

DIPLOMATS FOR CLIMATE ACTION NOW

31st October 2021

The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer

The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience

Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women

The Hon Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Cc all other Cabinet Ministers

Cc **Hon Anthony Albanese MP**, Leader of the Opposition

Cc members of the Shadow Cabinet

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers

Thank you for your reply dated 15 October 2021 (Reference: MC21-114599) to our letter dated 26 September 2021.

We welcome the government's commitment to achieve net zero emissions (NZE) by 2050 but we are seriously concerned that you have made no new commitments to reduce emissions before 2030. Our current 2030 commitments are inadequate and not improving on them will have significant negative impacts on our international standing: many nations at COP26 will be looking for deeper reduction commitments than those we made in Paris six years ago. A recent study by the Climate Action Tracker website shows that if all countries followed Australia's existing 2030 commitments the world would warm by between 3-4C this century, threatening the habitability of the planet for our children and their descendants. The devastating bushfires of 2019-20 are just a foretaste of what could be to come.

State and territory governments in Australia have all made strong commitments to reduce emissions by 2030 so we can also do the same at the national level. The next ten years are crucial in global efforts to prevent warming beyond 1.5C. We are calling on your government, and future Australian governments, to commit to rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, matching and even beating the commitments made by our OECD partners.

We need to act quickly to prevent any further damage to Australia's international standing. We therefore recommend that the government immediately commence a thorough **review of Australia's foreign, trade and development policies** and adjust them to support the goal of NZE by 2050. This would be welcomed by our Pacific partners, for whom climate change poses a clear existential threat. They expect more from Australia than assistance with mitigating the effects of climate change and building resilience: with the threat of inundation they need the certainty that comes with the promise of future possible resettlement and look to Australia to provide this.

Many of our ASEAN partners have made significant commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but are only just beginning their transitions to a green economy. ASEAN's leaders are

keenly interested in how Australia can help. Deepening our engagement with our region on climate change and renewable energy will provide huge opportunities for Australian exporters of renewable energy technologies and services, which can create thousands of new jobs for regional Australia. Our world's best expertise in these technologies and services could also help our regional neighbours grow their economies.

We suggest that Australia's foreign, trade and development policies be reoriented to give high priority to achieving net zero economies in our region as quickly as possible:

- i) **establish bilateral ministerial climate dialogues** with our regional partners; and support one and two-track dialogues to discuss climate policy, best practice in emissions reduction, transitioning to a green economy and building climate-change resilient communities
- ii) **promote the rapid adoption of renewable energy in our region** through bilateral business dialogues on renewables and the green economy, funding support for Australian renewable energy exporters entering the market, supporting joint renewable energy R&D projects
- iii) **refocus our aid programs to support development partners in their efforts to meet their Paris and COP commitments** by supporting partner government agencies and civil society organisations to develop the regulations and skills needed to build green economies. Our diplomatic and consular missions could be tasked to run programs of small grants to support the development of community-led renewable energy projects.

DFAT and Austrade should be enabled to strengthen support for Australian industry in the green economy, with the Green Economy Agreement with Singapore a possible template for similar agreements with other regional partners. Australia should also recommit to the UN Green Climate Fund to help our development partners reduce emissions.

Such reorienting of our foreign, trade and development policies would not only renew and reinvigorate Australia's image abroad, but it would also provide a platform for Australian expertise and industry to create a more resilient, vibrant economy at home.

The commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 is just the start and we urge you to consider stronger emission cuts by 2030, and to provide strong direction and leadership on these matters of great national and international importance.

Sincerely,

Diplomats for Climate Action Now

Joanna Adamson	former High Commissioner to Ghana and Sierra Leone, Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Senegal and Togo
Margaret Adamson	former Consul General Berlin; Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea; Ambassador to Poland and Czech Republic; Ambassador to Cambodia; High Commissioner to Pakistan
Dr Ruth Adler	former Ambassador to Ireland; High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam
Graham Alliband	former Ambassador to Vietnam
Zena Armstrong	former Consul-General Guangzhou, China; Assistant Secretary Environment Branch DFAT; former Counsellor Australian Embassy, Beijing

Kamal Azmi	former Counsellor (Development Cooperation), Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands; former Director, G20 Domestic Resources Mobilisation Section, DFAT
Allan Behm	former diplomat and Head of the International Policy and Strategy Divisions, Department of Defence
Dr Lucinda Bell	former Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh
Geoff Bentley	retired Ambassador
Dr Denis Blight AO	former diplomat; Honorary Visitor ANU School of History
Dr Alison Broinowski AM FAHA	former Counsellor, Australian Mission to the UN, New York; Acting President, Australians for War Powers Reform
Richard Broinowski AO	former Ambassador to Mexico; Ambassador to Vietnam; Ambassador to the Republic of Korea
Penny Burt	former Deputy High Commissioner Singapore; former CEO Asialink
Noel Campbell	former Ambassador to Argentina; Ambassador to Spain; Ambassador to United Arab Emirates; Ambassador to (former) Yugoslavia
John Carlson AM	former Director-General, Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (DFAT)
Alex Cassie	former Second Secretary Australian Embassy Mexico
Susan Cox OAM	former Ambassador to Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau; Ambassador to Croatia
Bob Desiatnik	former diplomat (DFAT)
Douglas Foskett	former High Commissioner to Bangladesh; former Country Director International Organisation for Migration in Laos
Roger Frankel	former Ambassador to Venezuela
George Fraser	former High Commissioner to Nauru; High Commissioner to Kiribati; Ambassador to FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau
Janet Gardiner	former Ambassador to Syria; Ambassador to Portugal
Anne Giles	former diplomat (DFAT)
Susan Grace	former Ambassador to Nepal; Consul-General Chennai, India
Bruce Haigh	former Deputy Head of Mission Islamabad; Visiting Representative Kabul; Director Australia-South Africa Training Trust; member Refugee Review Tribunal
Robin Hamilton-Coates	former DFAT officer
Peter Hooton	former High Commissioner to Samoa and Solomon Islands; former Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Program in Nairobi
Catherine Hurst	former Counsellor Australian Embassy, Port Moresby PNG
Di Johnstone AM	former Ambassador to Nepal, former diplomat in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Kenya

Sean Kelly	former Consul-General for Southern China Guangzhou; former Consul-General for Southern India, Chennai
Evelyn Killick	former Assistant Commissioner-General Shanghai Expo; Executive Deputy Director Taipei; Second Secretary Tokyo
Dr Peter Lawrence	former First Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the UN Geneva
Geoffrey Leach	former Counsellor, Australian High Commission Islamabad; former AusAid officer
Dr David Lee	former DFAT officer and historian 1995-2019; now Associate Professor University of New South Wales
Ian Lincoln	former DFAT officer and President of AIIA NSW
Jan Linehan	former Assistant Secretary, Deputy Legal Adviser DFAT
Sandi Logan	former Counsellor, Public Affairs Washington DC, Bonn and Port Moresby; former Assistant Secretary, Department of Immigration
Alan March	former Australian Humanitarian Coordinator AusAID
Alexander Marks	former Manager of the Australian-Mekong Water Resources Program; former AusAID diplomat Vientiane
Richard Mathews	former Consul-General for eastern Indonesia, Makassar; Deputy Representative Taipei; Deputy Ambassador to Greece
Michael Mayer	former DFAT officer
Mary McCarter	former High Commissioner to Mauritius
Jackie McConnell	former First Secretary Australian High Commission New Zealand
Lyndall McLean AM	former Ambassador to Myanmar; Deputy High Commissioner to New Zealand
Heath McMichael	former DFAT officer, APEC and Multilateral Development Banks Branches
Beverly Mercer	former Ambassador to Croatia
Sharyn Minahan	former Ambassador to Denmark, Norway and Iceland; Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay
Elizabeth Morris OAM	former diplomat (DFAT) posted to New Zealand and Nepal
Bill Nelson	former DFAT officer
Bronwyn Nicholas	former First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Jakarta
Susan Oliver	former First Secretary Bangkok
Janaline Oh	former Deputy Consul-General, Hong Kong
Estelle Parker	former Chargé d'affaires a.i. Mexico City; Deputy Ambassador to Mexico, Central America and Cuba
Anthony Pearce	former Consul General Stockholm and lead climate negotiator
Anita Planchon	former Consul-General to Noumea

Anne Plunkett	former Ambassador to Portugal; Ambassador to Ireland and the Holy See; former Deputy High Commissioner Fiji
Maria Poulos Conklin	former Chargé d'affaires Mauritius; former First Secretary France and Sri Lanka
Jacqui Rabel	former diplomat (DFAT) posted to Palestinian Territories, Solomon Islands, Iran and Bougainville
Peter Rayner	former Ambassador to Portugal
John Richardson	former Ambassador to Argentina and Brazil
Violet Rish	former Vice Consul Makassar, Indonesia
Godfrey Santer	former First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Paris; and Director, Marketing Operations, Australian Tourist Commission
Alistair Sherwin	former DFAT officer and Humanitarian Coordinator, AusAID
Tom Sinkovits OAM	former High Commissioner to Nauru; Deputy Head of Mission Dublin; Chief of Mission International Organisation for Migration Trinidad and Tobago, China, Nepal
Paul Smith	former Australian High Commissioner to Barbados and Ambassador to Suriname
Tanya Smith	former Minister-Counsellor, Australian Embassy Washington DC
Robin Taylor	former Counsellor, Australian Embassy Jakarta
John Tilemann	former diplomat (DFAT) and international civil servant; member of the Australian delegation to the Rio Earth Summit
Stephen Waters	former High Commissioner to Vanuatu; Australia's Representative in Taipei; Consul General Mumbai, India
Paula Watt	former Director Soft Power Strategy, DFAT
Trevor Wilson	retired Ambassador; former manager Australian delegation to the Kyoto meeting of the UNFCCC
Michael Wood	former Consul-General Chicago, United States
John Woods PSM	former Ambassador to Peru; former Ambassador to Venezuela
Gary Woodard	retired Ambassador
Lucinda Wright	former DFAT officer, 1975-1989