

Protecting Our Climate Means Preventing New Australian Fossil Fuel Projects

An Open Letter to the Australian Government from Australian Scientists and Experts

To the Australian Government

Australia and the rest of the world are on the precipice of irreversible, catastrophic climate change.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and scientists globally have called for an end to new fossil fuel development as fossil fuels are the key driver of the climate emergency.

Vast areas of Australia are covered by coal and gas production and licenses. Coal and gas mined in Australia currently result in 1.5 billion tonnes of emissions annually, around triple the annual emissions of the UK.

The Australian Government lists over 100 new coal and gas projects as under development in Australia. Projects scheduled to begin before 2030 alone will add a further 1.4 billion tonnes

annually by 2030. This excludes emissions from several major projects and vast new gas basins actively supported by Australian governments including the Barossa and Greater Sunrise offshore oil and gas fields, and the Beetaloo, Canning and Lake Eyre unconventional gas basins.

As the world's third largest exporter of fossil fuels Australia has a special responsibility to stop fuelling the increase in global emissions caused by Australian gas and coal production, both here and overseas. Any serious climate policy must reduce fossil fuel production and emissions. Offsetting a tiny fraction of the total emissions from these projects is not a credible climate solution.

We call on the Australian Government to follow the advice of the world's scientists and prevent any further new coal and gas developments in Australia.

Laureate Professor Peter C Doherty
Department of Microbiology and Immunology,
University of Melbourne at the Doherty Institute

Professor Fiona Stanley AC,FAA, FASSA
Distinguished Research Professor, University of Western Australia

Emeritus Professor Simon Chapman AO
Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney

Professor Noel Castree
Professor Society and Environment, University of Technology Sydney

Professor Perran Cook
School of Chemistry Monash University

Professor Chris Greening
Biomedicine Discovery Institute Monash University

Professor John King
Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University

Professor John Wiseman
Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne

Professor Meera Parish
School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University

Professor Daniel Price
School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University

Professor Kate Barclay

Director, Climate, Society and Environment Research Centre (C-SERC), University of Technology Sydney

Professor Euan Ritchie
School of Life and Environmental Science, Deakin University

Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings AM
Emeritus Professor of Energy Studies, Murdoch University

Associate Professor Michael R. Grace
Water Studies School of Chemistry, Monash University

Associate Professor Rico
Tabor School of Chemistry, Monash University

Associate Professor Daniel Horsley
School of Mathematics, Monash University

Associate Professor Jesper Levinsen
School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University

Associate Professor Tim Garoni
School of Mathematics, Monash University

Associate Professor Daniel Mathews
School of Mathematics, Monash University

Dr Rhys Grinter
Department of Microbiology, Monash University

Dr Yung En Chee
Faculty of Science, The University of Melbourne

Dr Megan C Evans
School of Business, University of New South Wales, Canberra

Dr Kaye Morgan
School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University

Dr Julie Clutterbuck
School of Mathematics, Monash University

Dr Santiago Barrera-Acevedo
School of Mathematics, Monash University

Dr Lincoln Turner
School of Physics & Astronomy, Monash University

Dr Stefanie Pidcock
Board Member, Doctors for the Environment Australia

Dr Dimitri Lafleur
Chief Scientist, ACR

Dr Pep Canadell
Executive Director, Global Carbon Project

Dr Adam J Kessler
School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment Monash University

Dr Jeremy Walker
Climate, Society & Environment Research Centre

University of Technology Sydney

Dr Alex Wodak AM
Chair, Australia21

Ian Dunlop
Former Chair Australian Coal Association, former CEO Australian Institute of Company Directors

Professor Hilary Bambrick
Director, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Professor Hugh Possingham
School of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland

Professor Shauna Murray
School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

Professor Rob Moodie AM
Professor of Public Health University of Melbourne

Professor Mark L Wahlgren AO
Emeritus Professor, Monash University; Past President, International Union of Nutritional Sciences

Professor John Quiggin
Professor of Economics, University of Queensland; former board member of the Climate Change Authority

Professor David Karoly, FAA
School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Professor Rick Cavicchioli
School of Biotechnology & Biomolecular Science University of New South Wales

Distinguished Professor Brajesh Singh
Global Centre for Land-Based Innovation, Western Sydney University

Professor Malte Meinshausen
Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Professor Bayden R. Wood
Director Centre for Biospectroscopy, School of Chemistry, Monash University

Professor Peter Sainsbury
University of Notre Dame Australia

Associate Professor Tilman A Ruff AO
Honorary Principal Fellow School of Population and Global Health University of Melbourne

Professor John Woinarski
Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg FAA
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland

Emeritus Professor John Church AO

Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Professor Michael Ashley
School of Physics, University of New South Wales

Professor David Bowman
Director of the Fire Centre, School of Natural Sciences, University of Tasmania

Professor Richard Fuller

School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland

Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO

School of Environment and Science Griffith University

Professor Brett Murphy

Faculty of Science and Technology, Charles Darwin University

Emeritus Professor David Shearman

School of Medicine, University of Adelaide

Associate Professor Tim Cohen

School of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Wollongong

Associate Professor Gavin M. Mudd

Environmental Engineering, RMIT University

Dr Kate Wylie

Chair, Doctors for the Environment Australia; Chair, RACGP Climate and Environmental Medicine Specific Interest Group

Dr Liz Hanna

Chair, Environmental Health Working Group, World Federation of Public Health Associations

Honorary Associate Professor ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions

Dr Hugh Saddler

Honorary Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Professor Emerita Carmen Lawrence AO
University of Western Australia

Professor John Hewson
Crawford School, Australian National University

Professor Malcolm McCulloch
ARC Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies University of Western Australia

Scientia Professor Matthew England
Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Distinguished Professor Terry Hughes, FAA
James Cook University

Professor Peter Newman AO
Sustainability Policy Institute Curtin University

Professor Philip Boyd
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania

Professor Jeremy Moss
Political Philosophy, University of New South Wales

Scientia Professor Deo Prasad AO FTSE
CEO NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub, University of New South Wales

Professor Kathryn Bowen
Professor and Deputy Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne

Professor Cathy Vaughan
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Professor Fran Baum AO
Director, Stretton Health Equity, School of Social Sciences, Stretton Institute, University of Adelaide

Emeritus Professor Arthur Conigrave
School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney

Professor Gareth Denyer
School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney

Professor Catherine Chamberlain

Director, Onemda Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Professor Lynne Madden

BSc(Med)Hons1, MBBS, MPH, MSc, FAFPH(UK), FAFPHM, FPHAA, MAICD

Adjunct Associate Professor Marion Carey

Monash University, Board Member Doctors for the Environment Australia

Associate Professor Alex Sen Gupta

Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Associate Professor Laurie Menzel

Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Associate Professor Martin Anda

School of Engineering and Energy, Murdoch University

Associate Professor Grant Blashki

Nossal Institute for Global Health, The University of Melbourne; Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University

Associate Professor Ben Neville

Deputy Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne

Adjunct Associate Professor Philip Zylstra

School of Molecular and Life Sciences, Curtin University

Associate Professor Ken Winkel

School of Population and Global Health University of Melbourne

Dr Peter Stasinopoulos

School of Engineering, RMIT University

Dr Nicole White

School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology

Alan Pears AM

Senior Industry Fellow RMIT University, Fellow University of Melbourne

Distinguished Laureate Professor Nicholas J. Talley AC
Chief Investigator NHMRC Centre for Research, University of Newcastle

Professor Emerita Lesley Hughes

Councillor & Director, Climate Council of Australia

Adjunct Professor Bill Hare

Director, Climate Analytics; Adjunct Professor, Murdoch University

Professor Adrian Barnett

School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology

Professor Sharon Friel FASSA, FAHMS

Director, Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, Australian National University

Professor Julie E. Bines

Professor of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne

Professor Alex Gardner

Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law, University of Western Australia

Professor Caroline de Costa

College of Medicine, James Cook University

Professor Kris Warren

School of Veterinary Medicine, Murdoch University

Professor Hubertus PA Jersmann

Department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital

Emeritus Professor Bob Douglas AO

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Emeritus Professor Hans Lambers

FAA FRNAS University of Western Australia; President of the Royal Society of Western Australia

Associate Professor Marita Hefer

Menzies School of Health Research

Associate Professor Heather Fraser

Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

Associate Professor Linda Selvey

School of Public Health, University of Queensland

Associate Professor Djuke Veldhuis

Faculty of Science, Monash University

Greg Mullins AO, AFSM

Former Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW, Founder of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action, Climate Councillor

Greg Bourne FAICD MAIE

Former Regional President BP Australasia

Dr Phillip Ablett

Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Martin Brueckner

Associate Professor in Sustainability Murdoch University

Dr Arnagretta Hunter

Cardiologist and Physician, Australian National University

Dr Steven Donohue

Associate Professor, James Cook University

Dr Kate Dooley

ARC DECRA Fellow, The University of Melbourne

Dr Michelle Newcomb

School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Kristi Heesch

School of Public Health and Social Work Queensland University of Technology

Dr Cybelle Dey

Medicine and Health, University of New South Wales

Dr Susanna Cramb

Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Elizabeth Haworth

Menzies Research Institute, University of Tasmania