



LETITION

AUSTRALIA FOR CLIMATE ACTION

A Strong Environmental Act Federal Member

Ms Libby Coker MP
Member for Corangamite
26/500-540 Torquay Road, Armstrong, VIC, 3217

From:
Name: [Your name will appear here]
Address: [Your address will appear here]
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Date: 21-Nov-2025

Dear Ms Libby Coker MP

I am a constituent and send this Open Letter as a very concerned person in your electorate.

I am frustrated and disappointed about the direction of the proposed Environment Act currently being developed by the Government. The framework outlined by Minister Murray Watt falls far short of what our community understood Labor was committing to when elected in May 2025. We expected stronger protections, higher ambition and genuine climate leadership.

Australia cannot maintain credibility on climate action, nor hope to successfully lead COP31 next year, while advancing more than 30 new fossil fuel projects since the last election. Unless Australia meaningfully reduces its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, other nations will not follow suit. The global cycle of delay will continue.

Our community is alarmed. The attached table outlines the key concerns and explains where the proposed Act, released last week, fails to meet the urgency of the moment.

As our representative in Canberra, we are asking you to champion a stronger, science-based and future-focused Environment Act. Australia needs leadership – leadership that reflects integrity, responsibility and the will to act in the best interests of both people and planet.

With Labor's large majority, what is missing is not capacity but political will.

We urge you to advocate for an Environment Act that is far more ambitious and effective than the current proposal. You could win broad community support by announcing a genuine roadmap, including clear time frames for ending new coal, oil and gas developments.

South Korea has now committed to closing all coal-fired power stations by 2040. Australia cannot continue to expand fossil fuel extraction while claiming climate credibility.

When can our community meet with you to discuss the Environmental Act and the Government's plans to stop opening new fossil fuel projects?

Environment Justice Australia Environment Law Reform Scorecard:

<https://envirojustice.org.au/environment-law-reform-scorecard/>

APPENDIX

Further notes from your community

Scientific analyses published in 2025 warn that the world remains on track for a disastrous 2.6°C of global heating, as countries continue to fall short on meaningful climate commitments and fossil fuel emissions reach new records.

According to the latest Climate Action Tracker update, emission-cutting pledges submitted ahead of COP30 have done little to change the trajectory of dangerous warming. For the fourth year in a row, governments' plans have failed to meaningfully improve the global outlook. The projected end-of-century temperature rise remains at 2.6°C above pre-industrial levels.

Such heating would breach the Paris Agreement targets and push the world into an era of extreme weather, widespread human hardship and irreversible ecological damage.

Fossil fuel emissions are expected to rise by a further 1% this year, reaching a new record. While this is smaller growth than in previous decades, it still outweighs the rapid expansion of renewables, which are now almost meeting – but not exceeding – the annual increase in global energy demand.

Over the past decade, emissions from coal, oil and gas have grown by 0.8% per year on average.

“A world at 2.6°C means global disaster,” warned Australian climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics. He noted that such levels of warming could trigger major climate tipping points – including the collapse of Atlantic Ocean circulation, widespread coral reef loss, long-term ice sheet decline and the die-back of the Amazon rainforest.

“These changes would spell the end of agriculture in the UK and across Europe, widespread drought and monsoon failure across Asia and Africa, and deadly heat and humidity,” Hare said. “This is not a world we want. We must avoid it.”

The planet has already warmed by around 1.5°C since the Industrial Revolution, intensifying storms, wildfires, droughts and other climate-driven disasters.

For further reporting, please refer to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/nov/13/world-still-on-track-for-catastrophic-26c-temperature-rise-report-finds>

Summary of recent political developments

The Liberal Party’s decision to abandon its 2050 net-zero target, and to unwind Labor’s 2035 emissions and renewable energy goals, has radically shifted the political landscape. The opposition is now positioning itself to run a “Trumpian” anti-renewables campaign, backed by right-wing media and activist organisations such as Advance, which played a key role in the Voice referendum ‘no’ campaign.

In this political climate, where some polling shows up to a third of voters opposing net zero by 2050, Labor’s responsibility is clear: stand firm, strengthen climate policy, and address regional concerns with honesty and respect. The safety and stability of the country now depend on climate leadership that is firm, fair and future-focused.

Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/nov/13/malcom-turnbull-accuses-liberals-of-trumpian-campaign-against-renewables-after-party-dumps-net-zero>

Summary from grassroots community members

The Nationals and conservative Liberals may enjoy a short-term boost from their new strategy, especially in regions worried about energy prices or “overreach” in climate policy.

But the Coalition’s decision to reignite a “climate war” is being framed by Community Independent MPs as proof the Liberals cannot be trusted on climate. Liberal candidates running in Independent-targeted seats will struggle for credibility, even if they attempt to localise their positioning.

Abandoning net-zero undermines investment stability, increases long-term uncertainty and weakens Australia’s international standing. Markets dislike uncertainty; this shift will complicate trade and damage Australia’s reputation.

Labor may believe it has political room to water down the Environment Act, but the crossbench and Independent movement are watching closely.

With current voting trends, neither major party stands to gain more voters than they lose. A weak Environment Act will severely damage Labor’s credibility on nature protection, wildlife conservation and climate safety.

If Labor fails this test of leadership, it will trigger early mobilisation by community groups determined to defend Australia’s environment.

Industry groups in energy, finance and manufacturing will also apply pressure behind the scenes. Meanwhile, smaller parties and Independents will continue to grow in support because they speak with integrity and reflect community concerns.

Our message is simple:

If Labor chooses to negotiate the Environment Act with the Coalition rather than with the Greens and the crossbench, it will be a mistake that will cost seats at the next election. The community expects courage, ambition and integrity – not compromise with parties that deny or delay climate action.

Yours sincerely

Signed

Additional Comments