



12 November 2023

Diplomats for Climate Action

Latest Developments for our Group

Dear Colleagues

I wish to let you know of some recent positive developments which are in line with our advocacy since we came together as a group back at the end of 2021.

Good News for the Pacific

You may have heard in the media recently that the Australian government has signed an agreement with the small island nation of Tuvalu, known as the Australia-Tuvalu Filapeli Union. On 10th November 2023 following the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in the Cook Islands, Prime Minister Albanese issued a [media statement](#) in which he announced that under this agreement Australia will “establish a dedicated intake ... to allow Tuvaluans to come to Australia to live, work and study”. The PM’s statement noted that Tuvalu has a population of just over 11,000 people, and the dedicated intake will have an initial cap of 280 Tuvaluans per year. The PM’s statement added that “Tuvalu is extremely vulnerable to the impact of climate change, especially rising sea levels, and is trying to preserve its culture, traditions and land.”

As you will recall, we called for this policy approach in our Climate Focused Foreign Policy document, issued on 8th December 2021:

- Australia should ... commit to offering vulnerable Pacific Island nations a safe-refuge resettlement program for affected populations if their homelands become no longer habitable due to sea-level rise or other effects of climate change.

This agreement with Tuvalu covers a range of issues related to climate change and regional security, but the climate-change migration pathway included in the agreement is a first step in providing reassurance to our Pacific partners that Australia will help if climate-change threatens their very existence.

Green Climate Fund

In early October the Foreign Minister Penny Wong confirmed that [Australia would rejoin the UN Green Climate Fund](#), one of the largest sources of climate finance for developing nations, including our Pacific and regional partners. This followed a chorus of voices advocating for this - including Diplomats for Climate Action. Indeed, we initially made this call in our Climate Focused Foreign Policy for Australia in December 2021.

At the recent PIF meeting in the Cook Islands the PM repeated this, stating “Australia will ... make a contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the most prominent global climate finance fund, and will be active in advocating to prioritise GCF financing for the Pacific”.

This is indeed good news for our Pacific and regional partners. It will help secure more finance for climate-related projects in our region, and importantly give Australia an opportunity to voice the concerns and interests of our region on the board of the GCF.

Submission to Government on Australia's Future Gas Strategy

Diplomats for Climate Action has put forward a submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources on Australia's Future Gas Strategy. [This submission](#) proposes an active diplomatic strategy to support our main LNG markets - Japan, China and ROK - decarbonise their domestic energy sectors and phase down their reliance on Australian gas.

Australia is a major energy exporter, and can continue to be one in the future. But in the context of climate change, the energy we export needs to be clean energy and not fossil fuels. We can support our energy partners to redefine their energy security based on zero-emissions sources, decarbonise their industries, and develop new and reliable critical minerals and clean industry input supply chains.

Annual General Meeting

In my last newsletter I foreshadowed the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on -line.

The AGM will be held via Zoom on Sunday 10th December 2023 at 6.00pm AEDT (Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra). I will send all our membership a Zoom link closer to the date.

Our agenda will be as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of country
2. President's update
3. Treasurer's report
4. Executive Director's report
5. Legal update - transition to a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.
6. Nominations for the Board (those eligible are former DFAT, AusAID and Austrade officers and those who have served abroad on an Australian government posting, and who share our commitment to climate action)
7. Other business

Keep an eye out for the AGM Zoom link notice.

Best regards

Richard Mathews

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