

16 September 2026

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CC: The Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy
Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: A wake-up call on climate change

We write to you as organisations working on international development and climate change to urge Australia to show urgent leadership on global climate finance and ending fossil fuel expansion in response to the catastrophic flash floods on the Nepal and Tibet border.

The human cost of this tragedy is immense. Over 1,300 people have already died from this climate disaster and many thousands more are missing. Whole villages have been destroyed, and over 84,000 people have been affected, with many left without food, clean water, shelter or safety.

Amidst this, the United Nations Environment Programme's Limiting Overshoot report has revealed that the world is on track to exceed the 1.5°C warming limit set in the Paris Agreement.

The report is an urgent wake-up call for Australia and the world to take rapid action to phase out fossil fuels and provide the funding frontline communities need to adapt and recover from climate disasters.

Nepal is responsible for only around 0.1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet without access to adequate climate finance for adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, Nepal and other least developed countries are being left to pay the devastating price for a crisis they did little to create.

The Government of Nepal estimates that the flood recovery costs will reach USD 4-5 billion. This amounts to roughly a tenth of Nepal's economy. That is equivalent to Australia facing an AUD 200 billion disaster recovery bill.

Our organisations welcome the AUD 11 million in humanitarian assistance that Australia has provided in response to this crisis. Sadly, this is a drop in the ocean compared to what will be needed in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

In 2024, governments agreed to deliver at least USD 300 billion annually in climate finance to Global South countries by 2035. However, Australia, along with many other wealthy nations, has yet to announce how much it will contribute toward meeting this goal.

In 2022, governments established the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage to provide urgently needed funding to rebuild and recover from climate disasters. However, the Fund has only received USD 822 million in pledges, just a fraction of the estimated USD 400 billion in funding that developing countries need each year.

As President of Negotiations at COP31, Australia has the unique opportunity and responsibility to catalyse global ambition, drive the transition away from fossil fuels and provide the climate finance that developing countries urgently need. This leadership must start at home. We have three simple asks:

1. Australia must stop approving new coal, oil and gas projects that are making climate change worse

Australia must stop making climate change worse. The Government's continued approval of new coal and gas mines and extensions directly contradicts the survival of frontline communities across the world. There is a direct causal relationship between fossil fuel projects and escalating heatwaves, disasters and mortality which attribution science can now track, and legal frameworks now recognise. We call on the Government to urgently stop approving new coal, oil and gas projects.

This means rejecting proposed new projects with colossal climate pollution footprints like Whitehaven Coal's Winchester South (half a billion tonnes), Glencore's Hunter Valley Operations continuation project (800 million tonnes), Woodside's Browse gas project (1.6 billion tonnes) and Beetaloo fracking proposals (up to 1.2 billion tonnes).

The gravity and consequences of these decisions cannot be overstated. Approving these projects would cause harm and kill people.

2. Australia must commit to paying our fair share of climate finance for developing countries

Australia should do more by announcing \$11 billion in climate finance over the next five years so that communities in least developed countries like Nepal are not left with billions in debt and devastation that they cannot recover from.

Australia should also support Nepal's urgent request to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

3. Australia must end all fossil fuel subsidies and make big polluters pay for their climate damage

Australia provides around \$14.5 billion in fossil fuel subsidies per year, far greater than the \$2.2 billion per year on average we are calling for to support climate adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage responses in our region and globally. Redirecting just 20 per cent of annual fossil fuel subsidies towards international climate finance would enable Australia to meet an \$11 billion goal.

Fossil fuel corporations made \$93 billion in profits amid the recent oil crisis, and one in three coal, oil and gas corporations pay no corporate income tax in Australia. A Climate Pollution Levy on big coal, oil and gas corporations could raise at least \$22 billion per year to pay for the climate damage these corporations are causing.

Global leadership could not be more urgent than it is right now. The climate catastrophe facing communities in Nepal and Tibet provides a glimpse into the future for communities across Australia and the world.

We urge you to act with the urgency that this crisis demands.

Yours sincerely,



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