

Australia Must Accelerate Climate Action, Not Climate Annihilation

To the Australian Government

World leaders convene this week at the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit in recognition that the global community must accelerate efforts to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate change.

The United Nations Secretary General, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), International Energy Agency (IEA), and scientists from all over the world have made it clear there is no room for new gas, coal and oil projects in the global carbon budget.

Yet, in Australia, over 10,000 miles from where leaders will meet to demonstrate their commitment to climate action, vast areas of the continent are covered by coal, gas and oil production and licenses.

Fossil fuels produced in Australia currently result in 1.5 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

In this – the ‘decisive decade’ for climate – there are over 100 new coal and gas projects in development in Australia according to official data.

If all these projects proceed, research by the Australia Institute shows they would add a further 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent to the atmosphere every year – roughly the equivalent emissions of the entire Russian Federation, the world’s fourth-largest polluter.

Accelerating the pace and scale of climate action means an end to new fossil fuel approvals and subsidies.

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 fossil fuel production, both in Australia and overseas.

We call on the Australian Government to follow the advice of the United Nations, the IEA and the IPCC and prevent any further new fossil fuel developments in Australia.

Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC | Nobel Prize Laureate 1996; Australian of the Year 1997

Adjunct Professor Bill Hare | Director, Climate Analytics

Adjunct Associate Professor Marion Carey

Associate Professor Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick

Associate Professor Ben Neville | Deputy Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne

Dr Joëlle Gergis | Senior Lecturer, The Australian National University

Dr Peter Kalmus | Climate Scientist and Author

Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM | Senior Visiting Fellow, School of Medical Sciences, The University of New South Wales

Professor Anne de Vernal | University of Quebec in Montreal

Professor David Ho | University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Professor Emeritus David J Karoly FAA | The University of Melbourne

Professor Emeritus Jorgen Randers | Co-author of The Limits to Growth and Earth for All

Professor Gretta Pecl | Director, Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania; IPCC Lead Author

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

Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele | Former IPCC Vice-Chair, Université Catholique de Louvain

Professor Malcolm McCulloch FAA FRS | The University of Western Australia

Professor Michael E Mann | Presidential Distinguished Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

Professor Peter Sainsbury

Professor Peter Singer | Ira W DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University

Professor Robert Costanza | University College London

Right Reverend Dr Stephen Pickard | Adjunct Professor of Theology, Charles Sturt University

Sunita Narain | Director, Centre for Science and Environment, India

Alan Pears AM | Senior Industry Fellow, RMIT University; Fellow, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Daniel Horsley | Monash University

Adjunct Professor Caroline de Costa | The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Adjunct Professor David A Hood AM | Board Director, Australian Conservation Foundation

Adjunct Associate Professor Dr Philip Zylstra | Curtin University

Associate Professor Jesper Levisen

Associate Professor Martin Brueckner | Pro Vice Chancellor Sustainability, Murdoch University

Adjunct Professor Shilu Tong

Dr Didier Swingedouw | Head of Paleoclimate, French National Center for Scientific Research

Dr Elizabeth Haworth | Senior Research Fellow, University of Tasmania

Dr Elizabeth Humphrys | Head of Discipline, Social and Political Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

Dr Femke Nijisse | Lecturer, University of Exeter

Dr Gareth Bryant | Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Research Fellow, The University of Sydney

Dr George Crisp | Medical Practitioner; Senior Clinical Lecturer, The University of Western Australia

Dr Gilles Garric | Senior Scientist, Mercator Ocean International

Dr Hervé Douville | Senior Scientist; former IPCC Contributing Lead Author

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Dr Rein Haarsma | Senior Scientist

Dr Rhys Grinter | Monash University

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Bill McKibben | Founder, 350.org, Third Act

Carmen Lawrence AO | Former Premier of Western Australia

Christine Milne AO | Ambassador, Global Greens

Distinguished Professor Terry Hughes FAA | James Cook University

Distinguished Research Professor Fiona Stanley AC FAA | The University of Western Australia; Australian of the Year 2003

Dr Bernie Fraser | Former Secretary to the Treasury; Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia

Dr David Morawetz | Founder and Director, Social Justice Fund

Dr Dimitri Laffeur | Chief Scientist, Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

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Professor Emeritus Peter A Victor | Senior Scholar, York University

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Professor Farhana Sultana | Syracuse University

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Professor Gabriele Hegerl

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Associate Professor Norman Do

Associate Professor Stuart Rosewarne | The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Timothy Clark

Associate Professor Timothy M Garoni

Associate Professor Wim Thiery | Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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Dr Lincoln Turner | Senior Lecturer, Monash University

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Emeritus Professor John King | La Trobe University

Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings | Murdoch University

Emeritus Professor Simon Chapman AO | The University of Sydney

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Professor Catherine Chamberlain | The University of Melbourne

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Professor Cecilia Bitz

Professor Chris Greening | Monash University

Professor Clive Hamilton | Charles Sturt University

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Professor Jeremy Moss | The University of New South Wales

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Dr Stefanie Pidcock | Medical Officer

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Dr Yann Bernard | Senior Lecturer

Dr Yung En Chee | Senior Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne

Dr Kate Wylie | Executive Director, Doctors for the Environment Australia

Graeme Maxton | Former Secretary General, Club of Rome

Greg Bourne | Former Regional President BP Australasia

Ian Dunlop | Former Chair, Australian Coal Association; Former CEO, Australian Institute of Company Directors; Breakthrough Centre for National Climate Restoration

J M Coetzee | Writer; Nobel Laureate 2003

Julien Vincent | 2022 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient

Adam Spencer | Ambassador for Mathematics and Science, The University of Sydney

Laureate Professor John Quiggin | Professor of Economics, University of Queensland; Former Board Member of the Climate Change Authority

Professor Malte Meinshausen | The University of Melbourne

Professor Markus Donat | Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, Barcelona Supercomputing Center

Professor Markus Stoffel | University of Geneva

Professor Mary Scholes | Research Chair in Climate Change and Plantation Sustainability, University of the Witwatersrand

Professor Meera Parish

Professor Michael Ashley | The University of New South Wales

Professor Neil Harris

Professor Nicolás Cuví | Senior Research Professor, The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg | The University of Queensland

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Meredith Reardon

Richard Heede | Director, Climate Accountability Institute

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Wes Jackson | President Emeritus, The Land Institute

Adam Koniuszewski | Co-Founder and Board Member, The Bridge Foundation

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