

October 2023

Dear parliamentarians,

We, Climate Emergency Australia (CEA), are writing in support of the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023.

CEA represents councils around Australia that have declared a climate emergency. Across the country 115 councils have declared a climate emergency, as have the South Australian Government and the ACT Government.

Every year, with alarming and increasing frequency, councils and communities are grappling with fires, floods, droughts, storms, heatwaves and other disasters. Communities have already seen bushfires and floods in early spring this year and are bracing for a summer of dangerous bushfire conditions and extreme heat.

Councils around Australia know that we are in a climate emergency that endangers both current and future generations. Young people around Australia are experiencing unprecedented physical and mental health impacts caused by this climate crisis.

Our children and grandchildren will be affected most of all by our decisions now in this most critical of times. It's time for all levels of government to recognise this emergency, and to respond with the scale, speed and coordination needed.

As the Executive of CEA we are writing to ask parliament to adopt this bill. Factoring climate change into all decision-making is part of a climate emergency response and is the responsibility of every level of government. We believe this bill will hold the government to account and ensure they do just this. We owe it to young Australians ensure we can return to a safe climate that will enable the kind of lives and livelihoods our generation has enjoyed.

We call on you now to declare a climate emergency and to pass this bill to safeguard the rights of young people alive today as well as future generations to a safe climate.

Climate Emergency Executive:

Councillor Alida McKern, Banyule City Council, VIC
Councillor Trent McCarthy, Darebin City Council, VIC
Mayor Karen Redman, Mayor, Town of Gawler, SA
Councillor Jason Modica, Mildura Rural City Council, VIC
Councillor Brian Stockwell, Noosa Shire Council, QLD
Councillor HY William Chan, City of Sydney, NSW