

Dear Manager and Staff,

My name is Dr. Jason McLeod. Amongst other things I am a company director, academic, community worker, and small business owner. But my most important role in life is being a dad to my two boys. It is in that capacity that I am contacting you.

I wish to inform you that I will be attaching stickers to your ATMs. A copy of the sticker is enclosed in this letter. I am also targeting the three major Australian banks. I am fully aware this may be considered illegal. This short letter outlines why I am doing this.

My intention is twofold. First, I want to draw your customers and staff's attention to your banks climate wrecking investment, in particular your company's support for coal, gas and oil expansion. Second, I want to encourage community minded people in my network to withdraw their mortgages from the big four banks and reinvest them in banks and credit unions that exclude fossil fuel investments and instead support renewable energy.

I could provide you with the latest economic, political, social and climate science risk analysis of the threats we face as a result of global heating. But you should already be across this. Instead I want to give you one brief personal reason why I am taking this particular course of action.

My youngest son, who is in year 8, has personally witnessed multiple climate disasters. These include the catastrophic floods in Brisbane in 2011, floods in Tasmania in 2016, and most recently the floods in northern Tasmania this October. In the summer of 2018-2019 he witnessed the firestorm that tore through the south-west of Tasmania. These events have so distressed him that for a while the first thing he did every morning when he woke up was check the Bureau of Meteorology website to see if it was safe to go outside. As a parent what do I say to him when he asks what businesses and governments are doing to address catastrophic climate chaos?

To put it bluntly many of us have lost patience with the banks inaction on climate. Some of us no longer think the banks are a force for the common good. So instead of lobbying you to divest from fossil fuels, I - and others across the country - will be encouraging others to withdraw their money and re-invest it elsewhere.

The way I see it, your company has three choices. You can prosecute me. You can ignore me, or you can publicly commit to not funding any more expansions of the fossil fuel industry. If you choose to prosecute me I welcome the opportunity to publicise this issue through the courts and media. I look forward to bringing in expert testimony into the courtroom who have helped inform this course of action along with evidence of how your bank is imperilling us all. I will fight this in court and if the court decides to punish me I will accept it and go to jail. And if you choose to ignore me it will help my colleagues and I build social support for a collective withdrawal of funds away from fossil fuels and into the common good. Whatever action you choose, it is a lose-lose for you and a win-win for climate sanity.

As a local bank manager I encourage you to raise this issue with your staff and discuss a response with regional, state and national management. You have my word that I will behave in a courteous and peaceful manner towards your staff and customers at all times, even if we disagree.

I look forward to hearing your response. In the meantime I will keep stickering and keep encouraging others to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jason McLeod (PhD)