

Anthony Albanese MP  
Leader of the Australian Labour Party  
Federal Member for Grayndler

Dear Anthony Albanese,

Thank you so much putting women front and centre in your budget reply this week.

I am a member of the Women's Climate Congress. WCC was formed this year after the devastating bushfires. It has quickly grown a diverse, nonpartisan network of women in every state and territory. We are working to build common ground for united action to stabilise the climate and focus policy decisions on sustaining life on Earth for future generations

As my parliamentary representative for the Grayndler constituency, and in particular as leader of the Opposition, I urge you to spearhead a national conversation that convinces voters and your fellow politicians of all parties of the urgent need to pursue a COVID recovery with initiatives that support the rapid decarbonisation needed to meet international agreements and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

I urge you to recognise that Australia needs bold leadership that goes way beyond short term political expediency. You can lead the way in encouraging collaborative discourse with your parliamentary colleagues of all parties so that we can find a way through the political, economic and technical issues that need to be resolved to achieve a successful and fair transition. We ask you to champion and support national legislation to drive Australia's reduction in carbon emissions to zero in line with scientific advice, the Paris Accord and subsequent COP advice that the world is not currently on track to meet the Paris target.

Specifically we look to you for leadership in the rapid phasing out of fossil fuels, gas as well as coal. The Australian Energy Market Operator indicates that more gas generation is not required. The CSIRO tells us that gas is an expensive way to generate electricity. Economists say that gas extraction creates very few jobs. Scientists remind us that gas is incompatible with our Paris Goals. Investors say the returns on gas make it a poor investment.

The Womens's Climate Congress would like to work with you to help set our nation on the right course, and along with some of my WCC colleagues I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss these issues further with you. We would be happy to meet with you either in person or via Zoom.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Leigh

<Address/contact details supplied>