

30 May 2019

The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia

Dear Prime Minister

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election.

You may recall that as convenor of a new group, Emergency Leaders for Climate Action, I wrote to you in April this year requesting the opportunity to meet with you after the election to discuss the urgent need to bolster Australia's ability to respond to and recover from escalating natural disasters including droughts, heatwaves, bushfires, floods, storms and cyclones.

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action is comprised of former fire and emergency service chief officers and commissioners from every state and territory in Australia – a well-respected and trusted group unified by one issue: our deep concern about the drastic changes in risk that we have witnessed during our careers, and the increasing likelihood that current emergency response and recovery arrangements in Australia will increasingly be overwhelmed by catastrophic events placing Australians and emergency services personnel lives in danger. This is something that is happening globally, not just in Australia, as evidenced by the unprecedented bushfires experienced across the globe last year in places including California (nearly 100 dead and 14,000 buildings destroyed), Greece (nearly 100 dead), Sweden and the UK (both of which were not previously considered prone to bushfires), and many other countries.

Regardless of necessary actions taken on long term emissions abatement, escalating extreme weather events are already happening. A small delegation of former fire and emergency chiefs would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you to briefly explain what is happening, and how Australia's current emergency management arrangements will not cope into the future. Australia now needs to work hard on adapting to what is referred to as the "new normal"; a far more dangerous environment. Our colleagues who currently occupy commissioner and chief officer positions are unfortunately constrained in what they can say on this most contentious of issues – we are not, and we will speak honestly and openly to you about practical solutions.

Prime Minister, I believe that your victory demonstrates the respect and hope that you command politically and throughout Australia. It is my personal hope that you will choose to use this mandate to bring the community together: to stop the senseless "climate wars"; to work on climate change adaptation; to help workers move into new low carbon industries that will help the Australian economy prosper in the twenty-first century; to encourage renewable energy; and to do our fair share internationally to deeply reduce emissions and limit dangerous climate impacts.

I look forward to your response and to providing vital information that will assist you in keeping Australians safe – something that I know you are passionate about.

Yours sincerely,

**Greg Mullins AO, AFSM**  
Convenor – Emergency Leaders for Climate Action  
Former Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW