

Hon. Julie Bishop MP,
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in your capacity of Australia's lead negotiator at the UN climate talks in Paris, December 2015. I am concerned about the numerous effects that unrelenting global warming will have upon Australia's future - its economy, its people's health and the general stability of this nation.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on attending the climate talks in Lima last year and ensuring that Australia was represented. I also congratulate you on securing \$200 million for the Green Climate Fund.

Climate change will have significant impacts if left unabated. Scientists predict an increase in extreme weather events and resource shortages in basics such as food and water for humans and livestock. A recent report by the Australian Academy of Science highlights unemployment, population displacement, increased spread of tropical diseases and social inequity as potential impacts. Our Pacific neighbours may feel the effects first and conflicts may arise as a result.

Committing to significant carbon emissions reduction will help create jobs in the renewable sector, reduce fossil fuel emissions, deaths and ill health associated with polluting coal fired power stations and importantly, at this crucial time, help avoid dangerous climate change for our future generations. Scientists have said that we need to reduce carbon pollution significantly now. If we continue on in status quo, we will reach a 2 degree increase (450 ppm of CO₂) within 2 decades. We will then be unable to effect climate change as it continues to snowball. Lets not leave this legacy to our children.

Renewable energy is undoubtedly a big part of the solution to Climate Change. It is cleaner, healthier, sustainable, more equitable and competing economically. I urge you to see what is happening in major economies like the USA, the EU and China who have seen the economic, environmental and health benefits and are currently, quickly establishing larger renewable energy sectors. China's motive might be smog and health related, but in the first quarter of 2015 it has installed more solar power than the USA did in 2014. Renewables would boost rural income and lower unemployment levels. It would rebuild the loss of thousands of jobs which has resulted from uncertainty with the RET. Australia must move forward, embrace renewables and not miss the opportunities of this significant new manufacturing and services sector.

As the Foreign Affairs Minister, you must have witnessed how village people's lives improve with access to cheap renewable locally sourced energy. I am one of a majority of Australians who support strong action on climate change. We want Australia to be a leader in climate solutions, to retain a significant Renewable Energy Target and eliminate the subsidies going to fossil fuels.

I urge you to stand up and be a leader who makes Australia proud by committing to an ambitious emissions reduction targets at the UN climate talks - for a secure and stable Australia for generations to come.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leigh Gibb", enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Leigh Gibb