



Extreme weather is hurting Australia, and our communities are paying the price.

STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIAN MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS

Heavy rain, gale-force winds, storm surges and flooding are damaging our communities, endangering our residents and costing us millions of dollars in clean up costs.

Schools and businesses have been forced to close, the lights have gone out, roads cut off, beaches washed away, and properties damaged.

Many of our communities also experienced the Black Summer bushfire season of 2019-20.

It is clear that the impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather are all around us.

As the closest tier of government to the community, we are responsible for warning our towns and cities of disaster risks, helping them prepare, fielding calls for help, and responding in the moment. We are also left with the task of cleaning up - and paying for - the mess while we continue to deliver the essential services so many rely on.

We are exhausted by the immediate costs and challenges, and we are worried about what's to come. Extreme weather disasters used to occur every few years. Now, we are facing them every few months.

A report by the Climate Council revealed that climate-fuelled disasters have cost our national economy \$35 billion over the past decade. By 2038, the price tag of climate impacts will climb to \$100 billion a year.

How will our communities cope? Who will pick up the pieces?

We are among the sunniest and windiest countries on earth. We have the natural resources to become a world leader in renewable energies like solar and wind, and can create tens of thousands of jobs along the way.

Local governments are embracing this opportunity, and are working out new ways to protect our communities and make our regions more resilient and prosperous.

But we can't do this alone.

We need more support from the Federal Government to further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and invest in clean industries that create regional jobs, unlock business investment and spur technological innovation.

MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS SIGNED ONTO THE STATEMENT:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Jo Dodds, Councillor
Bega Valley Shire Council

Dominic King, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council

Simon Richardson, Mayor
Byron Shire Council

John Connors, Mayor
Dungog Shire

James Thomson, Councillor
Eurobodalla Shire Council

Mark Honey, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council

Elly Bird, Councillor
Lismore City Council

Claire Pontin, Deputy Mayor
Midcoast Council

Ken Keith, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council

Marianne Saliba, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council

Amanda Findley, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council

Chris Cherry, Mayor
Tweed Shire Council

Greg Conkey, Mayor
City of Wagga Wagga

Duncan Gair, Mayor
Wingecarribee Shire Council

Gordon Bradbery AM, Lord Mayor
Wollongong City Council

QUEENSLAND

Abigail Noli, Councillor
Douglas Shire Council

Brian Stockwell, Councillor
Noosa Shire Council