



LETITION

AUSTRALIA FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The time for delay has passed

SAMPLE

From:
Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

Open letter to politicians at state and federal level - 1st of March 2026

To all parliamentarians in Victoria and Canberra,

We are writing from the Southern Victorian electorates and the wider Geelong region at a moment when climate change is no longer an abstract policy issue. It is a lived reality, unfolding in front of our eyes and landing directly on households, farmers, business, workers and communities.

In recent weeks, Victorians have witnessed climate impacts that should alarm any responsible government. More than 50 heat records were broken across Australia in the last week of January, according to the Bureau of Meteorology. Across western and central Victoria, bushfires driven by record heat have destroyed around 260 homes and more than 1,000 other buildings. Farmers have reported the loss of more than 20,000 cattle and sheep. Large areas of grazing land, vineyards, and cropping country have been damaged or rendered unusable. Financial losses are already counted in hundreds of millions of dollars, and for many families and businesses, the full cost is still unknown.

At the same time, intense rainfall along the Great Ocean Road triggered sudden flash flooding. At Wye River and nearby coastal communities, rivers rose within minutes. Cars and caravans were swept into the ocean. Holiday parks were evacuated. Residents described having no warning and no time to react. And yet more fossil fuel exploration and extraction are planned by the state government for the southern coast. The [flying fox population are dying in their tens of thousands](#) (1) and in Geelong when temperatures reach above 42 degrees C.

These events are not isolated. In 2025, major floods in New South Wales and Queensland destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure, disrupted food supply chains and forced tens of thousands of people to seek emergency assistance. Some of these floods were officially classified as events that should occur only once every one hundred or five hundred years.

The consequences are showing up in daily life. Food prices are rising as crops fail and supply chains are disrupted. Insurance premiums are soaring, or disappearing altogether, leaving

many households uninsured and worse is to come. Farmers and businesses are trying to recover while knowing the next fire or flood may arrive within months. Communities are carrying trauma, financial stress and exhaustion, all while coping with a cost of living crisis.

This is what climate change looks like on the ground. It is costing lives, livelihoods and public money. And we can observe, as the climate scientists have warned us, that it is getting increasingly more dangerous, disruptive and expensive.

Around the world, courts are now recognising what communities have long understood. In the [Netherlands](#) (2) and at the [International Court of Justice](#), (3) landmark climate cases have established that failure to act on climate change is not just morally wrong, but unlawful. Governments have a duty of care to protect their citizens from foreseeable harm, and that duty includes protection from the long-term dangers of rising temperatures caused by fossil fuel emissions and land clearing.

These rulings matter for Australia. They make clear that approving new fossil fuel projects while knowing the damage they cause is a breach of responsibility, not a neutral policy choice.

In this light, many of us feel betrayed by past governments and now Labor's lack of decisive climate action. In the coming 2026–27 budget, more than 10 billion dollars will again be handed to the fossil fuel industry through subsidies, tax concessions and public support. Taxpayer money is being directed to an industry that is actively worsening the climate impacts Australians are already paying for.

At the same time, Labor continues to support the opening of new gas projects in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Coal-fired power stations are having their operating lives extended rather than being firmly scheduled for closure. Climate targets are announced, but [project approvals continue](#) (4) as if those targets do not exist.

This contradiction is impossible to explain to communities that are losing homes, farms and financial security.

We do acknowledge that progress is happening. In October and November 2025, around 51 per cent of Australia's electricity was generated from renewables, solar, wind and hydro supported by batteries and storage. Government support for household batteries is a success story. Electric vehicle sales are growing, though still slowly and cautiously compared with other advanced economies.

But this progress is being driven largely by households, communities and businesses moving ahead despite political hesitation. It is not the result of bold national leadership. It does not justify continued expansion of fossil fuels.

This is no longer an acceptable situation.

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill said, "It is no use saying 'we are doing our best'. You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary." The same applies now. History will not judge intentions. It will judge outcomes.

We have to succeed in doing what is necessary to protect ecosystems, secure food, reduce living costs and water systems, and restore a stable climate.

Why should it be the Australian farmers and households who pay the costs of climate damage? The climate polluters should pay the bill.

The Superpower Institute, led by Ross Garnaut, has proposed a Climate Levy based on a simple and fair principle. Those who profit most from pollution should contribute most to the cost of climate damage, while households are compensated and protected. This is a concrete, workable pathway, a road-map that aligns with economic reality and social fairness.

What is missing is not evidence, technology or policy options. What is missing is political courage.

The people of Victoria and the Geelong region are not asking for perfection. We are asking for honesty, responsibility, transparency and leadership that matches the scale of the crisis. We are asking Labor to stop saying the right things while doing the wrong ones. We are asking you to choose protection of people and country over protection of polluters.

We are asking you as our local member to please reply to this letter from your constituent and make time to call a community forum to understand our real concerns.

The time for delay has passed.

Regards

[Senders name]

SOURCES

1) *The Guardian* on 5 February 2026:

More than 80% of flying fox colony wiped out as January heatwaves kill thousands of bats

Only 180 bats survived intense heat in South Australian town, including 34 babies that carers say face months of recovery.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/feb/05/flying-foxes-january-heatwaves-kill-thousands>

2) *Greenpeace* on 28 January 2026:

The Netherlands violates human rights by failing to protect Bonaire residents from climate crisis: court

In a world first, a Dutch court today ruled that the Netherlands breached the European Convention on Human Rights by not protecting and discriminating against citizens living in the Dutch-Caribbean special municipality of Bonaire from the impacts of the climate crisis, and ordered the State to set new, fair climate targets.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/80952/the-netherlands-violates-human-rights-by-failing-to-protect-bonaire-residents-from-climate-crisis-court/>

3) *Centre for Climate Safety* on 27 July 2025:

World court shakes the system: corporate lawyer sees climate breakthrough

Corporate lawyer Robert Hinkley says world court decision is a turning point for corporate law and has potential to end greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://climatesafety.info/world-court-shakes-the-system-corporate-lawyer-sees-climate-breakthrough/>

4) *The Guardian* on 13 February 2026:

Qld coalmine expansion approved by Albanese government will clear habitat and fuel climate crisis, scientists say

Conservationists estimate coal exported from expanded mine to release CO2 equivalent of about half Australia's annual carbon footprint

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/feb/13/qld-coalmine-expansion-approved-by-albanese-government-will-clear-habitat-and-fuel-climate-crisis-scientists-say>