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Climate Leadership Needed from the Federal Government

To: The Hon. Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Cc: The Hon. Angus Taylor, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions

Dear Prime Minister,

Five years ago today, the repeal of the national carbon price received the Royal ascent. And since then, Australia's emissions have increased year on year.

Unchecked climate change leaves communities exposed to intensifying impacts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the *Global Warming of 1.5 °C* says greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2030. It warns of catastrophic impacts if global warming is not kept below 1.5°C.

Australia has seen record-breaking heat, back-to-back bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, and unprecedented bushfires in Tasmania. Communities have raised the alarm about climate impacts such as bushfires, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise. Our neighbours in the Pacific are calling for Australia to reduce our emissions.

All levels of government must take action to rein in emissions and protect communities from climate impacts.

States and Territories are showing leadership to tackle the climate crisis. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and the ACT have committed to zero-net emissions by 2050. It is the de facto national standard. They are also pursuing policies to roll out renewable energy and decarbonise other sectors of the economy, such as transport.

It is time for the Australian government to show leadership on climate too.

The Coalition government can demonstrate a commitment to reducing emissions by:

1. Legislating a target of zero-net emissions by 2050—a target recently endorsed by the conservative UK government.
2. Increasing the level of ambition of Australia's medium-term emissions reduction target—which is currently just 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
3. Supporting state and territory efforts to rein in emissions—such as policies to rollout renewable energy and set Emissions Reduction Targets.

The first test of your government's commitment to climate action will come in September when the United Nations will convene a *Climate Action Summit*. There is an expectation that countries will use the occasion to increase the level of ambition taken to medium-term emissions reduction goals.

The UN *Climate Action Summit* is an excellent opportunity for your government to commit to the aforementioned recommendations.

Friends of the Earth and community members concerned about the climate crisis will be paying close attention to the Coalition government's actions in coming months.

Kind Regards,

Cam Walker
Campaigns Coordinator
Friends of the Earth Australia