



Australian Affiliates

TUED statement of support for student climate strike

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) is a global, multi-sector alliance of worker organisations working to advance democratic direction and control of energy in a way that promotes solutions to the climate crisis, energy poverty, the degradation of both land and people, and responds to the attacks on workers' rights and protections.

Recognising that young people, as the future of our country, have a vital interest in a rapid shift to a sustainable economy, Australian affiliates to TUED support the Student Climate Strike on March 15. We respect the right of young people to take an active role in political debates, and encourage them to do so, and reject the patronising and insulting attacks on them by conservative politicians and commentators.

TUED affiliates applaud the student strikers' efforts to call for all levels of government and all political parties to recognise the true extent of the risks posed by climate change, and to act with the haste and determination that the risks entail, and the science demands.

In supporting the student strike, TUED affiliates call for:

- a just transition for all workers affected by the shift to a sustainable economy, with an emphasis on the creation of secure jobs in non-carbon intensive industries;
- planning and support for communities in carbon-intensive regions to transition to prosperous economies based on clean industries;
- an end to the culture wars around climate and energy policy;
- the introduction of a comprehensive energy transition policy for 100% renewables under social (public, community and cooperative) ownership, and with large-scale public investment;
- the introduction of industry sector plans (not just the energy sector) to ensure the transition is fast enough, and to avoid the kind of dislocations that have characterised previous industry restructuring in Australia;

- the voices of workers, through their unions, to be given priority in planning for a sustainable economy;
- a recognition that acting to prevent climate change will create many more jobs and enable greater economic, social and political justice, if workers, students and their communities take the lead.
- Recognition that Australia has a particular responsibility to reduce carbon emissions that are contributing to environmental destruction that is disproportionately affecting workers and their communities in the Asia-Pacific region, especially on Pacific Islands.

TUED affiliates recognise the importance of all Australians working together to achieve a sustainable economy and to stop the catastrophic damage caused by climate change.



More information on Trade Unions for Energy Democracy is available at: <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/>

Unions wishing to affiliate contact Colin Long: clong@vthc.org.au