

AUSTRALIA MUST JOIN THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP AT COP28

ON THE ROAD TO PHASING OUT FOSSIL FUELS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MUST SIGN THE GLASGOW STATEMENT AND COMMIT TO END ITS SUPPORT FOR FOSSIL FUEL EXPORTS

Attn: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia

Cc:

- The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy
- Sen. Don Farrell, Minister for Trade
- Sen. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development, and the Pacific
- Sen. Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

The urgency of phasing out fossil fuels has never been more apparent, as our planet faces imminent existential threats, particularly affecting nations in the Pacific frontlines. To combat this global crisis, it is imperative that the Australian government takes a resolute and unwavering stance by committing to ending its support for fossil fuel exports.

At COP28 Australia can take a step in this direction, by joining dozens of other countries around the world in signing on to the Clean Energy Transition Partnership.

[Australia remains the world's third largest fossil fuel exporter](#), with ongoing public financing and support of fossils through Export Finance Australia, the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility and Australia's Overseas Development Assistance. These Australian public agencies all have histories of insuring, financing, and promoting fossil fuel projects - both in Australia and around our region.

And it is Pacific communities who are facing the consequences of the extraction and burning of these exports.



“Women in my country are drawing on the wisdom and knowledge of our traditions and cultures, as well as from proven technologies and science, to drive community-led solutions to the climate crisis. But we cannot do it alone, nor should we have to. Australia, as our big sister in the Pacific, must listen when we say there can be no more investment in fossil fuels if Pacific communities like mine are to survive.”

Flora Vano, ActionAid Vanuatu



“Island nations, those delicate jewels of the Pacific, are on the precipice of obliteration due to the rising seas and intensifying storms driven by climate change. These nations, with their unique cultures, biodiversity, and communities, are experiencing first-hand the devastating consequences of our addiction to fossil fuels. Their very existence is threatened, and we cannot ignore their plight any longer.”

Richard Gokrun, Tuvalu Climate Action Network

Since the Paris Agreement came into effect, hundreds of [millions of dollars from Australia's international aid budget](#) that should be supporting low-income countries in our region are still being funnelled through multilateral development banks into the pockets of the fossil fuel industry. This is despite climate change being one of the biggest threats to women and girls living in poverty. At the same time fossil projects financed by Export Finance Australia - such as ExxonMobil's PNG LNG - have had disastrous consequences for local communities and economies, in addition to their increasing emissions.

Australia claims to be listening to its regional partners. Earlier this year Pacific nations published The Port Vila Call to endorse a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific - outlining the steps nations like Australia must take to phase out fossil fuels.

Australia's neighbours want cheap, reliable energy. However, Australia is working against the energy transition by distorting markets. The Albanese government is dumping billions of dollars to guarantee and subsidise fossil gas and coal. This undermines the development of the physical and policy infrastructure for renewable and more efficient energy. Whilst we are seeing increased investment in renewable energy from the Australian government this must be accompanied by a proper, credible plan to end fossil fuel support.

The Clean Energy Transition Partnership goes a long way to achieving both goals.

This commitment to stop bankrolling fossil fuels will not only protect nations in the Pacific but also safeguard the well-being of people worldwide. The Australian government should stand behind Pacific leadership and end its bankrolling of fossil fuel exports. This action will play a crucial role in the global shift towards a future where we prioritise clean energy, the preservation of our planet and the transition to the economies of the climate age.

The time for complacency is over. We are calling on the Australian government to take this step and join the many nations around the world who have committed to the Clean Energy Transition Partnership. This must also be implemented with full respect for human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The journey to phasing out fossil fuels must begin now.

Yours sincerely,

PACIFIC LEADERS



ActionAid Vanuatu – GreenPeace Australia Pacific – Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations – United Nations

Association Fiji – Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights – Social Empowerment & Education Program – Hawai'i Institute for

Human Rights – Tuvalu Climate Action Network – Kiribati Climate

Action Network

ENDORSED BY AUSTRALIAN ALLIES



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Climate Action Network Australia – Jubilee Australia Research Centre – 350 Australia – The Australia Institute – ActionAid Australia – The Australian Conservation Foundation – Edmund Rice Centre – Yarra Climate Action Network – Doctors for the Environment Australia – Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania – Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action – Climate Energy Finance – Australian Religious Response to Climate Change – Climate Emergency: Action – Australian Council of Social Services – ClimActs – Currie Country – Vote Earth Now! – Darebin Climate Action Network – Peoples Climate Assembly – Nillumbik Climate Action Team – Locals into Victoria's Environment – Conservation Council of Western Australia