



15 June 2021

Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to express our deep concern at Australia's official Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

The NDCs were set six years ago and since then the effects of climate change have dramatically increased. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change studies indicate the importance of endeavouring to limit warming to 1.5°C.

The bleaching of coral in the Great Barrier Reef and the extent of bushfires into rainforest areas not previously affected, show serious climate warming is already with us, at temperatures marginally less than 1.5°C. Accordingly, we ardently hope and trust that the 26-28% NDC will, as soon as possible, be replaced with a science-based commitment to make urgent reductions in our national greenhouse gas emissions.

The recent critical report by the International Energy Agency<sup>1</sup> is unequivocal in its call for all governments to take genuine and comprehensive action now and to go beyond the current minimal commitments. We note in particular the urgent call that, from today there should be 'no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects, and no further final investment decisions for new unabated coal plants.'

Recent studies in the universities have resulted in updating of the work of the Climate Change Authority to arrive at reliable measures of fair carbon budgets and we trust that revision of Australia's NDC will take this work into account<sup>2</sup>. Every day we continue on our present profligate trajectory makes a genuine contribution to holding 1.5 degrees less achievable.

Appreciating the political difficulties which can be placed in the way of changes of this magnitude, we urge you two at this critical juncture to talk to each other with a view to formalising an agreement to refrain from weaponizing climate policy in parliamentary debate and the forthcoming federal election campaign.

#### **Australia Yearly Meeting**

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We have some of the greatest renewable energy sources with solar, wind and potentially tidal power.

We could create jobs and growth by harnessing these opportunities, by producing hydrogen and ammonia or HVDC power to send to our big cities and overseas by HVDC cables or gas pipelines, or in liquid form.

Australia could be a pioneer in these industries and could do away with our polluting industries at a record rate. We could set a global example of how to avoid adding to the greenhouse gases and climate change. "Jobs and growth in renewables" should be Australia's motto.

We pray that the approach of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow this November will prove an opportunity for turning over a new leaf in Australian climate policy. It can be expected that the issue of fairness will loom large at Glasgow, and we trust that Australia's traditionally prominent role in forging international agreements will find our representatives well-placed in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



Ann Zubrick  
Presiding Clerk  
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

cc: Anthony Albanese, Leader of the Opposition

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<sup>1</sup> IEA (2021), Net Zero by 2050, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

<sup>2</sup> 'Australia's Paris Agreement Pathways', 2 reports, Jan 2021 and Mar 2021, University of Melbourne

'The Risks to Australia of a 3c Warmer World', 31 March 2021, Australian Academy of Science

'Aim High, Go Fast: Why Emissions need to Plummet this Decade', 15 April 2021, Climate Council

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