

**Re: Coal-Fired Power Funding Prohibition Bill 2017**

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to express my wholehearted support and enthusiasm for this bill. I am steadfastly against the development of new, and continued use of existing, coal-fired power plants. As the impacts of climate change are being felt around the world at an increasing rate<sup>1</sup> and at increasing intensities,<sup>2</sup> and as Australia is poised to become “an emissions super-power”,<sup>3</sup> we are in dire need of downsizing our coal operations.

Eliminating government subsidies to an outdated and polluting industry is necessary for both the economy and the environment. It can no longer be said that ecologically sustainable development (ESD) requires the consideration of economic benefits received from coal-related activities. This is because coal, including coking coal, is a dying industry that has no long-term economic future and also because of the significant economic costs associated with the worsening effects of climate change. ESD *necessarily* includes intergenerational equity, which cannot be said to be considered in any new or existing coal-related activity.

This bill is a timely lifeline for our otherwise dismal environmental record. Even our courts<sup>4</sup> acknowledge the unacceptable impact coal-related activities are having on our environment. The legislation must keep pace.

Yours Faithfully,

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Fiona Harvey (2019), ‘One climate crisis disaster happening every week, UN warns’, *The Guardian*, available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/07/one-climate-crisis-disaster-happening-every-week-un-warns>>

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Phil Hoad (2019), ‘Montpellier melts under a 45C high as Europe hit by record heatwave’, *The Guardian*, available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/29/montpellier-melts-45c-heatwave-europe>>

<sup>3</sup> Adam Morton, (2019), ‘Fossil fuel exports make Australia one of the worst contributors to climate crisis’, *The Guardian*, available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/08/fossil-fuel-exports-make-australia-one-of-the-worst-contributors-to-climate-crisis>>

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, the recent decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court, *Gloucester Resources Limited v Minister for Planning* [2019] NSWLEC 7, available at: <<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5c59012ce4b02a5a800be47f>>