

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Sent via email only: scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

17 August 2021

Dear Prime Minister Morrison

An open letter from the Better Futures Australia community – the time for credible climate action is now

We are writing to you as Australian leaders from every sector of the economy and society – First Nations, finance and faith, cities and states, business big and small, agriculture, resources and energy, health and social service, unions, think tanks, and higher education.

While we are diverse, we collectively represent more than seven million Australians. We are coming together at this week's Better Futures Forum united in our determination to act on climate change, and we are rising to the challenge, and opportunities, it presents.

Like other Australians, we are ready to work in partnership with your government to transition from fossil fuels in a fair and orderly way that leaves no one behind, build a thriving economy and cohesive communities, and enjoy flourishing ecosystems, clean air, and better health. And take advantage of the incredible opportunities our nation has to create sustainable jobs, attract investment, regenerate industries and communities, and make Australia – the sunniest nation on earth – a renewable energy superpower.

Many of us are already demonstrating climate solutions underway in our sectors – through best-practice agriculture, by turbocharging statewide renewable energy zones, committing to city-wide 100% renewable energy goals, decarbonising investment portfolios in the trillions, developing ethical zero-carbon lithium mining for EV batteries, crafting national strategies on climate and health, showcasing how Indigenous Knowledge Systems heal country, and more.

Our nation now faces a pivotal moment as heads of state prepare to meet at the UN Climate Summit (COP26) in Glasgow in November, where they will make emissions reduction pledges. You are one of these leaders, and you have an historic opportunity to seize the moment and step up Australia's climate ambition.

Australia's goal of a [26-28% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030](#) and the absence of a national zero emissions target is out of step with the States and Territories, our trading partners, and other nations. It is insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement goal of keeping warming to 1.5 degrees.

The United States will [halve its emissions by 2030](#), Japan will [reduce emissions 46% by 2030](#) on 2013 levels, and the UK will cut emissions [78% by 2035](#). The European Union will reduce emissions [55% by 2030](#) on 1990 levels. Our major trading partners South Korea and China, have mid century [net zero targets](#).

Australian corporations with tens of billions in market capitalisation have adopted near-term targets for [100% renewable energy](#). Australia's [leading investors](#) are committed to a zero emissions economy.

The increasing ambition of States' and Territories' 2030 targets, alongside their shared [commitment to net zero emissions by or before 2050](#) demonstrates that with national leadership, Australia can do our fair share under the Paris Agreement to keep warming to 1.5 degrees.

The shift from fossil fuels is inevitable, and the momentum unstoppable. Without further ambition on its part, Australia will face increasing isolation and diminishing markets for its resources. Carbon border adjustments will harm Australia's economy, as other nations race ahead, realising the opportunities for investment in the zero-carbon age.

To meet the obligations in the Paris Agreement – and protect the wellbeing of the Australian people, our magnificent ecosystems, and our economic security – Australia must establish a clear pathway to transition our economy to a zero emissions future. The most important step is what we do in this decisive decade. Australian commitments must, at the very least, match those by our allies in the US, the EU and the UK.

Your leadership in delivering a step change to Australia's emissions reduction commitments is crucial if we are to forge the path to a better, healthier, just and more prosperous future for all – a future that is within our reach in this remarkable country that we share.

The course of history, and the legacy we leave our children, is in your hands, Prime Minister. We are moving ahead, and we need your support. The time to act is now.

Signed



Dermot O'Gorman
Chief Executive Officer



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

Kelly O'Shanassy
Chief Executive Officer



**CLIMATE
ACTION
NETWORK
AUSTRALIA**

Julie-Anne Richards
Executive Director



John Grimes
Chief Executive



Cassandra Goldie
Chief Executive Officer



Dr John Van Der Kallen
Chair



**CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE**

Fiona Armstrong
Executive Director



Heidi Lee
Chief Executive Officer



**CITIES POWER
PARTNERSHIP**

Dr Portia Odell
Director



Bishop Phillip Huggins
President

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Michele O'Neil
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Rev Simon Hansford
Moderator

Simon Hansford



Adrienne Picone
Chief Executive Officer

Adrienne Picone



Deborah Di Natale
Chief Executive Officer

Deborah Di Natale



Louise Giolotto
Chief Executive Officer

L Giolotto



Natalie Isaacs

Founder & CEO



Alexi Lynch

Business Manager



...to inspire people, enliven communities
and confront injustice

Tracey Burton

Chief Executive/ Executive
Director



Lucia Boxelaar

Executive Director



Dr Emma Campbell

CEO



Francis Wedin

CEO



Dr Omar Khorshid

Federal President



Lyn Morgain

Chief Executive



Clover Moore

Lord Mayor



Sandy Verschoor
Lord Mayor

A blue ink signature of Sandy Verschoor, consisting of a stylized 'S' and 'V' followed by a horizontal line.



Behyad Jafari
CEO

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Anna Skarbek
CEO

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Gerard Brody
Chief Executive Officer

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Jo Schofield
National President

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Michelle Higelin
Executive Director

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Paul Bowers
CEO

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Ben Oquist
Executive Director

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Craig Wilkins
Chief Executive

A blue ink signature of Craig Wilkins, written in a cursive style.



Peter Sutrin
Company Director



Phil Glendenning AM
Director



Janine Mohamed
Chief Executive Officer



A/Prof Brigid M. Lynch
President



**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH INNOVATION**

Prof. Jeffrey Braithwaite
Founding Director



Danny Vadasz
CEO



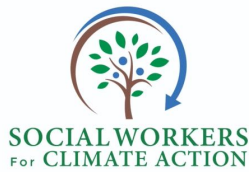
Amanda Cahill
CEO



James Beckford Saunders
Chief Executive Officer



Vicki Adams
Lead Advocate



Peter Jones
Co-Convenor

Peter Jones



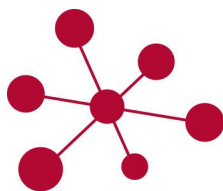
Emma Bacon
Executive Director

Emma Bacon



Founder
XXX

Ruby Campbell



Jonathon Hunyor
CEO

Jonathon Hunyor



Elise West
Executive Officer

Elise West



Dom Courtney
President



Stephen Penman
Executive Director

Stephen Penman



Belinda Noble
Founder

Belinda Noble



Amanda Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Kelly



ALMA
Dr Liz Rickman
Co-Convenor

Yours sincerely,



Jane Stabb
Co-CEO

A_C

Tessa Carroll
Creative Director



Craig Richards
CEO



Josh Kirkman
Operations and Development
Manager



**AUSTRALIAN PARENTS
FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

Nic Seton
Chief Executive Officer



Michelle Mackenzie
CEO



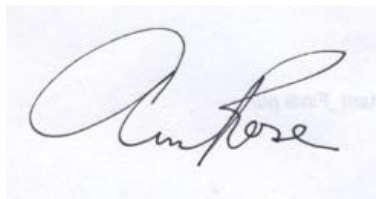
Natasha Davis
CEO



Joel Dignam
Executive Director



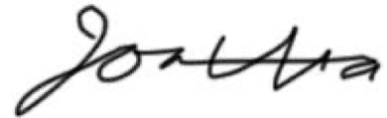
Anna Rose
Chief Executive Officer



Ian Wilcox
Chair



Jo Dodds
President



Sasha Titchkosky
Co-founder and CEO



Matthew Maury
CEO



Caroline Pidcock
Nominated Architect



Jono La Nauze
CEO



Kirsty Howey & Shar Molloy
Co-Directors



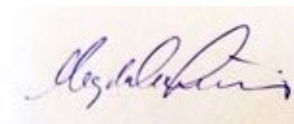
Professor Elizabeth Eakin
Head of School
School of Public Health



Luke Reade
Policy Advocate



Dr Magdalena Simonis
President
Australian Federation of Medical
Women



Pattie Chugg
CEO



Alix Foster Vander Elst
Campaigns &
Communications Director



Piers Verstegen
Director



Mark Zirnsak
Senior Social Justice
Advocate



Yolanda Waters
Community Coordinator



Kathrin Wheib
Director



Donna Cameron
Personal Style Specialist
& Ethical Fashion Advocate



Peter Mulherin
Leader



Tom Rivard
Principal Architect



PURPLE HOUSE
Sarah Brown
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Cathryn Eatock
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Louise Tarrier
Chief Executive Officer



Louise Morris
Coordinator



Sarah Rickard
Architect



Dr John Hewson
Former Leader of the
Federal Opposition



Simon Wallwork
Chair



Liz Bromilow
Coordinator



Alix Pearce
Campaigns Director