

DIPLOMATS FOR *climate action now*

To the Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Cc Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Cc The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Cc The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources

Dear Prime Minister

Diplomats for Climate Action Now is a group of more than 110 former Australian Ambassadors, High Commissioners, foreign, trade and development officers concerned about climate change. In my letter to you of 28 May 2022 we welcomed your government's commitment to climate action. We are comforted by the fact that we now have a national leadership that takes this important issue seriously.

But the urgency of rapid and concrete action on climate change at an international level, as well as the domestic level, is still our deepest concern, and much remains to be done. So, I am writing to you in advance of the forthcoming COP27 in Egypt to urge your government to make three important policy commitments that will enhance Australia's role in international climate policy, contribute to global leadership in climate issues, and make a real difference to reducing GHG emissions in the near and long term.

1. We urge your government to sign the global pledge to reduce methane emissions by at least 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030. We were disappointed that the previous government refused to sign on to this pledge at COP26. Australia must do better: implementing the commitments of the global pledge are vital for preventing accelerated global warming. Australia's coal and gas sector methane emissions are rapidly increasing, and we urge the government to take immediate action to rein in these emissions which have a 100 times more intense global warming effect than CO₂. We appreciate that in June 2022 the Minister for Resources said the government was actively considering signing the pledge: we urge you to do so at or before COP27.
2. We are pleased with your government's early efforts to work with our Pacific and Asian partners on climate issues, because many of these countries are the most vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change. But to show our commitment we need to increase our international climate finance to at least \$3 billion over the period 2020 – 2025, including through existing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund.
3. We urge the government to sign on to the Glasgow Statement to stop public financing of overseas fossil fuel projects, and instead shift this type of investment to renewable energy. We note that the Climate Change (consequential amendments) Act 2022 requires government agencies, including Export Finance Australia, to ensure their activities are consistent with the Government's greenhouse gas emissions reduction

targets. We urge you to demonstrate the Government's intention to do this in a rigorous way by joining the Glasgow Statement.

Diplomats for Climate Action Now commends the efforts to date of your ministers in progressing the myriad policy and practical changes that are urgently required to make a rapid transition to a renewable and sustainable economy. Australia can and must be an international leader in the rapid reduction of global GHG emissions.

We are keen to support your government in implementing a foreign, trade and development policy with climate action at its core to create a better future for all Australians.

Yours sincerely



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11 Oct 2022