

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS GRAVE COSTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY THAT CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED

STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIAN MAYORS

The fires this week in Australia have placed hundreds of thousands of people in great danger.

The catastrophic conditions for these fires were, at least in part, fuelled by climate change.

13 of the 14 hottest years on record have occurred this century. Last year Queensland experienced catastrophic fire conditions for the first time. This week, Sydney experienced catastrophic fire conditions for the first time.

Climate change has grave costs for our community that can no longer be ignored. The fires on across Australia this week have caused catastrophic damage.

In the past week, people have lost their lives, their loved ones, and their homes. Many businesses have lost the ability to operate and trade.

Our air has been filled with smoke, making it hard to breathe and affecting thousands of people with respiratory issues.

Fire seasons are now starting earlier and lasting longer. Apart from the stress this takes on first responders and communities, it also results in a shrinking window to carry out hazard reduction burns.

Now, it is time to honestly and bravely address one of the major causes of these fires, climate change.

Now we need to significantly increase funding to frontline services.

Now we need to place the welfare and safety of citizens ahead of profit, and to support those companies offering real solutions.

Some regional towns are already running out of water. How will they survive the next fire?

Many in the insurance industry are saying that large areas of Australia will be uninsurable.

This government has the chance to be the first to turn the years of inaction and neglect into action and focus and allow our communities to reap the rewards.

When we have a crisis, it makes sense for us to listen to emergency service professionals.

Now, it makes sense for our federal government to listen to the warnings of those on the frontline.

We need the government to acknowledge the link between climate change and bushfire, we need more funding for all emergency services, and we need the government to take the action required to prevent megafires.

Now is not the time for blame. Now is the time for leadership, and keeping all Australians safe.

THIS JOINT STATEMENT IS SIGNED BY:

Tony Wellington
Mayor Noosa Shire Council

Simon Richardson
Mayor Byron Shire

Claire Pontin
Deputy Mayor MidCoast Council

Dominic King
Mayor Bellingen Shire Council

Katie Milne
Mayor Tweed Shire

Amanda Findlay
Mayor Shoalhaven City Council

Elly Bird
Deputy Mayor Lismore City Council

Jerome Laxale
Mayor City of Ryde

Nuatali Nemes
Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council

Barry Calvert
Mayor Hawkesbury City Council

Emma Heyde
Councillor Hornsby Shire Council

Mark Greenhill
Mayor Blue Mountains City Council

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor City of Sydney