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Honourable Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Dear Ms Bishop

MAKE US PROUD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

You have a hugely important task in representing Australia at the UN Climate talks in Paris in December. And your task is further complicated by the politics in the country at present. However, there is enormous agreement that we have to take urgent and serious action to avoid catastrophic warming of our planet by reducing CO₂ emissions and attempt to keep warming to under 2°C.

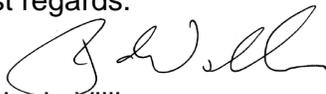
Australia's recent record in this regard is not something to be proud of and appears to be at odds with community sentiment and belief. The Climate Change Authority in their report this month urging for drastic increase of the emissions reduction target to 30% reported that the Australian per capita emissions at over 30 tons is almost 1/3 greater than that of the US and almost 2/3 that of Germany, the UK and the EU. The Australian emissions intensity at t/\$m GDP PPP is at 880 vs 493 for the US, with Germany, the UK and EU recording between 392 and 365. The Australian economy is hugely carbon intensive compared to the rest of the developed world, so the argument that we are a small country and our total contribution in the world makes no sense.

Bloomberg New Energy Finance recently reported that in 2013 renewables overtook fossil fuels with 143GW of capacity added against 141GW of fossil fuel capacity. And the trends are predicted to continue to diverge with fossil fuels continuing a marked decline in coming years with renewables continuing rapid growth. Australia lags disastrously behind.

Instead of facing the scientific consensus of about 97% on Climate Change, the latest insult has been the appointment of Bjørn Lomborg and his utterly discredited "consensus centre" at UWA. One only hopes that the wide-ranging outrage at this action may soon overturn it.

I prevail on you for some sanity and to think of future generations in taking a strong stand within government so that Australia is able to put a more reasonable position on the table than it has done thus far. So that we may again lift our heads in the international community.

Best regards.



Louis de Villiers