



Thursday 4 August 2022

Passing of Climate Change Bill an historic day for Australia – but just the beginning

Statement from Dr Sophie Scamps – Independent MP for Mackellar

Today I voted in favour of passing the Government's Climate Change Bill in the House of Representatives. Australia has wasted two decades in a pointless debate led by vested interests, and we are now taking action.

The Government's Bill could be more ambitious, and it should be more ambitious – but it's a huge step in the right direction. This is an historic day.

Climate Change was the number one issue for the people of Mackellar at the last election, while the people of Australia voted for strong climate action at the last election. By working in good faith with the Albanese Government I believe I have been able to strengthen and improve this legislation. I want to thank Minister Bowen for his consultative approach and for working with my crossbench colleagues and I in good faith. I hope this collegiate and consultative approach continues throughout the term.

As part of my discussions with Minister Bowen I, along with my crossbench colleagues, urged him to alter the language used around the government's 2030 emissions target. Instead of the 43% target being described as a ceiling to Australia's ambition, we now have, enshrined in law, a minimum 2030 emissions target of 43%.

I will now be working with the government to ensure that the right policies and programs are in place to beat this target so we achieve closer to the 50% reduction in emissions that the science says the world must reach by 2030. I will hold the government to account on this and will continue to push for ambitious economy-wide climate action.

In addition, I urged the government to amend their draft Bill to ensure there is a statutory review of the legislation after five years and then every decade thereafter and that the Bill has clear foundational objectives that anchors the Act to the Paris Accord to hold this and all future governments to account. I am pleased that all of these suggestions have been accepted by the Albanese Government.

These improvements to the legislation are a win for all Australians, and for my community in Mackellar who elected me to represent their views and values in Parliament.

While this Bill is not perfect, the changes that I and my crossbench colleagues have secured ensure Australia now has stronger climate change laws that hold this and all future governments to account.

It's now time to get on with the job of rapidly reducing our emissions while investing in the resilience of our communities and the clean technology industries of the future that can make Australia a renewable energy superpower.

ENDS

For an interview with Sophie contact Chris Williams (0480 386 879 / media@sophiescamps.com.au)