



PRIME MINISTER

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17 March 2020

Professor Steven Sherwood
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Dear Professor Sherwood

Thank you for writing to me about the bushfires and Australia's action on climate change.

Like you, I want Australia to heed the lessons of this summer. These fires have been fueled by one of the worst droughts on record, climate change and a build up in fuel amongst other factors.

Our summers are going to get longer, drier and hotter and that requires a new responsiveness, resilience and a re-invigorated focus on adaptation.

That is why the Government has established the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. Amongst other matters it will focus on, improving Australia's preparedness, resilience, and response to natural disasters, across all levels of government.

Professor Andrew Macintosh, a specialist in climate risk and impact management will be a Commissioner and assist Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC (Retd) who will lead the Royal Commission.

In relation to your broader concerns about Australia's efforts combating climate change, Australia is taking strong climate action as part of a coordinated global effort. We are committed to the Paris Agreement and have a proud history of meeting and beating our international climate change commitments – we are on track to beat our 2020 target by 411 million tonnes.

Our Paris Target, reducing emissions by 26 to 28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030, is a responsible one that makes a significant contribution to global climate action. It represents a halving of emissions per person in Australia, or a two-thirds reduction in emissions per unit of GDP.

The Australian Government has a suite of practical policies in place to meet our emissions reduction targets while maintaining a strong and prosperous economy.

At the centre of our policies is the \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package, including a new \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund. This builds on our previous \$2.55 billion Emissions Reductions Fund and will help businesses, communities and landholders to reduce emissions. So far we have secured more than 190 million tonnes of emissions reductions, of which over 80 per cent will be delivered by the agricultural and land sectors.

Australia is also on track for around one third of our electricity needs to be met by renewables in the early 2020s. Right now, an unprecedented wave of clean energy investment is underway in Australia and new records are being set. We have the world's highest uptake of rooftop solar – one in five homes have solar on their roofs.

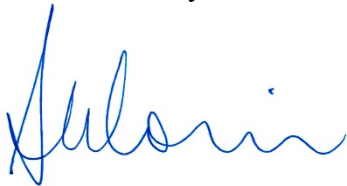
To support the transition to renewable energy, the Government is investing in the energy storage and infrastructure of the future. This includes a \$1.38 billion equity investment in the Snowy 2.0 project, which will be the biggest battery in the Southern Hemisphere.

Australia is also making progress towards increasing our overall energy efficiency by 40 per cent by 2030. The Climate Solutions Package, announced in February 2019, provides measures to improve energy efficiency, such as \$18 million to improve energy efficiency in homes and buildings and lower energy bills.

I am proud to say Australia also has one of the highest rates of per capita investment in renewable energy technologies in the world. The Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the world's most successful green bank, has mobilised over \$20 billion in new investments in our economy.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important issue. Australia is making a strong contribution to the global effort of tackling climate change while ensuring we have a robust and resilient economy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', with a stylized, cursive script.

SCOTT MORRISON