friends.

- Marianne Wiseman, Greenway

Vale, Will Steffen. You made an immeasurable contribution to public awareness and action around climate change. A terrible loss.

- Kimberlee Weatherall, Camperdown, 2050, NSW

This is a great loss not only for Steffen's family, the Council and science but for the greater community too. Sincere condolences to the family and Council members and all who have worked with Steffen. May he be long remembered for his work and the impact he has made.

- Angela Green, Launceston

I did not know Will, but join with others with my condolences to his friends, colleagues and family because his legacy will be felt by all our descendants. I hope he was able to realise that times have changed and Australia is joining the world in working to save the planet. RIP.

- Kay Stevenson, Presently A Flood Refugee!

I am so sad to hear of Will's passing. He was a really valued colleague on the Climate Commission and always ready to lend support when I was writing on climate issues after I retired. He was charming, hugely knowledgeable and unfailingly kind. What a difference he made! A great Australian. Roger Beale AO former Climate Commissioner

- Roger Beale, Deakin ACT

Sincere condolences to all friends and the Steffen family during this very sad time.

- Susanna, Melbourne

Deeply sorry to hear of this tragic loss. My thoughts and heart go out to family, friends and colleagues. May we all be inspired to keep working for Mother Earth. R.I.P earth warrior

- Lynney G, Grafton

So sorry to hear of Will's passing - he has been an inspiration to all of us working to make critical changes, to educate others on the science, to try and limit the current and future future impacts of climate change for our planet. Sincere love and condolences to you his loved ones.

- Emma, Brisbane

Always the saddest time to lose the best people on this planet. Will was such a valuable contributor to knowledge and understanding underlying climate issues. I have learnt more today of knowledge I gained that came from him. Hope you can all keep telling his story to the world.

- Judith Pratt, Brighton VIC

Will was an amazing force for good. The climate and Canberra will miss him.

- Caroline Le Couteur, Phillip, ACT



My team and I are so saddened by the news of Will's passing and send our deepest sympathy.

I first met Will in 2019 and have had the opportunity to meet with him and seek his counsel many times since.

As a stand-out leader in global warming and climate change science, Will's knowledge was exemplary – but we will remember him most fondly for his passion for action and for so generously sharing his expertise with us.

He was a great scientist, a great communicator and leaves a great legacy.

- Zali Steggall

Sad to see your light out too soon mate.

- Peter Laing

Thank You Will Steffen for scientific leadership on climate and climate change. Australia and the world is benefiting so much from your time here on Earth. Love to all your family and friends as they mourn your your loss.

- Kinga Elizabeth Bisits, Coogee

So very sorry of the passing of Professor Will Steffen. My condolences to his family and friends at this very sad time. RIP Will.

- Lynn Jenkin, Lara, Victoria, Australia

What will the world do without your brilliant mind and dedication to our fragile magnificent planet May you RIP Prof Will Steffen We are all encouraged to work harder to save our planet because of you A life well lived.

- Rowena, Adelaide

I count myself lucky to have had contact with Will many times over 8 years in climate change.

To Will's family, thank you for lending him to us so often. His expertise was invaluable to me personally and my work. He had real influence on some of our most powerful decision makers and advocates who continue to work for improvements in how we view the planetary system that sustains us. He was also kind, funny, gentle and impactful, as well as unfailingly generous with his time, knowledge, contacts and resources.

Here's to a great man and his ongoing contribution to the world.

- Eleanor Ashton, Canberra

Will Steffen's was an uncompromising voice on the need to oppose all new fossil fuel developments to deal with the climate emergency. His world-leading research on tipping points, hothouse earth and other topics made an invaluable contribution towards our understanding about the climate and the Earth system. We at Green Left salute his record and express our condolences on his passing.

- Pip Hinman & Susan Price (Green Left Editors), Sydney

Thank you Will for all your loving work. I'm so sorry you're not with us anymore and for the sadness your family is feeling. Your life on our beautiful planet made a difference to it and to us. May you rest in peace.

- Helen Cushing, South Hobart

I was terribly sad to hear of Professor Steffen's passing this week. I'm not usually one to quote politicians, but I do think Chris Bowen put it well - Very few people around the world could claim to have done more to tackle climate change than Professor Will Steffen. He was a first class scientist and a world class communicator. What an incredible life and legacy.

I'd like to extend my deepest condolences to Will's family, friends and colleagues.

- Crina, Rural NSW

So sad to hear of Will Steffen's passing. A courageous and strong voice for nature and for taking climate action. His work was an inspiring, immense and valuable contribution to our environment. Vale Will Steffen.

- Ahmet, South Hobart

Deepest condolences for the loss of a man who did so much good for the world. I never met will but admired his work on climate change from afar in particular his dedication to climate change cases by acting as an expert. The world needs more people like him

- Narrabeen

Australia and the world has lost a truly remarkable person. So sorry for your loss.

- Marion, Sunshine.

I think Will was my favourite Australian, for his intelligence, clear thinking, patience and determination. I have told many colleagues about him and his work, his understanding and explanations of climate science and earth sciences more broadly. I will miss him incredibly and hope his colleagues and family are going well.

- Paul Cuttler, Petcheys Bay

This is a huge and tragic loss. Will Steffen was an amazing communicator on climate and he'll be very much missed. In his memory we must continue the climate fight to continue the amazing legacy he leaves behind.

- Karyee, Sydney

I'm so deeply sorry for your loss. Will Steffen provided me with so much inspiration and hope, even in the face of ecological and climate collapse. I'm so sad to hear he's gone. I send you my deepest sympathies and healing wishes.

- Rachael, Marrickville

Great Man.  
Giant brain, giant heart.  
So sorry for your loss.

The world has lost a fierce advocate for climate change and a compassionate man. My deepest condolences.

- Petra Jones, Marrickville

Sincere condolences on behalf of Tamworth Parents & Friends for Climate Action. Will Steffen became a household name as a devoted and brilliant leader for climate action. His work and dedication was deeply appreciated by those of us who are working hard to bring stronger action on climate. Sending love and the greatest respect and thanks

- Penelope Milson, Tamworth

Vale Will Steffen

So very sad to hear the passing of such a beautiful soul. My sympathy and condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. An irreplaceable shining light.

- Roslyn Andersen, Mount Eliza Victoria



Will at Climate Council media launch.



Although I did not know Prof Will Steffen personally as a supporter of The Climate Council I have been acutely aware of his invaluable contribution to the preservation of this wonderful planet.  
Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of such a special human being from your lives. Vale.

- Ruth Thompson

I'm so very saddened to hear of Professor Will's passing and send my condolences and a warm hug to his family and friends. Although I never met Will, I work in the climate space and highly respected him and his important work. I was involved in a project where dozens of people read the IPCC report, that Will was a co-author on, out loud at the WOMAD festival in Adelaide. I felt connected to his work through that project, and I reckon a whole lot of others did too. Thank you for being the grounding and supports for Professor Will to do the important work that has no doubt impacted the world for the better. Take care of yourselves and each other in this time.

- Cristel Chambers, Adelaide

I am gutted by this news. What an amazing person, scientist, thinker and voice for the planet. I was privileged to work with Will as part of the Climate Commission and was in awe of his knowledge and ability to communicate that to others in simple yet accurate ways, and appreciated his calm, generous and friendly manner. He was always ready to help. What an immeasurable loss to his family, friends and colleagues - and in his case - to the entire world. His legacy is remarkable. Vale Will.

- Christine Aldred, Canberra

I am so grateful for Will Steffen's help, not that I know him or have met him, but because I use his information, his expert testimony, as a basis to drive climate action of my own.

- Alison, QLD

I have known Will Steffen as a colleague when he was a Post Doctorate at the Research School of Chemistry, ANU. In later years up to the present, I have joined with Will at Science Forums and Climate Council events as a friend and supporter of Earth systems science and Climate Change advocacy.  
What a courageous campaigner and genuine person/scientist to all who knew him, over the last 50 years here in Australia and around the world. I will miss him deeply as we carry on with the his good work for Climate Action by spreading widely his communication videos, documentaries and publications.  
My sincere condolences to his family at this sad time.

- Douglas (And Leonie) Kelly, Kambah, ACT

He will be sadly missed. Thank goodness for people like Will, a great soul.  
Condolences to his loved ones at this time.

- Claire Bettington, Maroubra

Dear family and loved ones of Will, I knew Will in my work as a Climate Change negotiator for Australia and was amazed by his brilliant intellect, curiosity and kindness. I feel so deeply honoured and privileged to have known him and I want you to know his smile and spirit will be with me, and everything I do, always. I believe our souls are so much more than our bodies and I hope you feel Will's love and presence with you always. All my love

- Tory Bridges, Hackett

Vale my Climate Hero, Prof Will STEFFENS. My heart is broken.  
Throughout the wilderness years of the last decade of climate criminality, when I was at my lowest ebb with worry for the future of my grandchildren, Will's messages on TV interviews gave me hope that the Australian people would see how wrong the previous government's denial was, hurting our environment. And I am sure that Will's urgings were instrumental in getting rid of the most destructive government in our history.  
I never met Will or even saw him in person, but I clung to every word. I even recorded his TV news articles and played them back for solace.  
And I loved him for his untiring advocacy for our planet. Thank you, Professor Will, from the bottom of my heart. My sincere condolences to his family and friends

- Richard Mattner, Brisbane

Climate council will miss everything you did every day. Condolences to your bereaved family. Anne Milligan.

Professor Vale Will Steffen

I first met Professor Steffen at a conference organised by UNAA in the ANU many years ago. He was very courteous in replying to my questions on climate change - and appreciated my sincere desire to know more - specially after admitting that I was a new participant in the advocacy on climate change. He answered my questions simply and clearly. Professor Steffen belied his deep commitment and wisdom to protect our planet. We will continue to rely on his words and actions to guide us along the way.

- Dr Zeny Edwards Oam, Lindfield NSW



Will at Cities Power Partnership launch event.

Very sorry to read of Will's passing. Please take comfort from knowing that his fight for what is right, his fight for welfare of others, will continue.

- Michael Mounteney, Cornubia, QLD

Hi  
Will's work and presence in Canberra really helped me have confidence in being a radical climate activist since 2009. Thank You to those who supported him in his work and other life. We will carry on his messages to humanity.

- Rebecca Horridge, Canberra

We would like to offer our deepest condolences to Will's family and friends. He was extremely respected and admired by all of us. Will shall be sadly missed. May all the incredible work he did inspire others to work as hard. Sincere sympathies.

- Alan & Suzana Fuller, Airlie Beach

Professor Will Steffen's passing leaves us with a deep sense of loss. He will continue to live in all of us who care for our planet. His science and his words will keep making the case for more urgent climate action to safeguard all that is precious to us.

- Monica Haigh

Planet Earth has lost a precious and powerful advocate and friend and those who knew and loved him, a glowing, compassionate soul.

- Rod Quantock

Thank you Professor Steffen for your wisdom, teaching and compassion.



This is such a difficult time for you. Will was an exceptional communicator, when he spoke, he captivated. Unparalleled in making science make sense. A genuine legend.

Sending my love and condolences to all Will’s loved ones at this time. Like so many in the climate science, science communication, climate change advocacy, and local environmental groups and communities, I am deeply saddened that Will has left us. Will was a knowledge holder and true ‘elder’ of our settler Australian culture. He will be sorely missed but his legacy will live on in all those like me who he encouraged and mentored so well. I first met Will in 2007 when he attended a Science Week presentation I was event I was involved with, with A Chorus of Women in Canberra. This started an ongoing engagement by Will with many further Chorus initiatives, and more recently with another group I founded - the Women’s Climate Congress. I have written reflection on Will’s support for these initiatives here: [https://www.chorusofwomen.org/news.htm#Will\\_Steffen](https://www.chorusofwomen.org/news.htm#Will_Steffen)

- Janet Salisbury, Canberra

Dear family,

Will was a very special human, he did so much for the world. I wish that I had met him and I will continue to be inspired by his work. Love to you all.

- Sam Gall, Brisbane

I will always appreciate Will’s fearless support of good science, and his ability to communicate the facts in the face of widespread opposition.

Will’s passing is indeed a huge loss to the whole Australian community.

My deep sympathies to Will’s family.

- Peter Donlon And Family, Sunbury

So sad to hear of Will’s death

- Jack Lomax, Lachlan Nr Hobart TAS

Vale, and thank you, Will, for all you did for all of us. I believe I only once met you but your integrity, clarity, knowledge and commitment struck me immediately and led directly to me becoming an on-going supporter of the Climate Council. Few of us work alone, so my thanks go also to your family and supporters.

- Adam Lewis

I sadly never got to meet Will in person, but we had communicated regularly over the last 3 years since I began working at the EDO. Our last conversation in mid Jan, he seemed positive that his complicated surgery would be a success, and he said I should touch base again in March to catch up when we was recovered. He was generous with his time right to the very end. His legacy is immense, and it’s a sad day to lose such a kind and intelligent soul. My thoughts are with his family - I’m sorry for yours and the world’s loss.

- Karen Winfield, Brisbane

Thank you Will Steffen and your family who have educated the world about the climate crisis and inspired so many to stand up against greed and self interest to protect our Planet. Your contribution to humanity is eternal.

- Tracey Carpenter, Bathurst / Sydney

Thank you very much Will Steffen for your dedication and wonderful help. May God hold you in his hand. Suzanne Walters

- Suzanne Walters, North Fitzroy

It is hard to summarise what Will and his work mean to me, but I will try. When coming across Will’s work in 2013, it inspired me to do PhD as part of my new quest to dedicate my life to help to safeguard our planet. This is almost ten years ago, and over the years I have often referred to him as a superhero, my favourite author in all of great body of knowledge.

I couldn’t be more grateful that he ended up being an external examiner for my PhD - I could not have wished for any more constructive feedback that aimed to strengthen my work and impact. When meeting him for the first time I was nervous, and I could not believe how humble, knowledgeable and kind he was. I was lucky to get to know him a bit more in the last few years, where he endorsed my work and we worked on climate education. I even emailed him the Friday before he passed. I could not, and still cannot, believe the sad news.

One article on his passing contained a paragraph on his wife, who said that as an outstanding one-of-a-kind world-leading a scientist and person he was towards his colleagues, collaborators and students, he also was towards his family and friends. I cannot phantom the loss you all may feel.

My thoughts are with you and Will, and I will continue to spread his work and fight for our and future generations

- Saphira Rekker, Moorooka

What a wonderful role model for living Will was. Strive to be the best people you can be and to stand up for what you believe in and know to be right. Be true to yourself and Will be your guide

- Wollongong

Condolences to Will Steffen’s family and friends on his passing. His courage in fighting for climate action is a gift for all.

I had the pleasure of doing some post-grad studies at the Fenner School at ANU and having Will as a guest lecturer. I was struck by his ability to communicate complex concepts in a way that made them understandable. His work defining the Anthropocene and also on Planetary Boundaries was amazing and enduring. I am so sorry for his loss.

- Sue Brown, Melbourne

My deepest condolences to you all. I am a climate activist in Canada and would often listen to Will’s messages for the world and share them with others online. I am so very sorry for your loss.

- Leonor Gouldthorpe, Sydney

I have never met Will Steffen, but I feel as though I’ve lost a very close and dear friend. His passion for our home, planet Earth, was obvious in everything he wrote and did. You will not be forgotten, Will Steffen, because your work will live on. Kindest wishes to your family.

- Barbara Grey, Mothar Mountain, Queensland

What a giant in this world and a wonderful human to boot. Thank you so much Steffen for all you have informed us, created and inspired. Thank you also to your family, loved ones, friends and others who have supported Steffen on his journey. There is hope.

- Anne, Mandurang South

I was so sad to hear of Will’s passing. I work for the environmental defenders office. I was not lucky enough to work directly with Will, but he was a shining light to us environmental lawyers. As an expert witness, none could compare. He made the impossible possible with his clarity and conviction. We need many more like him and, thanks to his generosity, I think we will get there in time. Condolences to his loved ones.

- J, Sydney

Will was greatly admired and deeply appreciated by everyone at the Australian Conservation Foundation.

A giant of his field and an incredible gift to humanity!

So very brave as he told the truth on climate change and human impact on our planet.

We miss him and will respect him, always.

Australian Conservation Foundation

- Kelly O’Shanassy

Heartfelt condolences to Will Steffen’s family, friends and colleagues. With deep thanks for his life and for his generous, intelligent commitment to our planet and the wellbeing of all who depend on the earth.

- Peta Terry, Peachester, Queensland

Will refused to be dismayed by the series of absurd coalition government stances on climate action from 2013 on. He continued to advance the scientific case for action - intelligently, articulately and effectively - especially during the dark years of denial. All Australians are indebted to him and deeply saddened by this loss, felt even more painfully by his family. Sincere condolences.

- Richard, Ainslie

A sad and great loss to all and the country. Deepest sympathy to his family and friends, Jenny.

- Jennifer Macdougall, Canberra

Will was a rare individual, being both an outstanding scientist and a highly gifted communicator, who could articulate the complexities of the science whilst also getting to the heart of the associated policy and societal challenges associated with the anthropocene (which of course, he played a major part in defining). All that has been said about his life points to how sorely he’ll be missed, both as a human being and a champion for a better world. Sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues - Vale Will.

- Gary Allan, Bathurst

I, am devastated to hear of the passing of Will Steffen. Will worked with us at the EDO on many climate cases, and was an absolutely brilliant science communicator in the courts. This work was absolutely critical in getting judges to understand the significance of the link between extraction of fossil fuels in Australia and climate impacts experienced by our communities here. His evidence led to several groundbreaking decisions in this jurisdiction. The moment that I will always remember so clearly was when Will was giving evidence in the Rocky Hill coal mine appeal. When asked for his opinion on market substitution, his response was simply you can't reduce emissions by increasing them. It doesn't take an Einstein to work that out. It was so simply stated, and so impactful. That statement has driven my approach to using climate science in the law. Will had an incredible ability to so clearly communicate the facts - a rare skill in a complex space - that cut through all the greenwashing. A true hero, and a voice we needed most at this most critical time in the fight for a safe climate. Thank you Will for the difference you have made to the course of history. I have no doubt that your work has made this place a little safer for my kids. What an incredible gift to the world

- Elaine Johnson, Gadi (Sydney)

I am so incredibly sorry for this loss. Will Steffen was a standout person who gave so much of his time to others who were fighting the climate crisis, alongside his own incredible work. Will was always at the end of an email for me over the years when I was helping communities fighting coal and gas projects across Australia. Sometimes as a community based activist you feel bad for asking for expert advice, expecting others will be too busy. Will never made me feel like that. He would always take the time to get back with a response, or pass on the query to someone else who could help. It's incredible when I reflect on just how much he was doing and how many people he was helping. What an absolute champion. His contributions to the legal cases on new fossil fuel projects were also an enormous gift to everyone. I am sending big hugs his family and the community beyond feeling this loss right now. All my best.

- Naomi Hogan

Sincere condolences. He will be missed deeply.

I was shocked and deeply saddened hearing the loss of Will Steffen. Even though I had not met him personally, I felt I new him, listening to him speak and reading his science of the truth about Climate Change and its impacts on biodiversity. I thankyou for all you have contributed in your life. I send my sincere thoughts to your family and friends.

- Chris Burton, Dunsborough, WA

Appreciation of a great voice.

- Shirley Lewis, katoomba

Condolences.

- Meredith, Eltham

Just picked up this news and very sorry to read it. I have really appreciated his input to the climate change debate, in such an understandable and honest manner. Sorry for your loss and ours as a nation - we will miss Will's Input.

- Alex Shepherd, Cromer

Thank you Will. Your legacy will never be forgotten as long as we keep the hope alive.

- Christine Currie, 4017

Will's passing is a great loss for everyone who had the fortune to have known him. I was privileged to have called him mate. My condolences to his family. Will RIP Armando Corvini - Deakin AC

- Armando Corvini, Deakin

You, Will 's loved ones will have a special sorrow at his passing. I just want to say even insignificant people like me, feel the loss of such a brave, knowlegeable & determined person.

Will was a truly incredible leader, a kind and gentle soul, and a climate champion. He inspired me and the climate movement greatly with his work. Sending all of Will's family and community my deepest condolences.

- Charlie Wood

Thank you for everything you have done for all of us, for the Earth, and all that is in it. Peter Branjerdporn With love and gratitude from the Social Responsibilities Committee, Anglican Church Southern Queensland

- Peter, West End

Really sorry to hear of Will's passing recently, he was a great champion of climate science and advocate for change and addressing the risks we are facing. As a long term Climate Council supporter, it was great to see his involvement and support for it.

- Peter, Lismore Hinterlands

Such a loss to humanity and the fight to save our climate. Thank you and vale Prof.

What a terrible loss. He was a man of tremendous value to life on our planet.

- Barbara, Melbourne

Our entire family is indebted to Professor Steffen for his work on helping to tell the truth about humanity's impact on the climate. Our sincere condolences.

My condolences. He was a true Australian.

- Stephen, Ingham

Thank you for your wisdom, guidance and inspiration Will. While many weren't yet ready for your terrific work, there will come a time when that work will be one of the most valuable contributions made by anyone. A framework that will inspire a new economy and a new way of living for future generations. What a wonderful legacy.

- Damon Gameau

I'm devastated to hear of the passing of Professor Will Steffen. Sincere condolences.

- Martine, Porret

I didn't know Will personally, but I am aware of the wonderful work he did in the interests of the planet and staving off climate change. He was a good man who will be sadly missed.

- Nils, Melbourne



Will on Sky News.



Years ago, I was in charge of the Humanities Department at Dickson College. Together with Ian Barr and Graham Hansard, who were the teachers of Global Relations, I organised a conference for the senior GR students at ANU. We had some great speakers and Will was someone who was very generous with his time and his knowledge. I really appreciated what he did for the students and felt privileged to meet him  
My condolences to his family.

- Jenny, Gundaroo

I first met Will at CSIRO when he moved into the office next door. I then worked with (you never worked for) Will at IGBP in the US and Sweden, and IHDP. We met again at ANU when he set up the climate change institute. Others will write better than I can about his achievements, but to me Will was a leader, a mentor, and friend. I will miss him dearly.

- Neil, Maragle

I have just finished reading of Will’s death and am both shocked and deeply saddened. Will has been a thought leader, with extraordinary intellectual clarity combined with energy and dedication around the crucial challenges of climate change. Thanks to him for his contribution, and thanks to his family for their support of him. To say he will be sadly missed is a great understatement.

- Jim Falk, University Of Melbourne

A wonderful and inspiring man who has left a lasting legacy. So sorry for your loss

- Jane, Bassendean WA

What a loss to Australia.  
He will be missed.  
Peace and love to all.

- Cherie, Rye

Deepest condolences to the family. Thank you for sharing him with the global community of climate activists. A great person. He’ll be remembered well for generations.

- Lauren & Leigh, Curtin ACT

Thank you Will Steffen and family. We will continue your work to save our beautiful planet and all its lifeforms - and we will remember you

- Megan, Nimbin

Like all Climate Council supporters, I am devastated by this news, but our loss is nothing compared to that of his family.

Oh bless. Such an extraordinary loss. Warmest of blessings to you all.

- Jking, Bass Coast

I never knew Will personally, never even met him, but I followed his work avidly. He was a giant in his field, a dedicated, passionate advocate for climate action. He will be sorely missed. You have my condolences.

- Damien, Lorinna

What an amazing human – Will contributed and cared so much. Wishing all of Will’s friends and family peace and a lifetime of happy memories of a truly remarkable warrior. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him but also those who didn’t, such was his impact.

A sad loss for the planet. May his heroic efforts not be in vain

We can all thank Will for his dedication, determination and imparting of his knowledge, in the selfless act of saving us from ourselves.

Very sorry for your loss, which is shared widely.

I believe we as a nation were very lucky to have Will living on our shores as the climate emergency became more obvious. I will always remember reading his influential words on the science and his moral standing to do all he could to correct the way we were heading. Truly inspiring man.

- Tom, Port Sorell

Always a fountain of knowledge. Loved listening to everything he said.Very grateful for all the work he did with the climate council.  
Will be greatly missed.

It is with profound sadness that we are all the poorer with the passing of Will. May your memory live long in our hearts.

- Jeffrey And Dorothy, East Geelong VIC

Deep sadness and our loss.  
A beacon for us as he shared his passion and knowledge and encouraged hope by example.

- Sandy, Bowral

Thank you for your dedication to educating us about the consequences of not looking after our environment.

A brilliant man - his contribution will be sadly missed.

- William, Tomboye

I did not know Will personally but his work has been inspiring. Vale Will Steffen. Your contribution to advancing planetary health will be sorely missed.

- Michelle, Bond University, Gold Coast

My most heartfelt condolences.

- Eelco Rohling, Kambah

A deeply sad loss. Will Steffen was a strong but gentle warrior for the salvation of this planet. He will be sadly missed but his legacy will endure and encourage others to carry on the fight.

- Colin, Indooroopilly

What a tragedy for his family, friends and colleagues, but also for the climate movement. Such a wonderful, inspiring life of service. May his memory be a blessing.

- Liz, Hobart

Sincere condolences to Will’s loved ones.

What a legend Will was! How we will miss his leadership and incisive mind. Condolences to family, and to friends I say let’s keep the passion burning!

- Dick Clarke, Sydney

Will was a man I trusted - any article I came across authored by Will I read in full. His passing is a big loss to humanity’s hopes of overcoming climate catastrophes. Thank you for supporting him and I’m so sorry for your loss.

- Steve, Devonport

You were an inspiration to me Will.

- Susanne, Yeronga

A marvellous inspirational scientist who contributed more than I can guess.

- Alex Nicolson, 2606

Very sad to hear of the death of Will. He has been an exceptional fighter for our climate and is a great loss. Why is it that special people often leave us far too soon!

Brilliant contribution Will.  
Our work must intensify in his memory.

- John, Frankston

Thank you for your fierce advocacy on our behalf. You achieved so much for all of us.

- Kaye, Mona Vale

I’m grateful to Will for his dedication and knowledge, especially as a survivor of the catastrophic Lismore flooding in Feb/March 2022. I wish you strength and love on your healing journey.

- Naomi, Lismore

I feel so sad but so grateful that we had Will on our side. Paula, an original crowd fund contributor to CCA.

- Paula, Corowa

The world owes a great debt to Will Steffen for his sustained and steadfast commitment to informing the public and resisting climate and earth system science disinformation. The many voices of vested interests who tried to silence or ignore him will be forgotten. Will deserves to be remembered and celebrated.

- Simon, Sydney

Thank heavens for Will’s life! He used it supremely well....

- Frances, Armidale NSW

Will was a humble but passionate and dedicated climate champion who was utterly unselfish in his advocacy for more meaningful action to address climate change. Will participated in a fundraising talking heads session I organised in 2013. As ever he was quiet, understated and compelling. We are all the poorer for his loss.

- Marcus, Hackett

I am just completing my PhD on morality and justice in times of climate change in urban landscapes. I have referenced Will’s wonderful work in my thesis, especially his work on planetary trajectories based on what decisions humans make with respect to their emissions. Will has spent decades of his life looking out for our planet and its inhabitants. I thank him for that and I would like to offer my condolences to his family who obviously were such a support to him.

- Margaret, Melbourne

My deepest condolences. Will was a champion of climate science and climate action, and a great communicator.

- John Rice, Walkerville SA

My sincere condolences to all the family and friends of Will. Such an inspirational man. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have contributed to help keep our beautiful planet healthy.

This is big loss in our climate endeavour especially when initiation lost great man who was actively involved by inviting to fight for normal climate! Global climate lost a great man but his legacy will be continued.

- Dusanka, Blaxland East NSW

I am so sorry to hear this news. A soul such as Will’s is embedded in the fabric of your work at Climate Council. To the family - although I never met Will, he is obviously deeply loved and a lighthouse of a man. I feel for you all. May his spirit live on in the trees, oceans and breezes.

- Trish, Hunters Hill

My deepest sympathy to you on the loss of such a wonderful human being. He will be sorely missed.

- Prue, Orange

We grieve with you for the loss of your loved one.

Sadness is certainly the theme with this news. The world is in desperate need of more people to live their lives as did Mr. Steffen. A great loss on so many levels.

- Steve, Pearce, ACT

The loss is both personal for friends and family and global in its impact.

Great loss.

- Coral Vorbach, Coolagolite NSW

Vale Professor Will Steffen, a fearless man, a brilliant scientist, an excellent communicator and a person who urged urgent action on climate change, inspiring generations of people to do something, anything. Thank you to Professor Steffen, and thank you to his family, friends and colleagues for supporting him in his vital work. He will be missed.

- Ellen, Indented Head

Passing over to the other side to continue to the good fight... thank you, Will.

Professor Steffen was a tireless advocate for the nature and the environment, taking time to respond to questions deeply and thoughtfully regardless of the corner from which they came. Australia’s academic and environmental advocacy has lost a champion with his passing. May his life and story inspire more like him.

- Campbell, Melbourne

I only knew Will as a public figure, but greatly admired his obvious intellect and ability to connect with many different types of people. He will be missed.

- Zena, Melbourne

My deepest sympathy to Professor Steffen’s family and friends. Such a profound loss of such a wonderful man and his efforts for climate change should never be forgotten. RIP.

Please accept my sincere sympathy on the loss of Professor Will. Thank you for sharing him with the community. I will miss the information he gave and the the knowledge that an ethical, honest, brilliant scientist would always be there for humanity.

- Robyn, Tamworth

You have been such a great example to us all and the contribution you’ve made to this planet is huge. Thank you.

- Pamela Traynor and Christopher Bowen, Sydney

A profound loss to the Australian climate movement. I am personally deeply saddened to learn of Will’s passing, and extend my condolences to his family and friends.

- Ian, Eagleby QLD

Such a great guy. So valued by all climate activists. Terrible loss.

- Prudence, Avalon

So sad for our planet to lose such a champion for the natural world.

- Janalie

A True Champion for Mother Earth. Remembered Forever. Love goes out to his family, friends and the many supporters For Climate Action.

- Glenn, Falcon WA

Vale Will Steffen, your dedication and commitment to the future of this planet is a fine example to us all. You made a difference and we celebrate your life.

Such a terrible loss, for you and for the planet. My sincere condolences.

- Jenny, Hobart

We heard Will speak about the need for urgent action on climate change on so many occasions here in Canberra. What a star. How deeply he will be missed.

- Margie And Tony, Narrabundah

In my time working at the Environmental Defenders Office, Will Steffen’s work was an inspiration and his words utterly galvanizing. Sending my deepest condolences to his family and all those who loved him. His words will be his legacy. May his memory be a blessing.

- Daria, Sydney

I’m very sad to hear this news, Will was a talented scientist who devoted his academic time to Climate Science, a difficult and challenging area.

- Trevor, Canberra

Thank you, Will, for your marvellous life, caring for our planet. Your family can be truly proud of you, as we all are.

- Helen

So sorry to hear! It is an enormous loss to Australia and the world at large. I hope you all will find some solace in knowing how much Professor Will Steffen, selflessly, contributed to a safer and better world, and how grateful many of us are (and I mean, many, indeed!).

- Afonso, Annandale

Thank-you Will Steffen for dedicating your life to protecting the planet and for all your research that will continue to do so. Condolences to Mr Steffen’s family and colleagues.

My condolences to Will Steffen’s family and colleagues.

my Sincere condolences to Will’s family and friends for their loss. He was a great communicator who will be sadly missed.

- Kevin, Launceston

On behalf of my three children and their unborn children thank you so much for devoting your life to all life on earth. We will fight on in your memory 🙏👉👉👉👉👉👉 May your memory be a blessing to your family and friends 🙏👉👉👉👉👉👉

- David, Maroubra

Vale Will  
You never gave up.



In 2019, I attended a presentation by Will. That presentation changed my focus in life and I decided to dedicate my working life to deliver positive climate outcomes for everyday people. I hoped to see Will again to be able to say how grateful I am for his presentation. I am saddened by his passing, but please know that his legacy and impact lives on.

- Grace Tam, Sydney

My deepest condolences for the loss of this brave, noble, intelligent human. While I did not know Will I feel the loss of him, may many follow in his footsteps. A life to be proud of Will Steffen!

- Wren, Mullumbimby

A huge loss... we think of Will's legacy with deep gratitude. Condolences to Will's family..... so sad for you all. Know we are thinking of you.

- Rita, Brisbane

My deepest condolences for the passing of such a wonderful person. He gave me hope about climate issues and stayed so committed to educating us all.

- Wendy, Leopold

My condolences to Will Steffen's family.

- Vyacheslav Abramov, Cranbourne North (VIC)

Will was a true philanthropist whose focus was to help our world. A tireless campaigner who was passionate about spreading awareness and involving those who wanted to assist him in creating change. Will's family will be feeling a deep sadness but what pride they must have in this incredible human.

- Vicki Griffin, Kirra

Hello so sorry for your loss, he we'll be missed your have my condolences.

- Lofty Wyse, Grafton

Very, very sad to hear of the death of Professor Steffen. His is a voice that will be greatly missed. He encouraged so many with his clarity and passion, including me. I don't doubt you know that he touched many many lives, and my deepest sympathies to you, his family. Wishing you peace in the depths of your grief, and may you find bright lights that shine on what he left for you especially during this hardest & saddest of times. Again, deepest sympathies, (a total stranger) Keira

- Keira, Mt Lawley, WA

Vale Will. Thank you Will, for your energy, passion, insight and dedication. Your family, friends and indeed this Earth are a better place for your awareness and appreciation. All strength to your family at this time. Life is eternal.

Our sincere and deepest sympathies, thank goodness for people like Will who can give a voice to us who are unable to do so and stand up and be counted for our planet!! Gone too soon!

- Noela, Emerald QLD

I felt a deepest loss upon hearing professor Steffen's passing. I never met you, but I heard your committed, clear, and impactful voice countless times. What an impression you made! The world is now a much better place thanks to you.

Rest in peace 🙏💜

We will go on to honour your work.

My sincere condolences to your family!

- Tam, Campbell, ACT

Will's work and passion will not be forgotten. He informed and inspired so many of us. There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind. - Hannah Senesh

- Tanya, Melbourne

I never knew you Will but like so many others I share your commitment to action on climate change and mourn the loss of a shining light in this field.

- George, Cooktown

I'm deeply sorry and shocked to hear of Will's passing. It simply is not fair, he was a powerful advocate for a better world. Sincere condolences to family, friends, colleagues and the climate action cause. Thank you Will for your tremendous contributions.

Our thoughts are with you during this very difficult time and our thanks goes to him to help us fight the fight.

- Ian Millner, Avalon Beach

Sorry to hear of a good spirit passing into the next world. His impact on bringing knowledge and change will be with us into the future. condolences to the family.

- Ron Guy, 3340

Bless him,and for your support, our deep appreciation. We needed leaders so much and the respect many had for Will, helps us then and now to continue bravely. sorry for all the undoubted recent pain..peace and rest to you all soon.

- Sally Clarke

Will and his work for the Climate Council gave me hope when I felt the darkness of the anti-climate science movement, especially when expressed by the then Government. I am indebted to him for enabling me to move forward in hope. I always enjoyed his clear presentation of climate science whether in print, on the Internet or on tv. Thank you Will! May peace and comfort be with all Will's family and friends.

- Noel, Plainland, QLD

Sad for your loss. A great, compassionate man.

- Gilbert Grace, Sydney

Vale Prof Will Steffen for all your wise words and hope filled leadership. Sincere condolences to Prof Steffen's family, his colleagues & friends at the Climate Council, and community friends.

- Elizabeth O'Brien, Millers Pt

My deep condolences to Will's family. He was an inspiration to me along with so many others. Rest In Peace. Your legacy will live on.

- Dr Christine Hosking, Brisbane



Prof. Will Steffen.

Please accept my deepest condolences. He was a giant in the most difficult scientific pursuits- climate science. We will make sure that his legacy is honoured by protecting planetary health. May you find comfort in the arms of family and friends during this difficult time.

- Dr Ruby Campbell, Turramurra, 2074

Thinking of the family and friends at this sad time. Prof Will Steffen will be missed. What a wonderful legacy and example he has left us with after the huge efforts in working toward make a healthier and more sustainable planet.

He made the world a better place and will lead continue to lead many more people to create change for the better

- Ellenbrook

It's a great loss for this country and individuals everywhere trying to counter global heating.

- David, Glebe 2037



Will on SBS World News.

I am deeply saddened to hear of Will’s passing. His dedication to the cause of climate action will be sorely missed.

Australia has lost a great advocate for the climate...go in peace with our grateful thanks for a job well done.

- Marion, Redwood Park, SA

Whilst I had not met Prof Steffen personally I had attended the odd webinar where he was involved and I, along with the whole nation owe him and his dedication to the climate cause, a gigantic debt of gratitude. RIP Professor.

- Sue, Nasrm

I am so sorry that this brilliant, passionate and caring man is no longer with us. Thanks Will. We are all the better for your Climate Change advocacy. Sincere condolences to your family and loved ones.

- Jan, Butler WA

So sad to learn of Professor Will Steffen’s passing. He was a man who fought the good fight and inspired many to do better. He made a profound difference through his tireless fight for our environment and to help us better understand what we need to do. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

- Kerry Baker

This is a terrible loss. Will Steffen was a truly great man. Thinking of you, his family, at this sad time.

- Margaret Clough, Ainslie ACT

A wonderful communicator, Will Steffen will be missed by those who value evidence to inform decision-making.

- Patricia Sandell, Mildura

A great, great man and we owe him an enormous debt. RIP.

- Barbara, Gold Coast

I am sorry for your loss.

- Trevor, 5000

To all Professor Will’s dear ones, colleagues, peers and associates, and wider field of the like-minded or otherwise, my condolences. We are all better for his contributions.

- Tui, Buderim QLD

I first met Will in the mid-2000s, he was a powerful speaker. I wrote to him after his presentation asking whether I could have a copy, to share it with others. He didn’t hesitate. A talented scientist, Will was also a gifted communicator - a rare trait. Over the years our paths crossed many times and we continued to talk climate change behaviour strategies, highlighting that if we want the climate to change for the better, we need people to change their behaviour. The world has lost a great champion. Thank you Will for your life’s work. My deepest condolences to Carrie and his family.

- Sue, Bundaberg

Will was a fearless but gentle giant in our fight for climate action. His work on planetary boundaries and Earth system topping points informed much of my advocacy activity and my teaching across engineering faculties throughout Australia. Sadly missed but never forgotten.

- Prof David A Hood Am, Taringa QLD

I am so saddened by this loss. My sincere condolences to Will’s family and loved ones. Mother Earth has lost a champion and humanity will feel this loss. RIP Will.

Vale Will Steffen. A hero to climate activists, his voice will be sadly missed but his legacy will live on.

- Susan, Boon Wurrung Country

My thought are with you at this sad time. I hope you will get some solace from knowing that Will’s legacy will live on in the work that he did and those that he inspired.

- Rob

Aldo Leopold said:

One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.

You chose differently, Will; you chose to always communicate clearly what we needed to hear until most understood. You’ve handed on the baton; hundreds and thousands are now willing to take it and run with it until our climate emergency is under control. Vale Will Steffen, and thank you.

- Vaughan, Manly

With love, hugs and deepest sympathy to Will’s family. We will always be so grateful that he fought so hard on behalf of all of us. My wish for his family is that as the sadness of grief slowly passes, the pride in his achievements grows. A true champion.

- Jenny Beatson, Coramba, NSW

A giant has passed. Let us honour him by our continued action on behalf of all he stood for. May he rest in peace.

- Ern Azzopardi

I am so deeply saddened. Wishing Will’s family and friends love and light through this very difficult time. A bright star as left us and we are so very grateful for all that Will did for the planet and future generations x

- Kelly E, Peregian Beach





Dear Will’s Loved Ones,  
My condolences for your loss.  
Please know, in his scientific papers, his articles on The Conversation, and in his climate talks available on youtube, Will had a powerful impact on this layperson here from Germany.

His talk Where are we going and his article co-authored with Aled Jones opened my eyes to the incompatibility of capitalism with a habitable, global-civilisation-carrying planet.

The German laypeople climate bubble crowdfunded the professional translation and dubbing of his talk U-turn ahead which was viewed 22,000 times by German-speaking, climate-aware laypeople on Youtube by now.

Your Will was and will stay a climate-hero.

I am deeply saddened to learn of Will’s death. He was a beacon of hope for me and so many of my colleagues due to his fine advocacy and towering intellect. I have quoted him countless times in countless discussions about our future, and footnoted his impeccable research in countless of my submissions. Will was and will remain my deeply admired, fearless climate change hero.

- Jenny, Dromana

Even though I have never met Will Steffen in person his passing affects me deeply. He was a beacon of hope and a defender of the Earth. It's such a loss at a time when we need brilliant people like him most. May he rest in peace.

- Beatrice L.

Will’s passing leaves me sad and numb. We just must continue the work he started to keep Climate Change initiatives on the National Agenda.  
With deep respect for his many achievements.

- Dr John Patterson, Adelaide

The loss to the nation of a man of such intellect, passion, drive and commitment is significant. More than that though, his family, friends and colleagues are mourning the loss of one so dearly loved and respected. My heartfelt condolences to all.

I was very sad to hear of Wil’s passing. Condolences to his family, loved ones and colleagues. Wil made an enormous contribution to the discussion of climate in Australia. My father also passed away at 76 from pancreatic cancer so can relate to how you must feel.

- Martin, Lindfield

Vale will Steffen was a brilliant man he will be missed!

X

Such a loss of a huge contributor to our future life on this earth, who has gone far too soon. However his contribution is his legacy for us all to acknowledge and value.

- Barbara Bryan, Dundas NSW

Deep sympathy to Professor Will’s family. His founding of the Climate Council, such a credible organisation across our Nation, will remain a perpetual testimony. A truly prophetic voice! I feel great sadness at his leaving us.

So sad to hear of Will’s passing as I remember him so well from the many panels he contributed to. And he was only my age: so I had better keep pushing on to defend our climate and am speaking with Portia on Thursday re the involvement of the CC in a leisure industry conference paper I am preparing.  
He will never be forgotten.

- Ken Marriott, Williamstown

It is with great sorrow that I heard about this wonderful man’s death. We can all be so proud and thankful for the wonderful work he did and what great things he achieved.

- Cherry Hardaker, Bulli, Illawarra

Remember him, he is not far away! Always a leader for his actions are truth and Good, this he leaves behind for all to see.

- Mandurah, Western Australia 6210

I’m shocked and saddened. Will was a great scientist! Vale.

- Robin Gunning, Tamworth

I’m so saddened by the news of Will’s death. I was lucky to work with him a few times, chairing panel discussions and public forums for the Climate Council and WOMAD. His warmth and generosity of spirit - as well as his fearsome intellect - shone through every time. His media work wasn’t driven by ego, he was just a genuinely decent human being who cared deeply about our world. I remember the wonder in his eyes when he told me about hiking and climbing with his wife on the bus ride to WOMAD.  
I’m so very sorry for your loss.

- Bernie Hobbs, Sydney

My condolences on your terrible loss. Will gave us all something to hope for.

- Patrick Pigott, Mildura

My deepest condolences to you. Will was an inspiration and a shining light in dark times. He will be sorely missed.

- Stephen Ranck

I was shocked and devastated to see that Will had died overnight...I could scarce believe it and my thoughts turned to how Climate Science advocacy here would continue to so strongly endure without his powerful voice. So calm, so well informed, so authoritative he gave me confidence and confirmation. Will’s family should be so proud of his enormous contribution to promotion of the science and impacts of climate change resulting from human activities and his shining sheer decency as a human being.

- Maurice, Melbourne

We just lost a great man... someone who understood what is truly important. RIP mate.

- Rod, Victoria

So very sorry to hear that Will has passed away. I never met Will but I listened intently to many Climate Council, Australia Institute and other webinars and read his work as part of my educational journey on climate change and feel like I gained a lot from his teachings and insights. We have lost someone who has given so much in his field.  
My condolences to the Steffen family, and his many friends and collaborators at this difficult time.

- Louise Atherton, Tasmania

Professor Steffen gifted us so much in our most urgent of challenges to address climate change. I am most grateful for his action, intelligence and kindness. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. Vale Professor Steffen.

- Canberra

I was lucky to have a conversation with Will about a climate change exhibition we were developing at the Powerhouse Museum. He was so generous with his knowledge and we loved hearing about his life and career - including being at the meeting when the anthropocene was coined and of course all his international work and that with the Climate Council. Such an inspiring and kind figure in the climate world. So sorry to hear about his passing xx

- Catherine Polcz, Sydney

To the family and friends of this wonderful person, Will Steffen,

I only met Will once or twice at various presentations he gave in Sydney in 2010 and in Brisbane several years later. This made little difference to the impact he made on me - professionally as a university professor and personally as a fellow human being. His knowledge was astounding, his worldview was completely inspiring and his humble and tireless way of being was an example for us all as we face the challenges he dedicated himself to.

I send my deepest condolences to his loved ones, and thank you for giving him the loving foundation that no doubt helped him accomplish all that he did. His work will continue to enable all people young and old to protect our climate and stand up for our rights to a decent world.

Thank you and RIP Will Steffen.

- Melissa, Highvale, QLD

Prof Steffen’s clear-sighted bravery, intelligence and humanity will be missed but always remembered - it will always be a well from which to draw the inspiration needed to continue to promote truth and to find a way forward - he leaves a towering legacy.

- Margot, Sydney

So sad to hear of Prof. Steffen's passing. I am so grateful for all he did and send you all my condolences, from the bottom of my heart.

- Cate Tauss, Perth

Very sad to hear of Professor Will Steffen’s passing. My condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. A big loss to Science and Climate Change awareness causes. RIP.

- Jan, Millicent SA

My condolences on your loss. Thankyou for sharing Will with us. i never met Will but as a supporter of the climate council from its inception i knew his name well and always looked forward to his insights.

- Marian, Brisbane

When Nick was rock climbing with Will back in the 1980s, little did we know how important Will was to become to the Canberra community and the world at large. How wonderful it was to have known him. How good it was, the way he cut through the claims of the climate deniers, but without destroying them in the process. He always played the ball and not the man. Will would always come when called, not least to Cooma to the inaugural meeting of Climate Action Monaro back in 2011, or more recently to the Fenner Conference on sustainable agriculture at the Shine Dome in Canberra in March last year. Will was a hero and is profoundly missed, but his legacy endures. RIP Will.

- Jenny And Nick Goldie, Cooma

I am so sad to learn of Will’s passing. What a loss. I send my deepest condolences to his family and all who loved Will. He and his work will not be in vain or forgotten.

- Maxine, Kenmore, Brisbane

Thank you Will for your generosity and spirit. We say farewell to one of the era’s leading lights.

Vale Will Steffen  
Generous, inspired and genuine in his commitment to climate action - very sad news.

- Wendy Steele, Melbourne

Sincere condolences to Will’s family and friends. We’ve definitely lost one of the very best of men. 🥹🥹

Profound gratitude for your work and the legacy you have left us all. Deepest sympathy to your loved ones.

- Liana, South Fremantle

A life well lived, indeed. Condolences to your family, friends and colleagues.

- Sandra Martin, Winthrop, WA

Will Steffen presented at an event called Spectra I organised last year. He was the kindest man, a brilliant communicator, a practised listener. I heard the news on the radio this afternoon and my heart sank. My condolences to the wonderful family he must have had supporting him for so long. Vale Will.

- David Pledger, Melbourne

Professor Will Steffen has had a profound impact on my life as a shining example of a brilliant and fearless scientist of the highest order and international renown, and a passionate, humble and sensitive human being. I have seen him visibly upset in the face of climate disasters, and whilst answering challenging questions about the future. I really don’t know what we’ll do without him - he was irreplaceable. I’m so grateful to have him as an ongoing example of human courage, warmth and determination. Rest in peace Will.

- (Dr) Jonathan Page, Cammeray

So sorry for your loss of such a great man. Immensely grateful for Will’s work and presence in the climate sphere.

- Sandra, Geelong

I am very sorry that Will has passed. My brother has also passed just lately so I know how you are missing him already. I just wish more people would listen to his message about our beautiful country and planet.

- Dianne Healey, Cooran QLD 4569

I’m sorry to hear this news, I personally didn’t know him but anyone who continues to fight for their beliefs is a champion. RIP

- Darryl Skues, Rockdale

Some people are so valuable, they shouldn’t die. Will was one of those people.  
Vale Will

- Ian Kruger, Kingsley

So very sad to hear of this devastating loss at a time when we all need voices like Will. Deepest sympathy to family, friends and the community as we share the sadness.

- Michele, Toowoomba

I like so many of our colleagues owe a great debt to Will, he was a leader and a constant over the past 35 years of our climate journeys  
He was not only a visionary who never shied away from uncomfortable truths, but had a way of continuing an engagement with those who really didn’t want to hear. Personally he was forever generous, humble and helpful. Will genuinely has made a great difference in living our common goal of leaving the world a much better place than he found it  
Vale Will

- Snow Barlow, Melbourne

Sincere condolences to Will’s family and friends. What a genuine, driven and caring soul who worked tirelessly to improve our world. A huge loss to all who care for our environment.

- Lyn Davidson, Sunshine Coast QLD

Will’s passing is an enormous loss to us all. To his family & friends, condolences. To the broad climate action community, that I think of as The Insistence, let’s honour his legacy with renewed vigour in our efforts for meaningful action.

- Richard Barnes

This is truly a great loss. I have long admired his work and his legacy will remain. His words and actions will inspire us in this long battle. We mourn his loss with you. Thank you for allowing him to achieve what he did.

It feels so unfair to lose such a brilliant, kind and dedicated climate warrior so young. Will was such a powerhouse in communicating the risks of climate damage and inspired many others with his passion. Sending my deepest love to everyone who will miss him deeply.

- Jo Dodds, Bega

So sad, when we think of all the people we can afford to lose, Will is certainly not one of them. We are saddened for his family & all the good people at the loss of such a person:(

- Margaret & Jim, Clunes NSW

I wasn’t lucky enough to meet Will but I’ve been a supporter of the Climate Council since it started and so I greatly appreciate the contribution that Will made on behalf of us all. The world has lost a hero. My deepest sympathy is with his family and friends at this time, I hope your shared love of Will helps to support you through this sad time.

- Niki, Sydney

Those like Will who devote their lives to making this a better world should be blessed. God bless Will. May he find eternal peace in heaven. Amen.

- John R Brodie Jp, Macleay Island

We are lucky to be blessed with such a person who made our world better.

I am profoundly shocked and saddened to hear of Will Steffen’s passing. Since leaving the CSIRO to take up a leadership of GCTE and later IGBP and numerous roles since then, he has played a huge and effective role in advancing community knowledge and recognition, and political action, of the emerging anthropogenic global climate change in Australia and well beyond. Always modest, clear, balanced and succinct in his explanation of the science and the risks of greenhouse warming. His numerous public appearances were never about him, always about the parlous future of the planet.

- Roger Gifford, Googong



I am so sad to hear this news.  
What a wonderful man. Why do the good ones go early?  
I can't accept this news.  
So Sad.  
MAY GOD HELP HIS LOVED ONES UNDERSTAND.  
- Mariana May, 6951

Will was an inspiration to me. I've read so much of his work, and relied on his insights for my work with an environmental organisation. He had a beautiful way of conveying hope too, despite the difficult news he often had to share. My heartfelt condolences to you. He will be missed by so many.

I don't think it's possible to replace Will. If the human family survives the coming decades it will be largely due to Will's profound influence and impact.  
- Richard David Hames, Bangkok

Ah Will,  
You WILL be missed - by many of us.  
R.I.P.

Living in Canberra, I both met and heard Will speak. A loss to the world, not just Australia.  
- Chris Emery, Reid, Canberra

My condolences for your loss. Will was a brilliant scientist and very well respected colleague. He'll be sorely missed.  
- Dr Gary Luck

A great loss.  
- Grafton

Vale Will Steffen.  
Thank you for your fearless climate change advocacy.  
- Clive Stott, Grindelwald, TAS

A champion for the planet - a sad loss far too soon. Rest peacefully.

The world has lost a true champion for the good.  
- Daryl Hoey, Wonthaggi

It is always sad when a warrior passes, but there is hope that he has inspired others, older and younger to take up the cause. However the war is won by two steps forward and one back and never taking our eyes off the goal. We thank Steffen for his efforts on our behalf. And send you the family and close friends our condolences.

- Charlie, Bentleigh East

What a truly sad loss to you all...and the entire country and world! Will Steffen was an inspiration and his life and work still is.

- Jo, Moruya, NSW

What a huge loss. My condolences to his family and close friends. I didn't know him, but he was an inspiration to me and, no doubt, countless others. I participated in one of his ventures.

- Richard Pearson, Townsville

A big loss to the earth!

Very saddened to hear of your loss. Vale Professor Steffen, a brilliant and generous soul.

- Jack, Victoria

I'm sad to hear of Will's loss and offer my condolences to his family and peers. I didn't know him but I have been reading about his great qualities and contributions to climate science and a climate action locally and globally. He's a man who has left an incredible legacy at this crucial time, and who has fostered and inspired many to continue his work.

- Lou Hurley, Geelong

Will was so valued by so many. Thank You for the time he spent sharing his knowledge and passion with the world.

- Nadia, Boat Harbour

Thank you for all your hard work for the people and planet.

My sincere sympathy and thoughts are with you. I am so sad that we have lost such a wonderful person and climate warrior.

- Judy Parham, Norwood SA



Prof. Will Steffen.

I am so sad to hear of the death of Professor Will Steffen. He was a hero of mine, I really admired him and got to meet him in person in 2012 on board the Aurora Australis during the Mawson Centenary voyage. I enjoyed listening to his presentations and talking to him during the voyage. He will be sadly missed. Condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. We have lost one of the best.

- Christine Rees, Queenscliff, VIC, 3225

Vale Will. I didn't know you personally but did know how much you contributed to spreading awareness of the oncoming climate crisis.

- Garry Fincher

Thank you for all you have done for this Earth, Dr Steffen. May you rest in peace, and deep condolences to your family....

Thank you so much for being there for Will and giving him the strength and care that allowed Will to help us.

- Terry Holdom, Bolwarra Heights

Wishing you the strength to cope with your loss of a great person.

A gentle warrior and champion for the protection of our planet. He will be sadly missed.

- Andrew Aitken, Redland City

I'm so sorry for your heartbreaking loss. He has left a deep and lasting legacy and his work will continue in the hearts and actions of many of us.

- Lou, Sydney

What an incredible human being. Will was so generous with his time in helping my community to present a climate-based argument to Council when I'm sure it would have been one of the less important requests he had. I felt privileged that he took the time to respond. What an incredible contribution he made to turning the tide on climate action in Australia. He was so highly respected and loved.

- Kate Hook, Orange

So sad to lose this wonderful climate change warrior. Sorry for your loss Helen and Phill.

It is with a heavy heart I hear of Will's passing. He is a true icon in the fight for our planet. My family's deepest condolences to you and your family.

- Louise Clayton, Glenfield Park (NSW)

So sorry to hear - for your family, and for humanity - he is a legend, and history will note his amazing and dedicated work. I drew on his inputs on Climate Change for much of my advocacy in this area.

- Steve Gates, Gooseberry Hill

Please accept my deepest condolences to you for the passing of Will, and be assured he is in a happy, beautiful place amongst a pristine natural new world. 🥹❤️🌈🌍

- Adrian, Wollongong

You were a ground-breaking scientist, brilliant communicator and wonderful person. We only worked together briefly, but your influence on me and my career has been profound. So many condolences to your family and friends.

- Lesley Andrew, Canberra

Please accept my condolences for Will’s passing. He will be remembered by many who were fortunate to witness his passionate advocacy for positive action to address climate change. He did not know me, but I - like thousands of others - were aware of his significant legacy.

- David Nash, Forster NSW

Thank you Professor Will Steffen often the voice of reason and as someone who just wants action on climate change it was always wonderful to hear him be the voice of action. Thank you.

- Liz Martin, Bendigo

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Professor Will Steffen on your sad passing. Our family in Erskineville will always remember your valiant efforts and courage in raising awareness and working tirelessly for climate change. Thank you so much for everything you’ve done. You will be surely missed but never forgotten. From Lisa, Albert & Enya.

- Lisa Hogan, Erskineville Sydney

A highly respected climate scientist, climber and climbing historian...please see my contribution at <https://climbinghistoryoz.blogspot.com/2023/01/vale-will-steffen-1947-2023-climate.html>

- Michael Meadows, Brisbane

The creation of the Climate Council was a brilliant response to the Liberal Abbott Govt’s abolition of the Climate Commission. Like many others, I flocked to support the Council as soon as its formation was announced. Will Steffen’s family, friends and associates will take comfort and pride from knowing that his part in working for a sane and science-based approach to Climate issues is known, acknowledged and continued: now and into the future.

- Garry Stannus, Liffey

Oh my goodness. What a loss. What a talent and such a great communicator. His family has to deal with an enormous loss. His impact will continue to shine.

- Rhian, Melbourne

Australia has lost a climate action giant. I never met Will but his character & conviction was on display every time he spoke. I’m shocked & very sad for his family & his colleagues at The Climate Council & for our country.

- Fred South, Laurieton NSW

To Will’s family and friends, As a regular Climate Council donor, my deep condolences to all who knew, worked and loved Will Steffen. His death is a such a loss, to you and everyone who has benefitted from his important work in helping to shape knowledge, awareness and policies around climate change science.

- Andrea, Northcote

Will Steffen has left a significant legacy. His family has obviously formed this noble human being. I hope this knowledge will be of some consolation.

- Jan Dwyer, Rosebud VIC

This is such sad news. What a climate hero! Such an amazing influential contribution that was of national and global significance.

- Dominique La Fontaine, Port Melbourne

I’m deeply saddened to hear of Will’s death. He spoke quietly and powerfully and thus was persuasive because he spoke calmly, steadfastly maintained his objectivity and treated everyone with respect. His knowledge was extensive and generously shared. His vision was inspiring, his hard work during the past decades was effective. My family and I extend our deepest sympathy to Will’s family and thank you for sharing this wonderful man with our society. Australia is richer for his life.

- Louise, Geelong

It’s profoundly sad to hear of Will’s passing. He leaves an enormous legacy to the world.

- Jo, Adelaide

My deepest sympathies for you and your loved ones.

- Natasha, St Albans VIC

Our deepest sympathies on Will’s passing. He was indeed one of the loveliest, kindest, most thoughtful human beings who used his intelligence for the good of mankind. The world is a lesser place with his loss.

- David And Bronwyn Kelly, Randwick

I am so sorry for your loss, I can’t imagine how hard this must be for you.

Will was a lecturer when I studied at ANU, and one of the reasons I completed an environmental science degree. He was an excellent communicator, but also taught us compassionately. He gave us hope, and would speak about solutions. He helped me start volunteering, running a campaign for strong climate legislation in the ACT in 2010 with community groups called Canberra Loves 40%. That campaign was successful and the legislation created the ACT climate advisory group which he led. He was always generous with his time, willing to speak at events or to the media in relation to our campaign- even when he was so busy. Later I worked for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and Will was one of the teachers that inspired me to do that work. He always remained supportive and encouraged me when at times we’d catch up at events. To me, Will walked an important line- he was a scientist dealing with facts, and he was an advocate for change. He showed the two are separate but both critically important. Growing up learning about and living with climate change isn’t easy, but Will gave hope and purpose to so many of us before and after my time at ANU. I am so sad I’ll never see his friendly face asking how I am and what projects I’m up to. Thank you for supporting Will to be the amazing contribution he was to all of us in his many roles. I can only imagine how much time that took and what else he missed out on doing. I am so grateful I knew him.

- Phoebe Howe, Canberra

From the very first time I met Will at an event at Griffith University in Brisbane I was always keen to learn more of his wisdom, to inform my climate change activism. His sharp analysis and comprehensive knowledge of climate change issues was amazing, but his concern was always to share it with no concern for his personal glory. What a wonderful inhabitant of planet Earth! He will be sorely missed.

- Wendy Flannery, Coorparoo, Brisbane

We have lost a man of great integrity, intellect and humanity. I am truly saddened and the world has lost a leading light. Vale Will.

- Catherine Nicholson, Hobart

I only had the good fortune to meet Will once, but he and his work had a significant impact on me. I am deeply sorry to learn that he will no longer be with us to drive the case for urgent action forward. Please accept my sympathy, and know that we are deeply grateful for his work.

- Alison Crook AO, Ballina NSW

Deep condolences to Professor Steffen’s family. I am immensely grateful for all his work and achievements. He has been a personal inspiration.

- Lyn Serventy, Margaret River

Will, your Earth system science foresaw the hothouse hell that we humans are sending ourselves and our exquisite ecosystems into. But your brilliant public communication, relentless pressure on governments and mountaineering adventures will continue to inspire us as we try to claw our way back up the scree slope towards a sustainable future. Thank you for those legacies.

- Nick Abel, Spence

Will’s paper, Climate Change 2009 faster Change & More Serious Risks, was my go-to reference as I embarked on my journey of climate change advocacy. His clear explanations allowed laypeople like myself to understand and then communicate the causes and impacts of climate change to a broad audience. Will’s incredible contribution to science, humanity, and the living world will remain an enduring legacy. I hope that Will’s family finds courage and solace in this knowledge.

- Guy Abrahams, Richmond

I am so very sad for your loss. Will was an exceptional human being. He was extremely helpful to me when I needed some advice preparing a talk on ocean acidification - I will never forget his willingness to explain the science and share his knowledge with someone he hadn’t ever met, even though he had a full schedule. Our thoughts are with you 🌍❤️

- Fiona

I am sure 🌍🐘🐼🌳🌱💧☁️ is forever grateful for their brave and knowledgeable son who walked the path of caring for all creation in all his truths and endeavours 🌈. I too am sorry for your dear loss 🥹❤️

- Grandmother, Rosebud VIC

Such devastating news about the loss of such a fine human being who did so much for all of us by working on climate change and helping people to understand the perils that the world faces. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends who can be so proud of Will. He will live on through the love you have for him and your cherished memories. Let’s hope we can all contribute to his legacy.

- Jennifer Sanderson, Brisbane



I write letters about the climate emergency and often use Will Steffen quotes to give them gravitas and urgency. I will continue to use his inspiring words to motivate myself and others.  
We have lost an important warrior for the climate.  
Your have the sympathy of a large, grateful community in your sad loss.

Our Deepest Condolences. Pray God To Rest In Peace to the departed soul.

- Pradeep Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

We had no personal contact with Will but our science based approach to dealing with the multitude of environmental problems has been inspired by Will and others who fought for the truth to emerge as he did. It is now up to all to ensure his legacy lives on.  
Thank you Will.

- Cardinia Environment Coalition, Pakenham

Prof. Steffen was an amazing man, brilliant climate warrior and respected human. My sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. His death will be a huge loss to everyone. Love and best wishes to you all. 💜💙💚

- Catherine, Mornington

Vale to be continually repeated. A brave courageous thinker, a person so generous with his time, he always picked up the phone or returned calls and simply helped as we on the Eyre Peninsula continued through out Climate Change journey. THANK YOU.

- Cecilia Woolford Epicca, Eyre Peninsula

Will was a passionate knowledgeable inspiration to so many. Your loss is shared so widely... as our loss too.

- Nigel Bell, Katoomba NSW

I was so sorry to hear about Will's passing. An incredible advocate for this beautiful world and an inspiration to the very end. Sending love and empathy from our corner of the world xx

To the loved ones of Will Steffen. It was with great sadness that I learned of Mr Steffen's death today. The simplicity of his explanations and education have endeared him to many, myself included. His commitment and passion a great legacy. Dearly missed. Sympathies to all.

- Teresa Cassin, Williamstown 3016

Will Steffen's passing leaves me with a deep sense of sadness and loss. He was a very generous and wonderful human being who was a gift to the world. We all loved Will. My thoughts are with his family. He expanded my way of seeing the world and its limits and planetary boundaries. I am very sad. He is gone too soon and was a great and noble person.

- Sharon

My sincere condolences to the Steffen Family and all that knew him well.

Forever in your hearts, and never really truly gone.

- Gus

A terrible loss to EVERYONE!  
A great man and earthling  
Condolences to all his family and friends  
Thank You Will, Sincerely  
RIP

- Michael, Mandurah

Only the good ones die first, I'm sorry to hear and hope everything is all ok with the family.

- Bbo Heasman, Greenwood West Australia

Will was an inspiration - something we all need to keep us going. And we will, for Tim and for all and everything. Smile through your tears and you will come through.

- Wendy, Millstream (QLD)

What sad news and a massive loss to his family but to all of us. Sorry for your loss.

- Meg, Shoal Bay

Will's family and our country have lost an inspiration. We grieve with you.

- Sandy, Kelvin Grove

We are so sorry for your loss. We are also sorry that our world has lost such a dedicated climate warrior. His work will go on with people who believe in his work.

- Bartlett Family, Sydney

I've been a Geographer, science educator and education author all my life. Over my entire career I have been aware of the name and the man, Will Steffen. He is a giant in his field and has been so incredibly generous with his ideas and knowledge. My thanks to him and condolences to his loved ones.

Vale, Will

- Judy, 3786

My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time.

- Paula

I never met Will Steffen, but he was a legend. His name came up many times in my google searches and I admired his passion and dedication to the cause. My family thanks him for fighting for a future for us all.

- Philippa, Stanthorpe, QLD

I was so saddened to hear of Prof Steffen passing. He has given me courage in many dark days to speak up in my local community. I always look for and trusted his work. Thank you for everything you have done. With gratitude 🙏

Shocked and saddened, that's all I can really say. The picture of him at the summit of Mt Donaldson in the Tarkine really brought it home because I was up there with him on that day. Sincere Condolences to his family and others close to him.

- John Martyn, Turramurra 2074

Will was due to travel with us on last year's Climate Council Tarkine trek but was unable to join us due to health reasons. I was saddened to hear of his passing today and that I was never able to meet him in person. He was spoken of highly by Martin Rice. My condolences to Will's family and the Climate Council team. May the legacy of Will's work live on.

- Laurie Reemeyer, Vancouver, Bc, Canada

I was deeply saddened to hear of Prof Will Steffen's passing. I met Prof Steffen only briefly back in June 2021, and even from this very short meeting, his wisdom, passion and warmth were so clear. I'm so very grateful for all Will contributed to the climate movement. Thank you for sharing him with the Australian public and the world for so many years.

- Jane, Girraween

Another giant has fallen in our forest of climate action but his legacy will live on. It was a privilege to have been able to learn from Will and the greatest respect for his consistent message through words and actions.

- Louis De Villiers, Walyalup/Fremantle

I am so sorry for your loss and for our country, May his passion and legacy live on.

A scientists and a gentleman who thought more about the future for all than the now for him. Many thanks to the family who no doubt provided critical support for such effort.

James G

- James Gilmour, Perth

Dear Professor Will Steffen and family,  
Please accept my condolences for your loss.  
Thank you so very much for explaining climate change to me in a way that I could understand it and even feel confident enough to discuss it with others on the radio. I am just an ordinary Australian but thanks to you and the Climate Council I know enough about Climate Change to know that we need to do everything we can to stop it. May you rest in Peace knowing that you did your very best to help stop Climate Change and protect the Earth for us and the generations that follow. God bless you all.

- Jacqueline Charlesworth, Phillip Bay/ Sydney

My deepest condolences to all of Will's family and friends. Thanks to his a kind and generous soul, he leaves a positive impact having influenced so many. A powerful legacy for Australia's climate movement. Vale Will Steffen.

- Lisa

Sending condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Professor Will Steffen. Despite not knowing him, I am supremely grateful for all his hard work and dedication to the need for urgent climate action. All the world should be thankful for his life and try to carry on his work. His passing is a great loss.

- Rosemary Boyd, Badger Creek VIC

A brave leader facing entrenched ignorance with great courage and a loving heart. A great inspiration for us all.

My deepest condolences to Will's wife and daughter. I didn't know Will personally but I studied his work during my masters and avidly read his Climate Council newsletter. He had so much wisdom to share. I feel very sad for the world and for those who loved him. A great man has been lost.

Will Steffen did so much to educate us about the climate emergency and the action we need to take. My condolences to his family. His death is a huge loss and I make a commitment to work harder at all the things he taught us we have to do. Thank you Will Steffen, you gave so much.

- Linda Bradburn, Preston

Very sad to hear the news - my deepest condolences to Will's family, friends and colleagues. I didn't know him personally but he struck me as a big thinker with a calm and gentle manner - and a warm smile! He must have had great courage and integrity to go out on a limb when other scientists were hesitant to speak up in the early days. His life was a gift to all on Planet Earth.

I was very saddened to hear of the death of Will Steffen. He was an inspiration, and a wonderful man. Vale and go in peace.

- Ainslie

Professor Will Steffen was an inspirational example of one who helped ordinary people like me to comprehend the gravity of climate change problems but who could envisage the solution. His believes in the best from others inspires the best.

- Angela Rossen, Fremantle WA

I have never met Will but listened to many of his broadcasts and was always impressed by his sincerity and passion as an advocate for serious action on climate change issues. Vale.

- Graham Kirby, Darwin

My partner and I were amongst the fortunate ones who heard him speak in our local suburb. Just a small crowd in Balmain, but we all walked away the richer for the experience. We shared our experience with a young relative working on her Environmental Science Master's degree. She in turn became inspired and will be carrying Will's message forward, both as a scientist and as a private citizen. The world is diminished by his passing, but wow, what a legacy! Vale Will Steffen...the world owes you.

- Shirley And Martin, Balmain

Thank you Will Steffen, I loved the way you explained climate change and other pressing environmental issues such as biogeochemical cycles. I used to use videos of you explaining theses issues, as well as others in my year 11 and 12 Biology classes in the ACT. You had integrity and clarity and I wanted to be on your team in the climate change campaigns. RIP.

Vale Will Steffen. I heard him speak at the Balmain Institute in 2019, and was impressed by his clear explanation of huge concepts, and his ability to span from geological epochs to minute present-day changes - and from his international influence to speaking to a local community group. The world has lost a very fine man - but so, of course has his family. Condolences to them, and to all his colleagues, especially those at the Climate Council.

- Dominic Case, Balmain, NSW

Really sorry for your loss, and the world's loss. He will be forever in our hearts and his wonderful dedication and service will continue to inspire us. Thank You Will.

A massive hug to you all.

- Christabel Wilson, Maleny QLD

Thanks for your courageous tenacity in exposing climate truths - criminally suppressed by avaricious corporations, aided and abetted by ambitious politicians.

- John Bloomfield, Roselands NSW

A rare gift to humanity and planet Earth, by all accounts, let us not fail you Will Steffen. Sincere condolences to the family.

Death is just the beginning. Will will continue to learn, grow and influence on the other side. We will meet again. Sorry for your loss at this time Xx

- Imogen, Townsville

Condolences to you all, his work lives on and his legacy will endure. Sorry for your loss.

All at Climate Action Hobart send our deepest condolences for your loss. Prof Steffen will be greatly missed but the legacy he leaves is immense and we are very grateful for all he has given us over so long.

My condolences to Will's family who should be extremely proud of his work and dedication in trying to educate and change the course of the climate trajectory for all of us. The burden at times must have been horrendous. Thank you Will from an insignificant but very grateful Australian.

- Mb, Sunshine Coast Hinterland

Heartfelt condolences on the passing of Professor Will Steffen. Sending much love and thoughts to his family and loved ones.

- Lisa Potter, Perth, Australia

Dear Carrie  
I walked with Will and you in the Simien Mountains in Ethiopia in October 2014. I'm so sad to hear of his passing. I remember him for the calm and succinct way he explained the ever changing weather patterns in those mountains and for his determination on the trail. My thoughts will be with you over the next few weeks. Take care. Kind regards.

- Peter Chapman, Bellevue Hill

Prof. Steffen was an indefatigable and generous advocate for our climate and our future. I'm honoured to have worked with him and learned from him.

- Jane Van Vliet, Turner

So sad to hear this news. Will's science and communication skills shaped so much thinking about climate change. He was also a remarkably kind and generous man and lovely to work with. He leaves an extraordinary legacy across generations. We were so lucky to have him in our lives. He will be missed.

- Arnagretta Hunter, Yarralumla

My sincere sympathy and condolences for your loss. Will touched the hearts and minds of so many people - seeking a reasoned yet compassionate approach to the politics of climate change. I will very much miss his voice, and thank God he was there.

- Megan, Gloucester

My wife and I ( Michel died suddenly in 2017) travelled with Will on the True North around 2012/2013 and loved his company  
A true GENTLEMAN and more than that even an INTELLIGENT man  
Loved the guy  
My thoughts are with his family

- Andrew Summons, Melbourne

A true climate hero; your work and passion for action will not be forgotten. Condolences to the family.

- Sheryl Biddle, Birregurra 3242

I was deeply saddened to learn of Will's death this morning. Although we only crossed paths a few times, I saw him as a friend and someone who I could always ask for advice in my climate change work. How will we fill this gap when his work is so greatly needed?

- Janet Stanley, Red Hill, Melbourne

What a guiding star 🌟🙏 his contribution to humanity was immense and is invaluable. His presence will be missed but his legacy will live on through his contributions and in those who were privileged enough to know him. 🙏  
my condolences to his friends and loved ones 🙏🙏

- Karena, Perth



As the founder of the Climate Council, Will inspired me and many more to take action to reduce the impact of climate change.

- Lucia Mayo, Wanniasa ACT 2903

I remember him at the 2011 climate conference in Melbourne, during the white hot debates on Gillard’s so-called carbon tax. I spoke to him briefly, and watched him engage with other people who he didn’t know from Adam. He was courteous, thoughtful, calm (and this was at the time of lunatics brandishing nooses), and his answers to questions were supremely rich in fact and insight. He did this without ever ever seeming pompous or condescending.

He is a HUGE loss to the Australian (and global) science community.

- Marc Hudson, United Kingdom

Very sad. A productive life cut short by bloody cancer. Vale Will Steffen - a life of contribution.

- Deirdre, Narooma

If we all had the will of Will, the World would be a better place. Thank you for your contribution.

I am deeply saddened by the death of this climate warrior and one reason why I try to contribute to causes that seek to turn the world around Vale Will Steffen.

- Eric White, Darlinghurst

I am so sorry for your loss but I hope you find some comfort in knowing that Will Steffen lived such a meaningful life and made a real difference to this world. His legacy will continue.

- Kym Kilpatrick, Hallidays Point

Will, I turned to you for accurate information on climate change. You have me hope, despite communicating clearly the grim reality of how we are impacting our climate. It was your humanity that touched me. You have left a great legacy.

- Ian Lett, Adelaide

I am so sad to learn today that we have lost Will. His deep knowledge of climate science and his warm humanity made him a beacon of light, as he spoke truth during difficult political times. My thanks, and sincere thoughts go to his family and close friends.

- Joan Staples, Melbourne

I only met Will once, when I travelled with him to the Antarctic in 2012 as part of the AAE Centenary celebrations. His knowledge, gentleness and inspirational manner were clear to all. I can only feel for all of his family and friends from a distance but wanted you to know how profound his influence has been on so many people, even those like me with whom Will only met briefly - such was his influence. He will be sadly missed. A true gentleman.

- Ian Godfrey, Bayswater WA

Thank you for your calm and patient explanations and advocacy for climate change. I wish we had listened and acted sooner so you could have rested more easily. But thank you for your work!

- Rhyan, Faulconbridge

So very sorry to hear the news of Will’s passing. Please accept our sincere condolences.

- Jackie & Richard, Peregian Springs

Kia ora to Wills Family,

I’m deeply saddened and will take time today, and coming days, to reflect on the specialness of coming to know Will.

I met Will on several occasions in Canberra to discuss climate projects, after listening to him on a Radio New Zealand interview. He responded to each email in a meaningful way, gave my project direction, hope and insight - and is where it is today because of that. This means lot to me.

It felt like a had a friend in Will, I will miss him and can imagine the enormous loss you must be feeling now - As ‘they are our tears’ - James K Baxter.

I wish you all big love, strength and joy to know he lives on here.

Arohanui

- Alan McFetridge, London, UK

I met Will several times and was impressed by his genuine friendliness, passion, and profound understanding of climate science. The world has lost a great man.

- John

I heard Will talk many times, and managed to chat and work with him in a very small way. He was always great to listen to or to work with: an inspiration all round.

- Paul Magarey, Canberra

It is always sad losing anyone, but especially someone as active as our wonderful Prof. He was one of few people who could simplify a complex message and get it across to everyone. Please accept my sincere condolences.

- Eileen Whitehead, Perth

I never met Will, but saw him as the face of the Climate Council. My sincere condolences to Will’s family.

- Sharon, Barcaldine 4725

I’m devastated to hear of the passing of Professor Will Steffen. We will not forget you. Vale professor will steffen.

Wonderful man, sadly gone. Only people like him can prevent us passing the the environmental point of no return, if we’re not past it already. Vale!

- Murray Hall., Dunolly, VIC

I am extremely saddened on the death of Will. He has made a huge contribution to attempt to halt climate change and there is still much to be done.

Let us hope that his loss stimulates others to come forward to halt global warming and save permanent damage to biodiversity.

My deepest condolences to Will’s family.

- Rod Watson, East Brighton

The World’s 🌍woeful without your wondrous, Will. Bless him. Bless you.

- Joan From, Macquarie, ACT

Will came to Quirindi at the peak of the last drought and I was fortunate to spend some time with him as we walked the bare fields. He struck me with his strong interest in what was happening and his passion for his work was palpable. For someone so remote from the world ... to have captured his interest for a brief time was empowering. Thank you Will, yes “failure is not an option.”

- Jim Mcdonald, Quirindi

I am so very sorry to hear about the passing of Will. I had the greatest respect for him. As a climate scientist myself, Will was someone to look up to and was so passionate and enthusiastic. He was even a referee on some awards and promotions for me, for which I am truly grateful. I will miss seeing his friendly face at local and international conferences, just as the wider climate community will miss his tremendous contribution to climate research and communication.

- Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, Whitlam, Canberra

Condolences, so very sorry for your loss and our loss.

I never met Will but I wanted to after the very first time I heard him speak. He seemed so genuine and humble and attentive and and delivered his message so pleasantly, even though he had such unpleasant opposition. It seems so wrong that we do not have him still. He was too young to be taken from us all. It is a terrible loss for you all in his family.

- Mairianne, Ararat

Will’s legacy is carried on by our actions he has inspired us so much.

Energy Forever.

- Port Macquarie

We send our deepest sympathies to you all. Professor Steffen was an admirable man to whom we feel very grateful for all that he has done.

- Stephen, 6000

Such a sad day. My condolences and best wishes to all his family and friends.

Though I never met him in person, his calm yet passionate advocacy around understanding the science behind climate change, and thus why we needed to act was an inspiration.

Australia has many great scientists. But those who we would name as great advocates, great communicators are far fewer. Will was one of this rare breed.

To those rising younger scientists, in whatever field. Don't just strive to do good science. Strive to live it, breath it, inhabit it. Communicate it!

Will did!

- Glenn Tamblyn, Daylesford, Victoria

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Will's work will carry on for years and years. In the same way he dedicated years and years. Deepest condolences to his family and colleagues.

- Laurel Henry, Sydney

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Vale Prof Steffen, thank you for all your work on this crucial issue. Gone to soon. Condolences to your family & colleagues in Oz & around the world.

- Sarah, New Farm

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A gentle soul with great patience. We who remain have to ensure his Climate messages are spread and acted on.

- Wendy, Enmore

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Will Steffen will be greatly missed by those who care about our Climate future. We are thankful that his work will live on. Sincere condolences to his family and colleagues.

- Patricia Mcauliffe, Perth

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I am deeply sorry for your unimaginable loss. I greatly admired Professor Steffen for his dedication, positive attitude and intellect. He was such a gifted science communicator and his loss will be felt by many Australians. My thoughts are with all his family and friends at this difficult time.

- Paul O'Connor, Federal, 2480

Sincere Condolences. Will Steffen's work for the Climate Council was highly respected and valued by many many Australians.

- Marilyn Schroeder, Warrnambool

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Will was such an impressive and articulate advocate for science-led climate action. He will be missed across the whole country. Our thoughts are with all his loved ones.

- Dr Brad Pettitt Mlc, Fremantle WA

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We have lost a most admirable man and can hardly begin to imagine your sadness at this time. What a legacy Will leaves.

- Pat Kershaw, Perth WA

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A great loss to the international community pushing for climate change mitigation action. Enormous gratitude for Professor Steffen's generous leadership, research skill, sure determination and staunch commitment. Deepest sympathy to all his family and friends.

- Barb Curzon-Siggers, Clunes, Victoria

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I met and talked to Will only a couple of times. The last time was a little over a year ago when he was kind enough to take some time to have coffee with me and talk about climate change and politics in Australia. A very warm, down to earth and just very likeable man, in addition to being a brilliant mind.

He made enormous contributions to Australia and the world, and made it a better place.

My condolences to all his family and close friends. You will be missed and remembered.

- Klaus Weber

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As a Climate Council supporter and having had no idea that Will was ill, I was so very shocked and upset to read of his passing in The Guardian, before immediately receiving the news from Climate Council. He always made me feel that much more secure about the future of the planet and all who reside here.

Please accept my sincere sympathy at his loss, which must be utterly devastating for you all.

- Sue Carolane, Barnawartha

This is such sad news. He was greatly admired for his quiet persistent advocacy, and intelligent communication.

- Lorraine Bull, Morwell VIC

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I met Will and Carrie on the Scenic Rim Trail last year and it was a delight to meet him, and an honour to meet someone who had dedicated his career to something that many of us have only woken up to recently. Uncompromising in his passion for climate, and a dedicated scientist who searched for the real answers, it is tragic to hear this news.

- Bryan Rollins, Yamba, NSW

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A great soul, loved his vision & lack of ego! A Climate Change Activist who never gave up! I send my best wishes to his family & friends.

- Berry NSW

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I have had the honour of knowing Will for over 30 years. I can recall many of our conversations because his grip on and expression of global climate issues were both profound and memorable.

- David Tongway Am, Weetangera

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Our heartfelt condolences, what a profound loss to his family and friends, to Australia and the World. Professor Steffen has shown what the power of one can accomplish. Now so many will carry on his legacy. Rest in Peace.

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We are so sorry to hear this news and send condolences and gratitude for all he has done for us all.

- Heather And Paul Gardner, Kangaroo Ground Victoria

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Thank you Will, for all you did, for so many years (and so many years in spite of such stiff opposition) to benefit the planet and all life on it, now and in the future.

- Meave Ramsay, Taralga

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Deepest condolences to you all.

- Carolyn Bury, Adelaide

To Will's family - we didn't know him personally but he inspired us to keep trying. His legacy is for so many families - this generation and the ones to come. Thankyou

- Tammin, WA

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Rest in peace Will, may your efforts to protect this planet be not in vain.

- Maryellen Flynn, Canowindra

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What a loss. Will could articulate so clearly the climate and environmental challenges that we face and help others to understand them. Thank you Will for all that you did for our amazing world.

- Deb, Castlemaine

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Thank you Will for what you have given to all of us with such passion, conviction and generosity of heart. You lived a truly worthwhile life and this planet is so much the better for you having visited.

- Michael Loughnane, Hobart

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Deepest sympathy to all Will's family and friends. I didn't know him personally but I was in awe of his knowledge, commitment and empathy in communicating the critical need to tackle climate disruption at all levels of society. A sad loss indeed. Rest in peace Professor Steffen, your life's work is invaluable.

- Julian Sharp, Yeagarup

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A huge loss. As a climate activist I quote Will Steffen's words all the time. Sending my condolences to your loving wife and family. Rest in power Will Steffen, you made a difference.

- Laresa, Williamstown

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One of the preeminently admirable citizens of Planet Earth. Will Steffen was a champion for the well-being of humanity and nature. Taken too soon, he will be sorely missed.

- Drago Heler, Medlow Bath

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As supporter of the climate council I'm saddened to hear of his passing; his writings have been so important and informative, and have helped us all in his desire to save the planet. We will miss his wonderful contributions. Sincere sympathy to his family and colleagues.

- A.T., Leichhardt



Thank you for sharing Prof Steffen with the Climate Council, ANU, Australia and the world.  
Great science.  
Great communicating.  
Great determination and persistence.  
We are all here for such a short time; he is one who truly leaves a great legacy.

- Andrew Carr, Rose Bay

Such a good man.

- Ross Edmonds, Waratah

The outpouring of grief for Will is testament to his gentle genius, his wisdom, his kindness and his generosity, and I hope Will’s family take comfort from this.

Will’s gifts to this world have been immense, Utterly devastated to hear that the wise, wonderful, generous, funny, brilliant Will Steffen has died.

Will’s gifts to this world have been immense. It was a true privilege and pleasure to know Will, to learn from him, to discuss ideas with him. How I wish we had him for longer.

Much love to Will’s family, and to the many many many of us across the climate movement in Australia and around the world who knew and respected and loved Will.

- Tim Hollo, Canberra

The Steffen family

It is sad to hear of Will’s passing. Thank you Will for your tireless action on climate change, it is people like you who have driven climate change action.

- Neville

I never met Will but was always pleased to see or hear any communication from him. I believed in him and what he said. My condolences to his family and all those who loved what he stood for.

- Frank Maconochie, Canberra

Will was a gentle, intelligent, passionate man, who was a great supporter and champion of the work we did in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) in its formative years. He was always willing to lend his voice and expertise. We have lost a strong voice and champion for climate action. He will be missed. My heart goes out to the team at the Climate Council and to the Steffen family.

- Sarah Boulter, Canberra

Thank you Will Steffen for all the work you have done, and to your family who would have supported you whilst you were doing it.  
Will Douglas (gaoled for locking in to a drill rig at Adani site)

- Will Douglas, Moruya

A wonderful, kind man with a voracious thirst for knowledge and a generosity that stunned me when willingly said yes to being a guest on my nascent podcast Climate Conversations - I stumbled and bumbled my way through our chat and Will made it sound professional with his suave, sophisticated and intelligent observations. Sadly, it was during a change of podcast hosts that I lost the episode featuring Will.  
Thanks, Will you were a thorough, and patient, courteous, gentleman.  
The climate community will miss this bountiful fount of global heating knowledge.

- Robert Mclean, Shepparton

Vale and thank you Will. My deepest sympathy and prayers for Will’s family.

What an absolute legend of a human, I hope he has many children and grandchildren that will continue his life’s work.

- Opa Bato, Melbourne

Will Steffen made a ginormous contribution to the understanding of climate change and its impacts. His words and actions are a constant source of inspiration. His knowledge and sage advice will be sorely missed. The baton now falls on many of his colleagues to fill the enormous gap he leaves behind. Vale Will, you will be long remembered and never forgotten. My sincere condolences to his family and many friends and colleagues.

- Dr Ed Wensing, Canberra

What a sad loss for not only Climate Science, for Australia and the world...but especially for you his family. Thank you for sharing him with people who care about this beautiful planet. We won’t forget his passion, his integrity, his patience and his humility. My sincere condolences, Gail Stubberfield

- Gail Stubberfield, Adelaide

The world and the family have lost a wonderful crusader who helped to open many eyes to the coming catastrophe. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

- Jon Phipps, Kiama, NSW

I have been genuinely shocked by this very distressing news of Will’s premature death, while his passing is as much a loss for the world as it for the country further to the immense credibility and gravitas that he brought to the climate change issue. I first heard Will at a climate change related conference over two decades ago, and although I cannot remember what was said at the time, I vividly recall thinking then that this was someone that I and others needed to sit up and take notice of, while I was always thereafter brought to attention whenever I heard Will in media presentations or online lectures, and this subsequent to the noise that so many other experts and commentators had/have from time to time expounded in contrast to Will’s lucidity and clear sense. Vale to Will (and this in the best Roman patrician sense subsequent to that noble example which he has provided us with), while may all his family, colleagues, and friends be comforted by the knowledge that ‘this was a man’, and one who certainly ‘turned up’ when it came to the responsible task that we all have of protecting the earth and cherishing those things that are most important. So then, as W.H. Auden would say, stop all the clocks etc., while I look forward later on tonight to thinking more about Will and meditating on his legacy as I listen to the great Abschied movement of Mahler’s ‘Song of the Earth’ - as sung in this case by the great Kathleen Ferrier. With thanks dear Will for all that you have done and have tried to do, while may those of us who are inspired by your example, now more fervently continue to keep up the good fight when agitating on your behalf.

- Marcus Adamson, Potts Point

Vale, your legacy will live on, thank you.

-

Patricia and John Slidziunas

So sad to hear this. Will was a guiding light. We needed him here till he’s 120! Love and condolences to his family and friends xxx

- Suzy, 2040

I felt instant and visceral loss on hearing that Will’s time had ended. I will not soon forget the precious gift he gave to all of us.

- David Morrell, Launceston

My deepest sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of Professor Will Steffen. A great loss to us all.

- Dr Gael E Phillips, Brisbane

A great loss to those who care for the earth. Our condolences to his family.

- Mike Westerman, West End, QLD

Thank you Will for all your dedication and hard work which was invaluable. You gave so much to help so many understand the basic facts. We are so grateful to you. I send support, love and respect to your family.  
R.I.P. Will.

- Brenda, Warnbro

A very sad loss for Australia and the world. We needed him and will remember him championing a great cause.

- Carol, Gold Coast

I had the pleasure of meeting Will several times when he came to Canberra to give talks. I admired his dedication and fighting spirit in the ongoing fight to recognize the human induced global weather crisis. He has empowered me to fight even harder to have politicians and vested interests take on the responsibility for the weather-related disasters now facing our children and grandchildren. I am deeply saddened and shocked by this news. I wish to pass on my deepest sympathy to his family. friends and colleagues. Will, you will be sorely missed. Rest in peace.

- Gavin O’Brien; (Frmets), Gilmore ACT

A gifted and gentle man. Thank you for sharing him with us. He achieved so much and will be sadly missed

- Margaret, Mornington Peninsula

Will  
I am as ordinary Australian deeply indebted to your integrity, brilliance, and zeal in passionately advocating the cause of saving our planet from the man-made ravages creating climate change. We are in solidarity with you in life...and in your death. We live longer on this earth because of stalwarts like you!!  
Your legacy gives hope for our future!!  
May our good earth hold you eternally in its loving embrace!!  
Rodney Swansborough  
**- Rodney Swansborough, Murrurundi NSW**

Thanks, Will for showing me and uncountable others that achieving the seemingly impossible will always be possible just as long as we keep on spreading joy. And to his Family I say Thank you for sharing him with the rest of us! The world is a better place for his being here.  
**- Dr Zohl De Ishtar, Australia**

Deeply saddened at the passing of Will Steffen, my sincere condolences to Will's family and friends at the loss of a wonderful human being.  
**- Jonathan, Metung**

I am so grateful for the work done by Will in his advocacy and leadership towards saving our beautiful planet from the damage we have done and are doing to it.  
**- Beryl Dyer, Lindfield**

Good humans don't grow on trees, but Will Steffen did, and he helped make them prosper. Absolutely shattered on hearing of Will's passing however am uplifted by the remarkable contributions he gave in his time. Thank you Prof Steffen, for your efforts, towards a better world  
**- Sean Marler, Warburton**

I'm devastated to hear about Will Steffen's death. He was an inspiration, particularly the way he did exemplary science combined with activism. The world is a poorer place from this loss. To friends and family, in your grief please notice his humanity and strength in the too short time he spent on this planet.  
**- Linda Selvey, Fairfield, QLD**

I worked with Will briefly many years ago to set up the Climate Commission. I was inspired by his passion, ability to communicate complex themes in a simple way and ongoing commitment to see change in this world. He led the way and will always be remembered for it. Be proud of the legacy.  
**- Melanie Gibbons, Canberra**

I am very sad to hear of Will's passing. He has given so much to the climate movement and the world, informing people with great skill, compassion and heart. And such a lovely man. Deepest sympathies to his family  
**- Sally Gillespie, Sydney**

I send my deepest sympathy to Will's family and friends. He will never be forgotten.  
**- Evon Jenkinson, Sydney**

What a wonderful man. My love goes to his family, you must be very proud of everything he has done. Such a loss to us all.  
**- Laena Stephenson, Nymboida**

So sorry to hear about Will. He has been a great influence on me. I always loved his very sensible, measured approach that he had with people. My heart goes out to his family and friends.  
**- Marie Lawton, Byron Bay**

I am so sorry for your loss and all of ours. Too few warriors in a world blindly shuffling toward the abyss.  
**- Penguin**

I am saddened by Will Steffen's passing.  
**- Raymond Bellamy, Potts Point**

Will Steffen was a caring, inspirational climate scientist who could field any question and had the courage to speak plainly... however inconvenient the truth might be. A huge, sad loss to Australia and the planet. RIP.  
**- Paddy Manning, Maroubra, Sydney**

Deepest regards to the Steffen family from everyone at The Climate Reality Project.  
  
Will wouldn't have known me but I've been deeply impressed by him for a long time and his knack for distilling complex science into clear, compelling - and urgent - communications.

One such example was the 'Carbon - the Unofficial Biography'. We brought a small group to attend the launch in Melbourne and it was a delight to witness Will's role in the film - and then to witness the delight and unbridled pride of the person sitting next to him in the audience!  
**- Ciaran McCormack  
Manager - Australia and Pacific  
The Climate Reality Project, Parkville**

I have never met Will, but feel like I know him well. I was always impressed by how he pursued arguments for action on climate change. He is one of perhaps the few of us who can go to his recycling knowing that he did his utmost to ensure that the world has a better future. Vale Will. Dr. Lindsay Dent, BSc(Hons), PhD, retired immunologist and infectious diseases academic, University of Adelaide.  
**- Lindsay Dent, Pasadena, Adelaide**

Deeply sorry to hear of Will Steffen's death. We have lost a champion fighter for climate sense and an exceptional human being. Please accept my condolences.  
**- Frank Talbot Am, Riverview**

Truly a great leader in the fight against climate change and a true scientist dedicated to the truth of the physical world as explained by observation and analysis. A great loss to all  
**- Allan Bradshaw, Bacchus Marsh**

Deepest sympathies to Professor Steffen's family. I sincerely hope that you will take heart in the knowledge that his work in fighting for climate action will benefit generations to come. I also thank you for supporting him in his work, as his legacy will undoubtedly also benefit my own family.  
**- Sonya Elek, Perth, WA**

I am so very sad to hear of Prof Will Steffen's passing. He was a hero for my husband Andy Lloyd-James & me and the world has been so fortunate to have him.  
**- Dr Trish Richardson, Paddington/Sydney**

Just to appreciate the dedication and passion to keep on pressing for all things climate and environmental that Will embodied. His contribution will continue to inspire people from all over the world. Thinking of you who meant so much to Will.  
**- Mara Hayler, Darley, Bacchus Marsh, VIC 3340**

So very sad to hear of this brilliant man's passing. He was an inspiration to ordinary people  
**- Barbara, Berkeley**

My deepest condolences on the passing of legendary Professor Will Steffen. May he eternally rest in peace. He will be sorely missed and much loved and admired.  
**- Jon, Clarence Park**

I had the privilege of attending a seminar he gave at University of Newcastle a few years ago. I was very impressed and have read several of his reports since. I, like so many, feel Australia has lost someone very special. My sincere sympathy to his wife and children.  
**- Christine Rogers, Speers Point NSW**

Immense and unique contributions and achievements for climate action are a legacy of Will that we must individually and collectively resolve to build upon. To his family, friends and close colleagues my condolences and sympathies for your loss of remarkable and much loved man. Vale Will Steffen and thank you.  
**- Pablo Bateson, Sydney**

I was so shocked to hear of the passing of Will. A truly wonderful human being and absolute hero of and for our planet

My thoughts are with all of you who were family to Will Steffen. I never had the privilege to meet Will in person, but I knew him to be a wonderful advocate for the need to address Climate Change. He gave me understanding and a background of scientific knowledge that I could use again and again with confidence when talking about the need to address the issues to people in conversations. Will may have left us, but Australia should be very pleased and grateful for all he has done for this country. We were privileged to have had his counsel.  
**- Chris Bakewell, Somerville 3912**



Geez what a huge loss for the global community, and wishing Will’s family all strength at this tough time. His impact has been far reaching and will last for decades

- Marcus Barber, Kelso, Tasmania

I am one of many Australians who obviously can’t thank Will enough for all that he has done. What an amazing person. I didn’t know Will but I feel sad. Sending love to each of Will’s family

- Kerry Avenell, Melville WA

I met Will at a climate related event in Morwell many years ago. He was so encouraging for our efforts with our local sustainability group. He exuded warmth and friendliness and radiated good karma. I was shocked to hear of his passing. Please accept my condolences and also on behalf of Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group.

- Dan Caffrey, Traralgon VIC

I am so sad to hear of the death of Will. He was a truly guiding light for me and for the organization for which I have been involved (Doctors for the Environment Australia). He provided the essential information in language and format which could be disseminated clearly. Although he will be missed, his legacy will be everlasting.

- Dr John Iser, Ocean Grove

Will was a generous and passionate soul, who was always willing to part on his knowledge and contribute to change. I will always be grateful for his time and advice that he had provide me and the organisations I’ve worked for over the past two decades. He will be missed. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. May his spirit and passion live on in all of us, as we continue his fight for climate change action. With deep respect, Kellie Caught.

- Kellie Caught, Brisbane

Vale Prof Will Steffen  
I wish to pass on my deepest condolences to the Family, Friends & Colleagues of Will. Like many of the other Scientists & Climate leaders I have been inspired to Support the Climate Council.  
He will be sadly missed yet I’m sure there are many others he has inspired to fill his shoes...

- Gregory Bell, Thirroul

Oh so sadly and badly missed. Thank you.

- Margaret River, WA

Thank you Will for your dedication and skill in helping us realise just what is needed for a sustainable earth. Sympathy to all Will’s family, may they find comfort from the love and friendship of their family and friends and in knowing how much he gave to Australia and the world.

- Diane Johnstone, Frankston

I never met Will, but I am very impressed by his curriculum vitae. Such a man will be sadly missed.

- Trevor Steele, Beverley SA 5009

Condolences. I am truly sorry for your loss. Your Will’s efforts made my world a better place. He is missed. (But his great efforts and their effects live on to enrich everyone). Will was one of the few who can be said to have left the world a better place for their having lived. Vale.

- Jane, Fairfield VIC

So devastating to lose such a valuable person. Can’t help but wish it could have been one of the treasonous coalition party.

What a legacy he leaves. The whole planet is indebted to Will Steffen

- Bruce Conrad Munday, Aldinga

We are very sad to lose Will Steffen. We have appreciated his many and deeply informed contributions to the climate issues.

- David And Elizabeth Teather, Ainslie, Canberra

I am so sad at Will’s passing. I met him once at a Latrobe Valley climate meeting. He was such a beautiful, humble man and yet so knowledgeable. We have lost a Great Australian and a Climate Hero

- Jo, Sale

In addition to Will’s exceptional dedication to scientific research on a planetary scale, he found time to nurture relations with ANU artists and musicians during his time as Director of the ANU Fenner School. He saw great communicative value in creative art informed by science. His support contributed significantly to many artists in their quest to aesthetically articulate the social concerns of global warming. Thank you Will on behalf of artists everywhere who benefited from your insights.

- John Reid, Canberra

How very sad to have lost this wonderful man but how very grateful we all are to know of the fantastic work he did. My very sincere condolences to his family. You must be so proud of the legacy he has left our world. A true gem.

Although I never met Will face-to-face I was aware of his enormous influence within the Climate Council and the respect and affection which those around him felt for him. I feel sad for his family, friends and colleagues at their devastating loss. Thank you for sharing him with us.

- Merridy Malin, Warradale, South Australia

Wishing you much comfort in the loss of an extraordinary person and your loved one. I heard Will speak on the radio one day and from that day I was intrigued to learn more about the Climate - his wisdom and warmth was palpable - just what the planet needs to survive. Thank you for nurturing and caring for a person who’s transformed so many lives. I have been a Climate Council supporter because of Will. Strange how some people you’ve never met can have such an influence. Warmest wishes at this incredibly sad time for you and for the planet.

- Barbara, Annerley QLD

A true believer and fighter for doing the right thing by the planet to ensure justice for all life forms  
Approachable and helpful to all who cared for the environment

- Bernard Rowley, Trafalgar

Carrie and Sonya, such a loss for humanity but a joy to have known your nearest and dearest, Will. The maturation of Climate Science knowledge was spread by him then interwoven by others. A true educator!  
Ray thoroughly enjoyed Black Mountain running plus, in winter, skiing whilst Will and John Finnigan ice climbed. Margaret often joined them too. I used to spot him at rallies and enjoyed many social occasions with you all.  
It’s almost 7 years since Ray died and only now are some important strides being made for others to join those here who were forward thinking enough to grasp the gravity of the situation.  
My heart is with all that knew Will Steffen.  
A life so wise and well spent,  
my sincere condolences.

- Andrea Leuning, Ainslie

Condolences to Will’s family. It seems that his life was a very positive force for the good of the planet and all who live on it, especially those who knew him and those who lived and worked with him.

Please accept my condolences. My prayers are with you.

- Wayne Mcmillan, NSW Blacktown

I did not know him personally but admired him greatly and say thank you for all his work.

- Maree, Umina

Anyone who can pass from this life having made a real difference will be remembered forever. A life well-lived. May his life serve as an example of passionate commitment to firmly held beliefs. Condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

- Margaret, Swanbourne

Professor Will Steffen was a great scientist, with a dedication to driving climate action. He was highly respected and will be missed.  
We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Vale, Will Steffen.

- Patricia And Bernard Galice, Hampton, VIC

Will’s honesty and integrity will be sorely missed. His dedication to the task will be remembered  
Vale Will

- Clodagh Barwise, Golden Beach QLD





Prof. Will Steffen.

Rest in Peace dear Will Steffen. Amen🙏  
Thank you for your dedication in driving climate action forward in Australia and the world.

A lovely man with a wonderful legacy.  
- Sue Boyce, Brisbane

We are so sorry that this special human being has left us. In his honour we will do our utmost to protect the natural environment and its creatures by helping the planet to avoid the dire consequences of climate change.  
- Judy, Sydney

I'm really sorry to hear of Will's untimely death. Will was a calm, authoritative and inspiring leader and his loss will be deeply felt. My condolences to his loved ones.  
- Ian Temby, Ashbourne, Victoria

Sorry for your loss. He did so much good for us all.  
- Chris Harris, Wanniasa

So very sad to hear of Prof Steffen's passing. His work had an enormous influence on my understanding of human-induced environmental changes and what that means for the wellbeing of current and future generations. I always felt so inspired by his messages of hope - that we can improve the situation if we would only act at the speed and scale needed. His work will have impact long after his passing - a fabulous legacy.  
- Angie Bone, Melbourne

Whose voice will we hear now that implores us to act on climate, and for the forests. Yours was that voice. Thank you for your steadfastness communicating the need for action. Vale and a very sad thank you

Jenni and I heard Will speak at a major event once. He said in under five minutes what others failed to say in over 10. This man had the language of climate to fearsome perfection. What a leader and messenger we have lost. Let us left to continue his fight not fail his excellent example. We grieve with you in your loss, but how honored we are to have known this man.  
- John Warner & Jenni Mcallister, 2582 Murrumbateman, NSW

I am so shocked and saddened at this news. I worked at ANU with Will in the early 2000s and was so impressed by this kind intelligent passionate man. The world is a better place because he was here. Vale Will.  
- Marie Carroll

I sat next to Will before he spoke at National Landcare Conference where he gave a truly compelling climate 'situation analysis'. Be proud, family and friends. Will has proved that it is still possible to be a compassionate leader - a relentless gentle global citizen leader. We are better we whom he moved.

- Jen Quealy, Katoomba

Will is gone too young, though it was clear for quite some time this was the path his health was taking him.

Here's what I wrote on social media after learning the news from Penny Sackett, 30 January:

Devastated to learn that Will Steffen has died. He was a game-changing thinker and speaker on what is happening to our world, especially damage to our climate. I will miss his gentle, kind personality and the clear and generous communication of this important colleague. Let's hope we can turn things around without him. 🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹  
- Gill King, Canberra

It is with great sadness that I hear of Prof Will Steffen's passing. You were a true warrior for all of us.  
- Joyce, Brisbane

Dear Steffen Family:  
I send my deepest empathy in your sad loss of Will. He was a leader of courage and brilliance.  
- Neil Tolliday, Werribee 3030

Sorry to hear. Heard Will speak at a conference in Adelaide early 2,000s. Immediately impressed about the science of CC and call to action. You shined a light. Pity inertia of mankind prevails. RIP good job done.  
- Graeme Thornton, Mildura



Dear family of Will Steffen:  
Having been a colleague and friend of Will for almost 20 years, I have always been impressed by his scientific excellence and humble personal qualities, as well as his passion for nature and the climate. We shared a deep concern for the future, although Will was more optimistic than me in the face of widespread denial and even criticism of climate scientists labelled as alarmists. I mourn Will’s passing deeply. Now the world is facing the reality of what Will was warning against.

- Andrew Glikson, Earth and climate scientist, Canberra, ACT

Our deepest sympathy for the family of Will. We lost a hero but he will remain in our memory forever.

- Chandra Jinansena, Officer

I shall plant a tree, several trees, ‘For Will’.

- Chris, Tuross Head

So sorry for such a tragic loss. I credit Will with awakening my organisation to the realities of climate change and the need to take urgent action, through his engaging and clear articulation of the facts. He has made such a difference to our trajectory here in Australia and I hope he had the satisfaction of knowing the impact he had made before he passed. His passing is a loss to us all.

I am so sorry for the loss of your dear Will. He was so passionate about our environment and was able to share that with many of us. People like him who have so much knowledge and are honest with us all about the situation the world is in are so precious. His legacy will continue on, but I’m sad he’s left your life. Memories are powerful and I’m sure he’s left behind plenty of them. I hope there is someone in your family who will follow in his footsteps. Warm regards to you all.

- Sue Starr, Esperance WA

Such incredibly sad news. Will was an inspiration in so many ways. An extraordinary, courageous and humble individual and intellect. His quiet presence was at once reassuring and galvanising. What an immeasurable loss. Vale Will Steffen.

- Brenda Dobia, Naarm

Dear All, my sincere sorrow at the passing of Will Steffen. It is to a person such as he that the world now understands what serious problems arise from this world crisis of climate change.

- John Arthur Bottomley, Forrestfield

Condolences to Wills family and friends. Learning so much today about his dedication to helping people and our planet only makes me more determined to work harder, smarter and longer.

- Jude Lowen, Wangaratta

Absolutely devastated to learn of the passing of Will Steffen. In my view, his efforts in raising awareness of humanity to the onset of climate change, and giving guidance about how to deal with it, rank with those of James Hansen, Bill McKibben, Al Gore and Greta Thunberg. Those of us in the climate activism space simply must try to raise our game to compensate this loss. A difficult challenge but his legacy will inspire us to keep on pushing until the planet’s climate is stabilized. My heartfelt sympathies to those nearest and dearest to Will.

- Chris Johansen, Leeming, WA

Vale Will Steffen. Thank you for your commitment to the planet, your ideals, knowledge and humanity.

- David Turbayne, Watson Canberra

Deeply saddened to hear of Will’s death. Very knowledgeable and a great communicator. My condolences and best wishes to his family.

- John Ellis Douglas, Frenchs Forest 2086

Heartfelt condolences, Very sad loss of a brilliant, dedicated, kind person.

- Wendy Kurka, Malvern East 3145

Will encouraged me to study at the Fenner School when nearly 60 years old. He opened an old lawyer’s eyes to the world of science and innovation. Better still he was a great friend and much fun. I owe him so much and will miss him greatly. You, his family must be so proud of his life and love.

- Julia Mckay, Moss Vale

Not many people give selflessly to a cause and are as valuable to society as Professor Will Steffen. His contribution and passion will be remembered.

- Jenny, Flagstaff Hill

A beacon of light has been dulled but not snuffed out. The outcome of Will’s work will live on forever. Deepest condolences to Will’s family and all the friends who worked alongside him.

- Letitia, West End, QLD

Can’t believe he has gone. Will was a truly great figure. His passing fills us with sorrow, and gratitude for his climate contribution.

Thank you for your insight, foresight and action. Your mark has been made. Rest in peace Professor Will. 🙏🙏🙏❤️

Dear Steffen family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time. Will was a bright shining light amongst the climate change community. His contribution to climate science and communication will never be forgotten. Vale Will Steffen

Dear Will’s family and loved ones, My heart is heavy at the sad news of the death of professor Will. He was a splendid man, brilliant, an upright leader in the climate council. The community and his many friends will miss him. With deep sympathy.

- Xinqiong Luo, Campsie NSW

Deepest Sympathy to the Steffen family. we are thinking of you at this very sad time Prof Will will be sadly missed.

- June Shanahan, Albury NSW

I am very sad to hear of Will’s passing. A letter he wrote for us on the importance of action on climate change was used in our court case last year. His generosity in doing this as a highly respected climate scientist was instrumental in ensuring we had no conviction. I send condolences to his family.

- Anna Markey, Goolwa SA

Thank you for the profound gifts your loved one, Will, gave the world. We are a much better place for him having been here.

- Anna, Mullumbimby

Dear Carrie.  
Our collective hearts hearts are broken. I loved all the moments I shared with him, on panels, co-teaching in the Fenner school, conference chats & our last dinner, the 4 of us. The world knows of his brilliance, compassion & caring for the planet and humanity’s perilous future. You, most of all will know of his gentle humility & warm embracing of his Linate colleagues. A true giant of a man with a giant lovely heart. My own sense of loss is immense & shared by so many. I can barely imagine your own sense of loss. Relish all the moments & years you had with this wonderful human being. The Earth has lost one of its staunchest defenders. It must be crying too!

- Liz Hanna, Dickson, ACT

A terrible and tragic loss. Condolences to all who knew him.

- Anne Killalea

As an inaugural supporter of the Climate Council, please pass on my condolences to Will’s family. It is a sad loss, and the world is lesser for it.

- Lisa Clements

I only met Will Steffen a couple of times at events, but the occasion I heard him speak was telling. He was fairly late in a big programme and it was already running behind because many of the speakers had gone over their time, often ten minutes over, and repeated each other’s themes. Jenni and I were ready to leave. Then Will spoke. He was forceful and clear and in four minutes he summarised the central themes of the climate emergency. He spoke, he set a stark tone of warning and he finished. He was offstage in less than his allocated five minutes. I was awed.

He demonstrated to me how clear and simple the issues were, how unambiguous and menacing. I certainly revised my writing on the basis of his example. His capacity to make the scientific, clear and unambiguous for all of us is a central part of his genius. I said of another hero of mine around 2013, Grieve for this man, but grieve with pride, for we have known him So it is with Will Steffen. I have heard him speak, I have seen the measure of his work. How I envy you all who have been close to him in your working day. How colossal is the heritage he has left us.

- John Warner

Condolences for a warrior who will be missed in the challenge to save the world.

- Richard Lawrie

Condolences to a great man. I wish our dream for a sustainable environmentally bright future will prevail wish you and all sentient beings in the universe a bright future. From me.. Henry Tanskanen a simple gardener on this great earth. I will plant a gummi gummi tree in your honour!

- Henry Tanskanen

Condolences to all, his work will continue in other realms, Blessings always,

- Gleney's Ormiston

Dear Amanda & Tim, What a great guy he was. He will be sorely missed by us all.

- Lesley Stevens

Dear Amanda and Tim, I’m so very sorry to hear this news. Will was a most respected and inspirational man, and I admired him greatly. I know you will be feeling his loss. Kindest wishes.

- Kath Sugars

Dear Amanda and Tim, my sincere condolences to you and all the Climate Council family. Will was certainly a tower of inspiration, guidance, deep thinking and infinite generosity, passion and determination. I’m very sorry for your loss, for his family’s loss and our loss as a community of Australians who care deeply about all the things he worked so hard for. We and you continue his legacy, and his spirit lives on.

- Erika Addis

Dear Amanda and Tim, such sad news – I will hold in my heart forever memories of Will at the wonderful Climate Council takayna / Tarkine trip that I was lucky enough to be on back in March 2021. He was such a gentle inspiring warrior and he will be greatly missed. Thanks for everything you all do.

- Sue Abbott

Dear Amanda and Tim. I was very sad to hear from Gerry last night of Wil’s passing. I know he will be sadly missed by all at the Climate Council, staff and Councillors, as you have lost an important voice and mind as well as a respected and much admired friend and colleague. I am thinking of you as you process his loss.

- Trudy. Habner

Dear Amanda, What a beautiful eulogy! Congratulations linked to deep condolence at the loss of such a wonderful human being.

- Kieran McLernan

Dear Amanda. That is very very sad news and what a huge loss. What an extraordinary man. So sorry

- Mhorag Candy

Dear Climate Council team. We are so sorry to hear of Will Steffen’s passing and send our sincerest condolences to you all.

- Knitting Nannas Against Gas

Dear family of Will, I was very sad to hear of Will’s passing and please accept my personal condolences. Quite apart from all the things Will is justly famous for, since 2016 he has helped me personally with information and guidance on my climate change presentations and emails. He was always ready with a quick and always helpful response. I will miss his guidance a lot. He was a bloody good bloke!

- Jim Main

Dear Simon and others at the Climate Council I am writing to express my shock and sadness of the news of Will’s death. I did not know him as well as all of you and many others but I did know him briefly through two forums I ran ie in 2009 (Sustainable cities/sustainable transport forum) and more recently in 2020 my forum on the Future we must plan for, on each occasion making a special trip to Melbourne to present as one of my speakers. Needless to say, his presentations were outstanding but it was his generosity and shear decency that made him such a special person and I am sure he will be sorely missed. It was a privilege to have known him and I am fortunate to have recordings of presentations on the TfM web site. I often quote him in my papers and presentations and will continue to do so.

- Roger Taylor

Dear Tim and Amanda. what a loss - Will worked so hard on this problem. My condolences to the family, friends and other climate activists. Thanks for your message, I appreciate it.

- Paula Irene Payne

Dear Tim and Amanda, how very sad to hear of Will’s death. He was far too young. His dear family will be devastated. With best wishes to you and wishing you a wonderful and successful year ahead. Kindest regards

- Michelle Warren

Deepest condolences. His service is always remembered.

- Poompavai Arabu

God bless Dr Will Steffen, Heaven is a brighter and warmer place now with his kindness and love for humanity. Sad day for Australia. Sad day for the planet. My prayers go out to his family and friends. Yours sincerely,

- Bira Paraguas

Hearty condolences.

- Gordon Madamombe

His love for this planet and his empowering legacy will be his staying power to champion those who follow. God bless you in your sorrow.

- Edith Rawling

How sad. A great loss.

- Alistair Primrose

I actually cried when I heard this on Tuesday. I was shaken and shocked, as like most I wasn’t aware of his dire health condition. Having reviewed much of the climate science undertaken for a Masters degree in this space, I found his and his team’s work the very epitome of cogency, depth and brilliance that reflected his powerful yet compassionate ability as a public communicator. May his memory and legacy be loved and cherished, and the strength of his conviction towards real and proportionate policy change and commensurate societal response to the mounting climate emergency only grow, as we move towards a perilous future. We are indeed fighting against our own self-extinction. Vale, Will Steffen. I never knew you, but like many others, grieve in the wake of your passing.

- Tim Frodsham

I am also mourning the loss of such a wonderful, active and articulate member, not just of the Climate Council, but of so many other bodies who benefited from his clear, fact-based information, so valued amidst the raucous cacophony of phony experts and self-styled gurus of ill-informed comment and misleading red herrings. I have heard him on the radio, seen him on TV, but know better his written word, which, during the halcyon years of The Denial made my own defence of the truth of Climate Change so pointed, transparent and forceful when I could cite the words of such a wonderful communicator. Yours is a much more personal grief than mine, as we never met, but mine is for the loss of such a passionate and thoughtful supporter of a cause close to my mind and heart, when after 90 years on this beautiful and bounteous planet, I can see how much it desperately it needs people such as Will Steffen. My sympathies to his family, his colleagues and his world, he will be sorely missed.

- Jos Bush



I am appalled by the news of Will’s passing. I worked with Will on the working party which produced the key work ‘Australia’s Biodiversity and Climate Change’ subsequently published by CSIRO in 2009. Will chaired this effort and was an effective, knowledgeable and, most important, pleasant colleague and leader. I have the fondest memories of our collaboration and send my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.  
Vale, Will!

- Roger Kitching

I am so sorry for your loss. He sounds like a wonderful person and a loss to the world. Thank you for this sad message.

- Fiona Paige

I am truly sad to hear about our loss. My condolences to his family and friends. May his legacy live on and inspire others on this global journey.

- Beverly Eustace

I didn’t know Will but anyone that dedicates themselves to this worthy cause I admire.

- Spencer Nightingale

I’m so sorry for the loss of this wonderful man and feel your grief. My heartfelt condolences.

- Bronwyn Hartnett

I’m so sorry. Thank you for your care in letting us know.

- Sandra Frain

I’m very sorry to hear the sad news. We really need learned, caring, intelligent people like him. A powerful voice and great loss - but the fight to save our planet continues grounded in his contributions to the science of climate, and the public discourse. Best wishes,

- Margaret Neith

My deepest sympathy and condolences to Wills family. This is a great loss for his family and all he was involved in for Climate change for a better world. I’m so sorry.

- Annette Potter

Oh I saw in the paper and I was so sad. Years ago, I was in charge of the Humanities Department at Dickson College. Together with the teachers of Global Relations, I organised a conference for the senior GR students at ANU. We had some great speakers and Will was someone who was very generous with his time and his knowledge. I really appreciated what he did for the students and felt privileged to meet him. My condolences to his family.

- Jenny Rae

Oh this is absolutely devastating news I’m so gutted to hear this :( Sending love to Wills family and to his CC family too

- Briony Benjamin

Oh this is so sad to hear. The man that I always remember and I’d like to quote his articles. May his soul be in peace and may he has a seat in Heaven for all his great knowledge and skills he shared with so many students. Thanks for letting me know.

- Rosa Stowers Tamala-Fiu

Our deepest condolences on the loss of such an incredible human & friend. To Will’s family also.

- Sandy Hannon

R.I.P

- Karine Haslem

R.I.P.

- Ray

Really sorry for your loss. May he Rest in Peace!

- Nadine Samaha

Sad to hear of the passing of Will Steffen, an inspiring and passionate advocate for climate healing. Such a dedicated scientist aware of the dangers we face. RIP.

- Mike Golding

So sorry. RIP, Will Steffen.

- Diane McLaughlan

So sad a wonderful humanitarian. The world will miss him.

- Patricia Wilson

So sad to hear this news. The lack of real Climate Action by Governments, who seemed to work actively against finding solutions to our current challenges, has been so dismaying and awful. And fundamentally there is still a lethargy about making real change, in spite of the change of Parties. In our region we are dealing with the threat of a massive gas pipeline running through good agricultural land which generations of farmers have worked on to improve the soil, and enjoy more sustainable lifestyles.

My best wishes for the organisation to carry on with the work Professor Will Steffen started with other like minded people who fearlessly stood up against ignorance, to make us all a little more aware of the urgent need to take Climate Change seriously now, and make significant changes in the way we do things.

- Libby Brown

So sad to hear this. What a wonderful person he was.

- Josephine Lamont

So so sad this is awful sad news

- Jennifer Quealy

So sorry to hear the passing away of Will. He will be surely missed. He was a good man and we need more people like him. My sincere condolences.

- Andy Kupoluyi

So sorry to hear the sad news. My condolences to all.

- Dudley Conn

So sorry to hear this, he was a truly class act. We will miss home greatly. Condolences to family and friends, and the world.

- Jacky Lawes

So very sad to hear - Will Steffen was a huge contributor to climate science and policy development in this realm. Thank you for the lovely tribute so well deserved.

- Barbara Richardson

Sorry for the loss of such great man.

- Sue Ves

Sorry to hear of his passing.

- Art Storey

Such a loss to Australia and the world.

- Jane Hall

Thank you for passing on this sad news. And thank you too, for all you do and the example of dedication to set for all of us.

- Marj Munro

Thank you for that informative and beautiful tribute.

- Dallas Kinnear

Thank you for this email. Will was an exceptional human being and leaves a large legacy of movement towards caring for this planet earth.

- Anne Sinclair

Thank you Tim and Amanda for that sad information, and for telling me of Will Steffen’s passing.

- Richard Smart

Thank you, dear high level colleagues, Tim and Amanda, for your personal and dignified valedictions of Will Steffen. You and others said it all, there is not much else needed. Just plain gratitude for a life well lived all the way and to the end. What an example of dedication, determination, passion, integrity and humility in the face of what really matters and is needed- personally, regionally, globally. And the two of you, with your unique different roles come very close seconds.

- Maria And Richard Maguire

Thanks Amanda. While I didn’t know him I understand what a great loss this is to you, his other colleagues, this urgent global issues and of course to his family. My deepest condolences to his loved ones.

- Wende Reid

Thanks for letting us know. We will miss Will Steffen deeply. But hopefully we can carry on his legacy as he would want.  
All that matters is we do our best  
To prevent humanity from fouling our nest  
No more denial don't do despair  
Time now to show our children we care  
No more denial no more hot air  
Time now to tell our leaders we care  
Thanks for all you do

- Fiona Mcilroy

That is terribly sad news about Will's passing. I am very sorry that you and all your colleagues at the Climate Council have lost a talented colleague and I expect for many a close friend.  
Planet earth has lost a very dedicated ally. We are all the poorer without Will. Will's influence will have spurred many to follow in his footsteps, I'm sure. Best wishes to you and all on that journey.

- Gary Boddy

That is very sad news. I remember when you were all starting the council together. Condolences to all who knew him.

- Rebecca Scott

This is a truly sad time for all of us at the Climate Council. We thank you for your kind words.

- Chris Thornton

This is so sad and the Void He has left will be very difficult to fill, he was so dedicated and very committed in everything he was assigned to do. MHDSRIP till we meet again.

- Nathan Banda

This is very sad news. A great loss to you all, his family, Australia and the planet. Wishes and condolences

- Julia Weisz

To lose one of the best is so sad, May his legacy live on.

- Mary Fell

What a tragic loss.

- Frank Woodcock

Vale Will Steffen. 🌺  
Such a brilliant humane person  
The World has lost a great caregiver and champion of humanity with his knowledgeable, dedicated environmental concern for our planet 🌍 through climate action...  
God Bless Will  
May perpetual light shine

Vale Professor Will Steffen

- Kate Lempriere

Vale Will Stephens. Thank you for all your interest, advocacy on our behalf.

- Lynette Celli

Very sad indeed to hear of his passing. Our Heartfelt Condolences to his entire family and the Climate Council. Let him rest in eternal peace.

- David Malinda

Very Sad Indeed!!!

- Peter Eyles

Very sad news and a big loss for the continual recognition of climate and environment concerns too.

- Warren Milner

Very sad to know that our brilliant Climate Councilor Prof. Will Steffen passed away. I pray for peace of his soul in Heaven. Please convey my feelings & regards to his family also.

- Rajiv Sinha

What a sadness. More of a loss is that none of the articles commented on who he was as a person apart from his climate interest. No mention of his family, other interests. So often especially men, are defined by their work. I would like to think everyone IS much more than their work. RIP.

- Matthew Norman

What a tragedy! A great loss indeed! Please extend my condolences to his family and to all your great people in the Climate Council.

- Lester Seri

What a wonderful human Will was; what a giant of Earth Science he was, and what a great group of friends you all have been for such a long time. I always enjoyed discussions with Will and being on a Panel at the National Landcare Conference August, 2023, I called on Government and Community to respect the science of our wonderful and long suffering Earth, Physical and Climate Scientists....all needing the same respect as Medical Science receives, and especially publicly and Government upped during Covid....this is about the Health of our Planet!

- Pam Robinson AM

You will be sadly missed. You have left big shoes to fill.

- Wally & Vivien Simpson

My condolence to the family and may the precious soul of our brother Rest Well.

- Jacob Jabuni

Deep condolences.

- Md. Mahbub Alam

Thank you for conveying the very sad news of Will's death. It is a profound loss when such a person dies before their time. You have described him very movingly and accurately. He will indeed be missed and remembered.

- Penelope Figgis

We were both so sad to hear of Will's passing, he was an inspirational man and we have loved working with him and for the Climate Council over the years, helping to deliver his important work to the world.

- Sarah Graham & Tim Allan

The following Climate Council community members also wish to express their condolences:

- Sally Ann Chapman, Wauchope

- Elizabeth Honey

- Dr Sophie Scamps Mp

- Liz Aird, Princes Hill

- Jan Westerink, Carlingford

- Margaret, 3128

- Colin, Grays Point

- Alan Peterson, Bundeena, Sydney

- David May, Coral Cove

- Daniela, Greenwood

- Ray Stephens, Ferntree Gully

- Barry, New Farm

- Terence, Coonamble

- Joseph, Ashgrove

- Ross, Townsville

- Colin Jones, Gold Coast

- Britton

- Robyn Evans, Millicent

- Russell Reichelt, Mudgeeraba

- Lloyd

- Leah McGill, Elernmore Vale

- Margaret Matters, Croydon

- Wendy Mcara, Kiama NSW

- Katherine Morgan, Perth

- Colin Smith, Melbourne

- Marie Ormonde, Northcote VIC