

DIPLOMATS FOR *climate action now*

To the Hon Anthony Albanese MP

To Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

To the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy

To the Hon Clare O'Neill MP, Minister for Home Affairs

To Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

To the Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers

We would like to draw your attention to an article by one of our members, the former high Commissioner to Solomon Islands Peter Hooton, titled “Pacific labour mobility and the existential threat of climate change”, published on 21 June 2022 in the Lowy Interpreter (you can access the article here: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/pacific-labour-mobility-and-existential-threat-climate-change>).

In this article Peter welcomes your government’s commitment to listen more closely to our island neighbours especially on climate change. He also welcomes the new Pacific Engagement Visa, but notes that a missing element is a specific **climate change quota**, beyond the annual cap of 3,000 visas.

Peter argues that a climate-change visa “would signal Australia’s willingness not only to acknowledge past failures but also to address them by way of an assurance – of voluntary, staged resettlement” in responding to the existential threat of sea level rise as a result of climate change.

This is of course, a proposal that needs thorough debate and discussion, but it is a debate that Australia needs to have sooner rather than later. The longer we ignore this question, the more likely we will be forced into responding, with inadequate preparation, to future climate-change induced refugee flows.

Yours sincerely



Convenor, Diplomats for Climate Action Now

dip4can@gmail.com www.diplomatsforclimate.org

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