

Letter to all CCSA Member groups and CCSA Executive:

Dear CCSA Members and Member Groups,

We write on behalf of the Climate Change Sub-Committee set up at the 2018 AGM. Please read this letter, as it is clear that we are all facing unprecedented climatic events, after the hottest Australian summer on record revealed itself in fires, floods, fish kills, storms and ongoing drought across our country. Inaction is not an option.

Firstly, we would be grateful if you, as Secretary of a CCSA Member Group, could send this letter and attached action sheet to all members of your group. This letter is designed to reach out across all CCSA member groups and to enlist their practical action, support and feedback. Our aim is to outline the most important and effective ways we can all help - at the personal, community and policy level.

In order to reduce the climate risk for all, South Australia can rise up as a climate leader, ban all new fossil fuel projects and continue its rapid transition towards renewable energy and battery technology at scale. At the same time, we must protect our precious biodiversity and support the ecological resilience of the ecosystems that underpin our long-term food and water security. At scale, our individual lifestyle choices (food, transport and energy) also make a measurable contribution towards a safer climate future.

The attached Action Plan sets out a range of key actions that will make a difference.

Action Sheet Summary

Aim: To encourage responsible action at all levels of government and community:

Federal Government - New liquid natural gas (LNG) and coal export contracts (recent and proposed) mean that Australia's carbon emissions continue to rise rapidly, wiping out the climate benefit of all progress to reduce emissions in the electricity sector. Banning new fossil fuel export contracts will have little or no negative impact on our economy (as the financial benefits largely go offshore to fossil fuel companies, not to the Australian community) and would stop most proposed new fossil fuel extraction.

Actions:

- Sign the [Stop Exporting Climate Damage](#) petition & support a ban all NEW fossil fuel export contracts. Supporting info is [here](#).
- Ask your federal MP to join [Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action](#) set up by Independent Co-Chairs Rebekha Sharkie, Mayo & Dr Kerry Phelp, Wentworth, as a non-partisan forum for Parliamentarians to meet and interact with groups and individuals on matters relating to expertise on climate change science and policy

State Government - SA has global recognition for climate leadership at the sub-national level, and could become a pioneer by banning all NEW fossil fuel projects (and other climate-damaging projects) explicitly on climate grounds. We don't need any new fossil fuel projects to keep the lights on, and state coffers would miss out on very little in lost revenue. Ensure all new Renewable energy projects meet strict guidelines for ecosystem protection and avoid further damage to endangered ecosystems under the guise of Infrastructure projects.

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Actions:

- Read a summary and sign the [SA petition](#) for no more bad investments in SA (including No Drilling for Oil in the Bight,
- Ask your state MP to support a ban on new fossil fuel and other climate-damaging projects. Supporting info is [here](#).

Local Council - Almost 400 local councils around the world have declared a Climate Emergency, including 1 (Gawler) in SA & a total so far of 12 in Australia. Several more SA councils will debate similar motions at their next council meeting.

Actions:

- Sign the [petition asking Adelaide City Council](#) to declare a Climate Emergency
- Ask your own local council to join this [global trend](#) of climate leadership, and take action by educating local communities about the climate benefits of all-electric homes, particularly given SA's high and growing percentage of renewable electricity. Information [here](#). -- Ensure your local Council supports composting and recycling and provides free access to energy efficiency kits at local libraries.

Community

Investigate potential for renewable energy/battery bulk buys or community-funded Renewable Energy projects to get solar panels/wind turbines installed on community buildings including libraries, kindergartens, fire brigades, surf lifesaving clubs.

Call for fossil fuel divestment and reinvestment in low carbon alternatives, including within our own communities and advocate to stronger flows of finance for sustainable just transition projects.

Set up/support local bulk buying outlets for community-supported agricultural produce to reduce food miles and support local farmers

Personal

Use efficient sustainable transport options wherever possible - bicycles, foot, electric/hybrid cars (Go-Get in Adelaide CBD), public transport, car-pooling - consider using web-based conferencing facilities for some meetings, like Zoom or Skype.

Consider your diet, buy locally produced, unpackaged fresh food with minimal food miles and reduce meat consumption

Install energy and water-saving devices in your home and garden, plant local native species and consider wildlife needs

Communicate openly with friends and family about your climate concerns, to raise awareness and develop shared solutions.

African Proverb: "To go quickly, go alone - if you want to go far, go together. We need to go far - quickly!"

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