



DIPLOMATS FOR *climate*

Newsletter, October 2025

Dear Colleagues

We are glad to announce that Diplomats for Climate is still active, albeit at a low level since my last newsletter!

Board Changes

The major development this year is a change in Board membership.

I am stepping back as President of Diplomats for Climate.

With fellow Board members I would like to give a warm welcome to **Dr Ruth Adler**, our new President.

Many of you will know Ruth, who is a former senior career officer of DFAT. She served as Australian Ambassador to Ireland (2013-2016) and Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (2006-2009), with earlier postings in Mexico and Manila. In Canberra, Ruth was Assistant Secretary of DFAT's Environment Branch (2009-2011), and advised ministers on climate and environment issues, sustainable development and the future of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Ruth holds a PhD in Latin American history and politics and is fluent in Spanish. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). Ruth has recently completed her second PhD, this time in international climate law with the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania. Her research interests include international climate and

environment law, climate finance, international relations and foreign and trade policy. She is currently finalising a book based on her research on the legitimacy of the Green Climate Fund.

I know that under Ruth's leadership Diplomats for Climate will take on a renewed significance and make useful contributions, especially in the lead-up to COP31.

I will remain on the Board and continue to contribute where I am able (I am currently spending my retirement between Canberra and Ubud, Bali). I am very grateful for the support of colleagues who enthusiastically gave time and money to support us when we set up Diplomats for Climate in 2021-22. I am sure that under Ruth Adler's leadership you will continue your support.

I would also like to thank Solstice Middleby for her willingness to join the Board in 2024. Even though her tenure was short, the Board highly values her expertise, particularly on Pacific islands issues. We wish her well in the final stages of her doctorate and look forward to working with her in some capacity in the future.

Recent and Future Activity

Since our last newsletter in 2024, we attempted to get funding for a project to open political dialogue within Japan on decarbonisation, particularly of heavy industry supply chains. While our funding application was not successful, the preliminary discussions we had with DFAT, including the climate change branch, Tokyo embassy and the Osaka Expo 25 team, encouraged the government to focus very heavily on clean energy and decarbonisation of heavy industry through a Future Made in Australia, and provided them with some additional ideas.

Our plans going forward will focus on potential contributions to the public debate, and conversations with the government through our DFAT connections, on COP31, particularly if Australia wins joint hosting with the Pacific. We would like to see very ambitious aims for an Australia/Pacific COP, including a global agreement for the phase

out of fossil fuel use - an agreement that has been proposed at previous COPs but has not yet succeeded.

We will also be working with partners to push the Government to meet its international obligations to eliminate all inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by reforming the diesel fuel rebate so that, at very least, it does not undermine other climate policies such as the Safeguard Mechanism. At present, the rebate is so generous it is acting as a disincentive for large mining companies to electrify their mine transport.

Finally, just a reminder that our website is still active: www.diplomatsforclimate.org. There you can refresh your knowledge of what are our goals, what we have achieved, and where we plan to go in the future.

And if you want to contact us or become more involved, please send an email to info@diplomatsforclimate.org.

Best regards

Richard Mathews

Former President, Diplomats for Climate Ltd