

FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION

4th June, 2021

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT, 2600

Dear The Hon Scott Morrison,

We write to you with mixed feelings today.

> **On the one hand, our hearts are tired and heavy. One the other, we're also feeling hopeful.**

Let's start with the heavy part. We're a Sydney-based creative consultancy called Republic of Everyone, and our agency has been deep in the sustainability space for nearly 15 years now. In this time we've helped businesses and organisations big and small to figure out how they can have a positive impact on the world and their customers; and then actually get stuck in and get the job done. And no, they're not just inner-city greenies as you might expect - our clients are brands you probably buy products from yourself. Coca Cola, Unilever, Kimberley-Clarke, Optus, Suncorp, Bunnings, and Officeworks. Just to name a few.

So through this work, we're intimately familiar with the looming catastrophe which is irreversible climate change. More specifically, we're deeply concerned about the way it's going to harm everyday Australians.



Temperatures rising to over 50° in Summer in Sydney and Melbourne by 2040¹



Bitter battles over the availability of fresh water



Lives and homes lost to extreme weather



The cost of groceries rising as producing food only gets harder

We know you're well aware of how the situation is predicted to play out - the experts have been pleading with you to do something for years now.

But yes, despite it all, we're also hopeful. Deeply, deeply hopeful. At the end of last year (November 2020), we conducted a survey² to see what Australians were most worried about as they looked towards an uncertain new year. You know what they told us? COVID-19 was squarely in their minds' eye, as you'd expect, but it didn't actually take out the top spot of their worry list.

Australia's top concern coming into 2021 was climate change.

And why are we hopeful about this? Well, it goes to show that everyday Australians will support you taking positive action on the issue.

And what's more, they're not just saying it. They're walking their talk. Australians are literally out there, on the streets, asking you to act on climate change.

Now, let's talk money for a minute. The budget you released recently? We think there's room for improvement. Australia is incredibly blessed with endless sunshine, a huge land area, powerful winds, motivated innovators and businesses, and strong trade relationships. You could transform Australia into a renewable energy powerhouse with ease and speed with the support of Australia's businesses and your constituents.

Such a transformation wouldn't just work to reduce our emissions and meet our international climate commitments - it would be good news for Australia. We would be seen as a leader in a world that is rapidly transitioning to low-carbon (with or without us). We'd be on the front foot in developing innovative technologies and exporting our energy to our international neighbours. We'd be creating thousands of jobs for everyday Australians.

So in summary, we need you to make some big decisions. And with urgency. Unfortunately the boat has already sailed on a gradual transition to low-carbon.

Specifically, we urge you to:

- + Immediately cease further investments in fossil fuels, and **put a stop to the 'gas led recovery'**
- + Implement a renewable energy target of **100% by 2030**
- + Commit to achieving a target of Australia **Net Zero by 2040**

Now's the time. You have the power and influence to make this all happen - and safeguard our collective future. Do it for Australia.

Yours in concern and hope,

Republic of Everyone

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References:

1. O'Malley, Nick, 2021, "Brutal heat in Australia by 2040 will change the shape of summer sport", Sydney Morning Herald, accessed 2 June 2021, available at <<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/brutal-heat-in-australia-by-2040-will-change-the-shape-of-summer-sport-20210224-p575fu.html>>

2. Republic of Everyone, 2021, "The Power and the Passion: A study into the issues Australians are passionate about and how brands have the power to make change", viewed 2 June 2021, available at <<http://powerandthepassion.com.au/>>