

Open letter to Minister for Trade, Senator The Hon Don Farrell, on EFA and gas developments in Papua New Guinea



9 December 2022

Senator The Hon Don Farrell
Minister for Trade and Tourism

Dear Minister,

Glasgow Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition

We refer to claims that Export Finance Australia (EFA) is in discussions with Kumul Petroleum to finance a \$1.1 billion stake, off Santos, in the ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG project in Papua New Guinea ('PNG LNG').

We note that, under the Climate Change (consequential amendments) Act 2022, Export Finance Australia, in performing its functions, must have regard to Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement, which includes limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Australia's international partners, particularly our Pacific island neighbours, have repeatedly called on the Australian government to increase its climate ambition and to end fossil fuel subsidies. Australia's Foreign Minister and Minister for Climate Change and Energy recently took a welcome leadership role in UN climate talks where a major topic of discussion was climate financing to help developing countries to transition away from fossil fuels to cleaner energy. In taking such a role, Australia acknowledged that supporting our development partners to grow their economies for the benefit of their people must go hand in hand with addressing the climate crisis that puts lives and livelihoods at risk.

We urge you to reaffirm Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement by signing the Glasgow Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition. This week alone we have seen Canada and New Zealand make significant steps towards decarbonising their export credit agencies. Joining our developed country partners and trading partners in signing the statement will be a tangible demonstration of Australia's commitment to leading global ambition on climate action - a commitment the world will be seeking from a country that wishes to host a UN climate conference.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss the benefits to Australia of signing the statement.

Yours sincerely,

Jubilee Australia Research Centre, The Australian Conservation Foundation, Diplomats for Climate Action, 350 Australia, Climate Action Network Australia

Cc. The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia
Senator The Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs