

# 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 Phillip 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-Aceved**  
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, ACCR

**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 Wahlqvist AO**  
Emetritus 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, Univerity 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, FFPH(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 Menviel**  
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 Hafler**  
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 Cybele 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

**Dr Angelo Virgona**  
Chair, NSW Branch Royal Australian and New Zealand  
College of Psychiatrists

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