

20th May, 2015

The Hon. Bill Shorten, MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Shorten

We write as religious leaders from diverse communities, to urge you to support the adoption of robust commitments to limit carbon emissions at the Australian Labor Party National Conference.

From our various traditions, we urge you to adopt a policy platform that will allow Australia to give leadership in this important international and intergenerational justice issue.

We affirm Labor's commitment to increasing the nation's capacity for generating energy from renewable sources.

On April 22, the Climate Change Authority released its report putting forward that a reasonable pollution reduction target for Australia should be 30% below 2000 levels by 2025. This would be broadly comparable with levels of ambition of other wealthy developed countries, given the aim of limiting global warming to 2 degrees. We recognise that this is a challenging target that would require a significant restructure of the Australian economy over a relatively short timeframe. Yet we believe there is a moral imperative to work towards it.

Indeed there are very good reasons to aim for even higher emissions reduction targets. We propose 40% below 1990 levels by 2025, and 80% below by 2030, and increase our offer to the UN Climate Fund.<sup>i</sup> Australia has the technological and economic capacity to deliver on these policies. It is an opportunity to play our part in addressing the common environmental challenge humanity faces. It would not only create a safer, more stable climate for Australia and other vulnerable countries; it would also bring added economic benefits, through the strengthening of sustainable technology sectors and the creation of new employment opportunities.<sup>ii</sup>

We urge the ALP to support these policy positions. As representatives of some of the world's great faith traditions we find compelling moral and religious reasons from within our very different traditions for the policy actions we commend to you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Philip Freier'.

Archbishop Philip Freier  
Primate, Anglican Church in Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nihal Agar'.

Professor Nihal Agar,  
Chairman, Hindu Council of Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui Remond'.

Jacqui Remond,  
Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jonathan Keren-Black'.

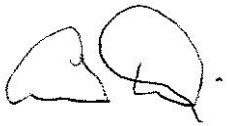
Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black,  
Environmental Advisor,  
Council of Progressive Rabbis



Mr Kim Hollow,  
President, Federation of Australian Buddhist  
Councils



Venerable Ajahn Brahm,  
Australian Sangha Association,  
Spiritual Director, Buddhist Society of  
Western Australia



Rev Professor Andrew Dutney  
President, Uniting Church of Australia  
National Assembly



Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins,  
Senior Rabbi, Emanuel Synagogue

Cc The Hon. Greg Hunt, MP  
Minister for the Environment

The Hon. Mark Butler, MP  
Shadow Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

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<sup>i</sup> An analysis at ANU suggested Australia's fair contribution to be somewhere between \$1.9 and \$2.7 billion p.a., ref. Jotzo, F., Pickering, J. and Wood, P.J., "Fulfilling Australia's International Finance Commitments: Which Sources of Finance are Promising and How Much Could they Raise?" CCEP working paper 1115, October 2011.

<sup>ii</sup> According to Professor Robert Pollin at the Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, investment in a green economy creates 17 jobs for every 5 jobs created by equivalent investment in fossil fuels and nuclear energy.