

# A gender-responsive just transition for all communities - COP31 and beyond

Dear Minister Bowen,

As a community of leaders and advocates from across the globe and Australia committed to gender-responsive climate and environmental action, we call on you, as President of Negotiations for COP31 and Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to turn international commitments on just transitions into practical action.

The Australian Government should champion a robust and resourced framework for the Belém-Antalya Mechanism for Just Transition (the Just Transition Mechanism), take a global leadership role in implementing a fair and equitable transition in Australia and redouble its efforts to urgently phase out fossil fuels and hold the line on 1.5°C global warming.

The recent [UNEP Emissions Gap Report](#) contains dire warnings that exceeding the 1.5°C limit is very likely within the next decade. As a global community, we must act faster to limit that overshoot and work towards returning to safe levels. With multilateral agreements under strain, the Australian Government's leadership of the COP31 negotiations is an opportunity to show that international cooperation can deliver concrete and resourced action.

The agreements reached at COP30 offer an important opportunity. Yet promises on paper do not create gender-equitable, climate-resilient communities. As we move away from fossil fuels, a just transition must support whole communities, create jobs and support workers, recognise the paid and unpaid care work that holds communities together, and co-design the transition with the people most affected by the change.

We ask you to take the following three actions that put gender equality, women and gender-diverse people's leadership, and First Nations and Pacific peoples' calls for climate justice at the heart of Australia's approach:

Now is the time to build the just, equitable and community-led future we all deserve.

The transition ahead, both globally and here in Australia, is an opportunity to strengthen communities so that everyone can thrive, where First Nations knowledge and leadership is valued and the benefits of change are shared by all.

[Add my name](#)

## 1 Secure a global implementation framework for the Just Transition Mechanism at COP31.

As President of Negotiations, you can pave the way for the adoption of a robust implementation framework for the Just Transition Mechanism at COP31. The framework must help countries deliver an equitable and resourced transition that embeds First Nations knowledge, creates jobs, recognises care work and informal labour, and gives communities a real role in decisions that affect them. The Women and Gender Constituency's [proposed implementation model](#) offers a practical way forward by bringing together coordination, knowledge sharing, action and support.

## 2 Deliver a gender-responsive transition in Australia beyond COP31.

The Australia Government must ensure women and gender-diverse people, as well as First Nations communities, share in the benefits of Australia's Net Zero Plan and *Future Made in Australia* package. This means applying a gender lens to government funding and investments so the economic benefits of the transition are shared equitably; recognising women and gender-diverse people's unpaid contributions to the transition; investing in place-based solutions led by people from diverse communities and centering the views and knowledge of First Nations people.

Australia has an opportunity to take a global leadership role in delivering Australia's transition by ensuring that fairness, equity and gender-responsiveness is embedded in policy and investment frameworks and implementation.

## 3 Redouble Australia's efforts to phase out fossil fuels and fight for 1.5 degrees.

We echo the calls of our Pacific neighbours most impacted by climate change in calling for the Australian Government to lead the global fight to keep 1.5°C within reach. As President of Negotiations and Australian Minister for Climate Change, you have a critical role to play in setting an urgent timeline for the phase out of fossil fuels and actively reducing any overshoot of 1.5°C.

Women and gender-diverse leaders in their communities are already showing what this future can look like. We ask you to lead with Australia's commitment to these priorities at COP31 and carry them through in policies and investments at home. We look forward to your response to our calls for action.

*Yours sincerely,  
Women Leading on Climate, Women's Environmental Leadership Australia and signatories below*