

From the Lighter Footprints MP Engagement Group

Tell your MP you want Australia to bring strong targets to COP26

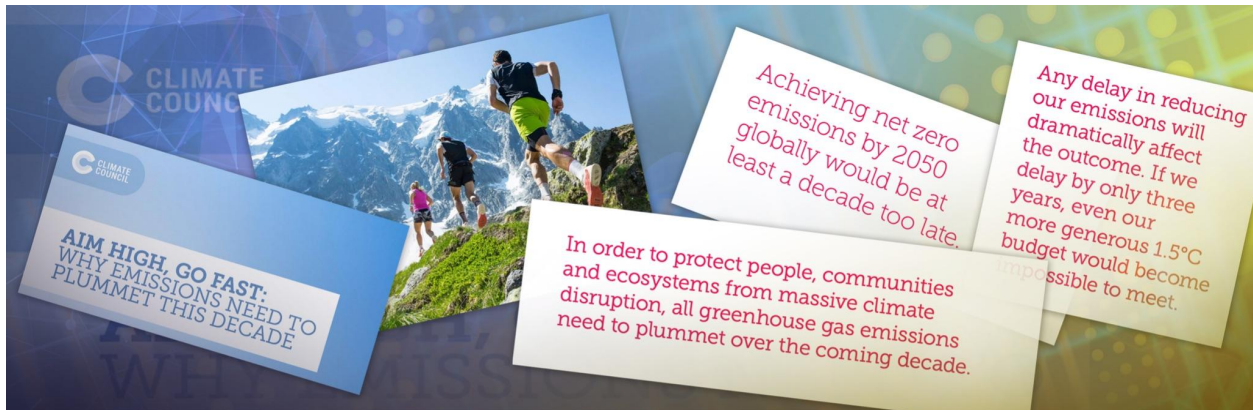
The COP26 international climate negotiations are in November. In the lead up to COP26 nations are announcing their updated emission reduction targets.

- The US has announced 50-52% emission reduction by 2030
- The EU has opted for at least 55% by 2030
- Australia has stubbornly stuck with the 26-28% by 2030 target
- Most nations have pledged net zero by 2050, with China being a notable exception going for 2060
- Australia continues to prevaricate on net zero

The climate movement wants to step up pressure on the Morrison government to

- bring stronger targets to COP26
- stop acting as a blocker in international negotiations

This is where we come in.



One easy tactic that you can execute from home in lockdown is to **write to your MP**, and then send similar letters to Victorian Senators, the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers **asking for stronger targets**.

What better way to spend your time than trying to save the planet for future generations!

MPs email addresses follow the following protocol: First name.Last name.MP@aph.gov.au and senator.last name@aph.gov.au

We want to draw our elected representatives' attention to the Climate Council's ['Aim High Go Fast'](#) report which advocates for Australia to aim for 75% emission reductions by 2030 and net zero by 2035.

We highly recommend reading the report, or at least the Key Findings.

Here is a basic outline you can follow for your letter.

1. Introduce yourself as either a local in their electorate or a resident of Victoria. Say something about why you are concerned about climate change. To show that your concerns are shared by others you could explain that you are a supporter of Lighter Footprints and how you got involved with the group and insert some of the following information about Lighter Footprints, but in your own words: *'Lighter Footprints is a non-partisan, volunteer, community organisation based in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne with over 2,600 supporters who are concerned about the climate crises the world faces.'*
2. Explain that you are writing a letter to encourage them or their advisors to read the Climate Council's report and provide a link to that report in your email <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/net-zero-emissions-plummet-decade/>. Outline that you are **concerned about Australia's inadequate climate targets** and lack of ambition on climate action to align with the goal of keeping heating to 1.5 degrees and well below 2 degrees (as agreed to in the Paris Climate Agreement).
3. Ask them to advocate **for Australia to commit to a stronger 2030 target in the lead up to COP26**. Note that the Climate Council advocates for Australia to aim for 75% emission reductions by 2030 and net zero by 2035. You might like to say that, in this context, Australia's failure to even commit to a 2050 target is a failure in its duty to protect its citizens and to be a responsible world citizen.
4. Put forward information from the Climate Council's report that it is now impossible to keep warming to 1.5 degrees without overshoot and drawdown.
5. State that **this is the critical decade to take action** and that as an elected representative they are uniquely placed to advocate for and implement the change we need. They have the power and the responsibility.
6. Leave your contact details and say that you look forward to their response.

What are the goals we are aiming for?

- We want our representatives to increase their emissions reduction targets significantly.
- We want rapid decarbonisation within this critical decade.
- We want them to be a voice of change to represent our concerns.
- We want them to advocate for a faster energy transition that supports workers.
- We want Australia to be a world leader in climate action.
- We want our representatives to understand how dire the situation is.

So we can judge the success or failure of our letter writing campaign - please email a copy of your letter to lynnmick@lighterfootprints.org. If you want to join our MP engagement group and write more letters please let us know on the same email.