

BE HOPE

Vision for Change: People, Planet and Peace

A guide to the issues and policy
asks at the heart of the Be Hope
campaign.



BE HOPE

Our Vision

For People. For Planet. For Peace.

A movement for a fairer,
healthier and more peaceful
world.



“ Australia has always been at its best when it has looked beyond its shores and contributed to building a safer, fairer and more peaceful world.

To be a country that cares about the suffering of others and does everything reasonably possible to alleviate it is both a moral imperative and a matter of hard-headed national interest. The case for decency in our international engagement rests not only on our common humanity, but on the recognition that Australia's security, prosperity and influence are strengthened when we help build a world that is more peaceful, more cooperative and more just. Countries that help solve global problems earn trust, build influence, strengthen partnerships and create the conditions for shared prosperity and security.

Australia has a long history of helping build international cooperation, strengthen multilateral institutions, advance peace and stand alongside our neighbours in times of need. Time and again, Australia has demonstrated that countries do not need to be superpowers to shape international outcomes. Through values-based leadership, coalition building and practical diplomacy, middle powers can make an extraordinary contribution to the world.

Today, as conflict rises, climate impacts deepen and parts of the international system come under increasing strain, the risks facing our world are significant. Yet history shows that moments of uncertainty are also moments when **leadership matters most**. Australia has an opportunity to once again help shape the kind of world we want to live in: one that is more peaceful, more cooperative and more hopeful.

Through Be Hope, we are calling on Australia to step forward as a confident champion of **People, Planet and Peace**.

We are a movement of everyday Australians who believe our country has both the opportunity and responsibility to help address the defining challenges of our time. We urge Australia's leaders to champion policies that protect people, safeguard the planet and strengthen peace.

Negaya Chorley
CEO, Results Australia

BE HOPE Our Three Asks



PEOPLE

Increase Australia's **aid budget to 1% of the Federal Budget** including a doubling of investment in global health.



PLANET

Keep **1.5°C** alive by phasing out fossil fuels and accelerating the transition to renewable energy in line with **net zero by 2035**.



PEACE

Champion international **cooperation** and strong **multilateral institutions**.



BE HOPE

ASK 1:

PEOPLE

A world where everyone can
live safe, healthy and
dignified lives.



Invest in Global Health and Development

Increase Australia's aid budget to 1% of the Federal Budget including a doubling of investment in global health.



What is ODA?

International aid, also known as Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), is funding provided by governments to support economic development, reduce poverty, and improve health, education, and stability in lower-income countries.



Australia's international aid program has **transformed millions of lives** by helping people break the cycle of poverty and inequality. It has supported access to life-saving healthcare, education, livelihoods, emergency relief and disaster resilience across our region and beyond.



Put simply, Australian aid **saves lives, prevents crises, and makes the world safer** - for our neighbours and for Australia.



Yet Australia's aid program has declined significantly over the past decade and now sits at a historical low. **For every \$100 the Australian Government spends, around 63 cents goes to aid.** This places Australia below many comparable countries as a share of our gross national income or GNI.

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PEOPLE

Invest in Global
Health and
Development

Australian aid as a % of the Federal Budget over time

Australia's ODA is at its lowest level ever.



For every **\$100** the Australian Government spends, only **63 cents** goes to international aid

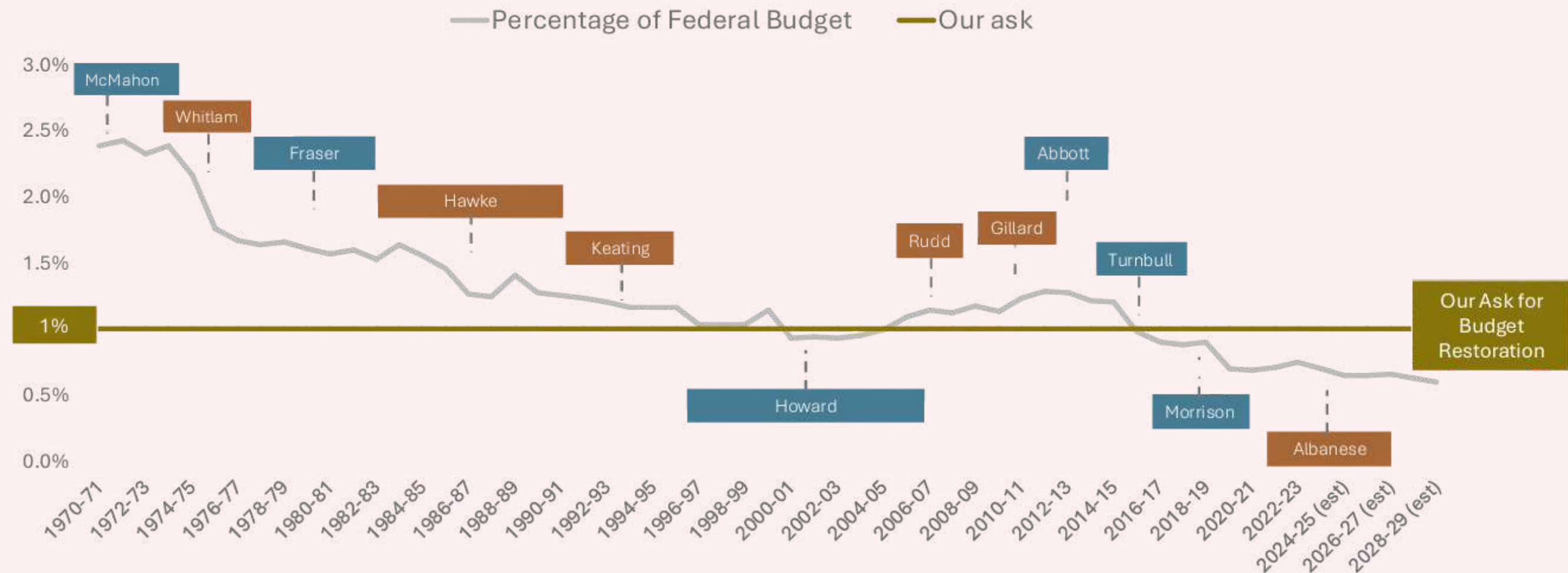


Figure credit: Australian Council for International Development Pre-Budget Submission 2026-27.

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PEOPLE

Invest in Global
Health and
Development

Australia is a generous country...

However, when it comes to ODA, there is room to grow. We are only 24th in a list of comparable donor countries, despite being 11th by wealth (as measured by GNI per capita).

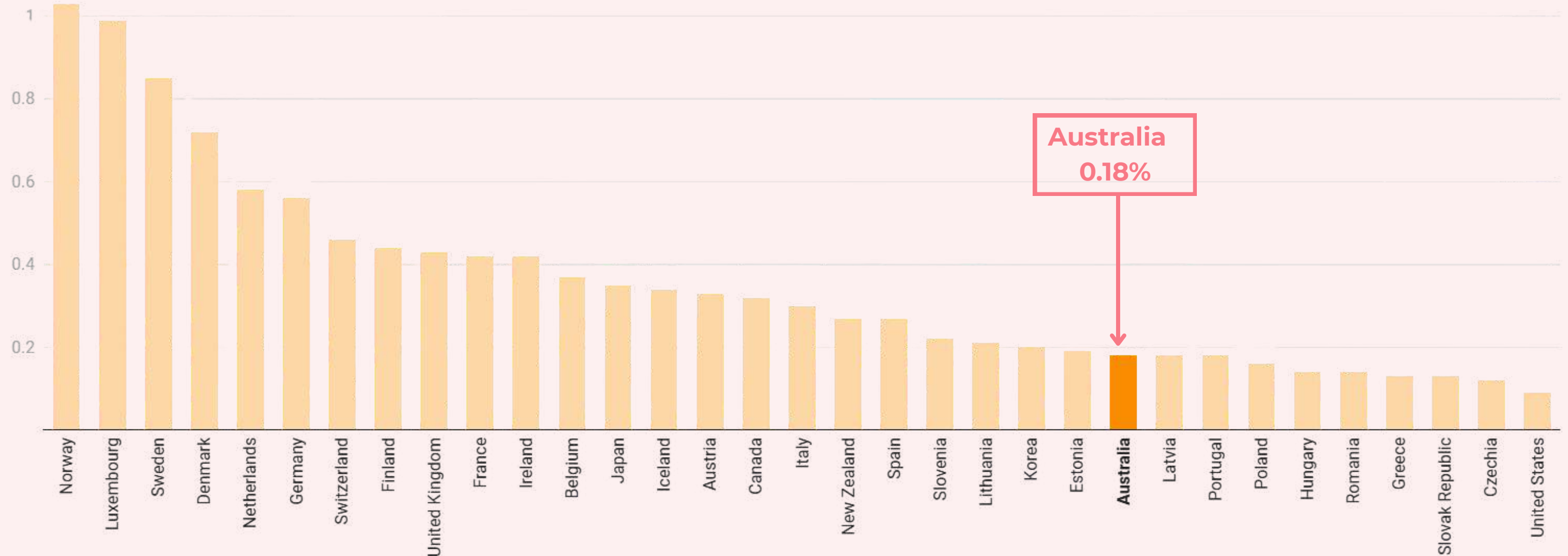


Figure credit: Australian Council for International Development Pre-Budget Submission 2026-27.

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PEOPLE

Invest in Global
Health and
Development

Restoring Australia's aid budget to **1%** of the Federal Budget would **save lives, strengthen regional stability, support economic development and reinforce Australia's standing** as a trusted partner in the Indo-Pacific.

At a time when many donor countries are reducing their aid budgets, Australia has an **opportunity to demonstrate leadership by rebuilding its investment in global development.** We have the opportunity to match our values with our actions.



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ASK 1:

PEOPLE

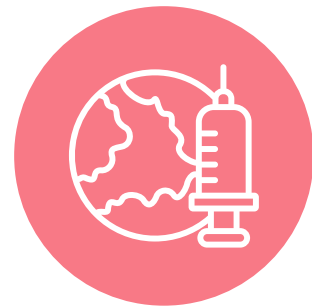
A world where everyone can
live safe, healthy and
dignified lives.



Double Australia's Investment in Global Health

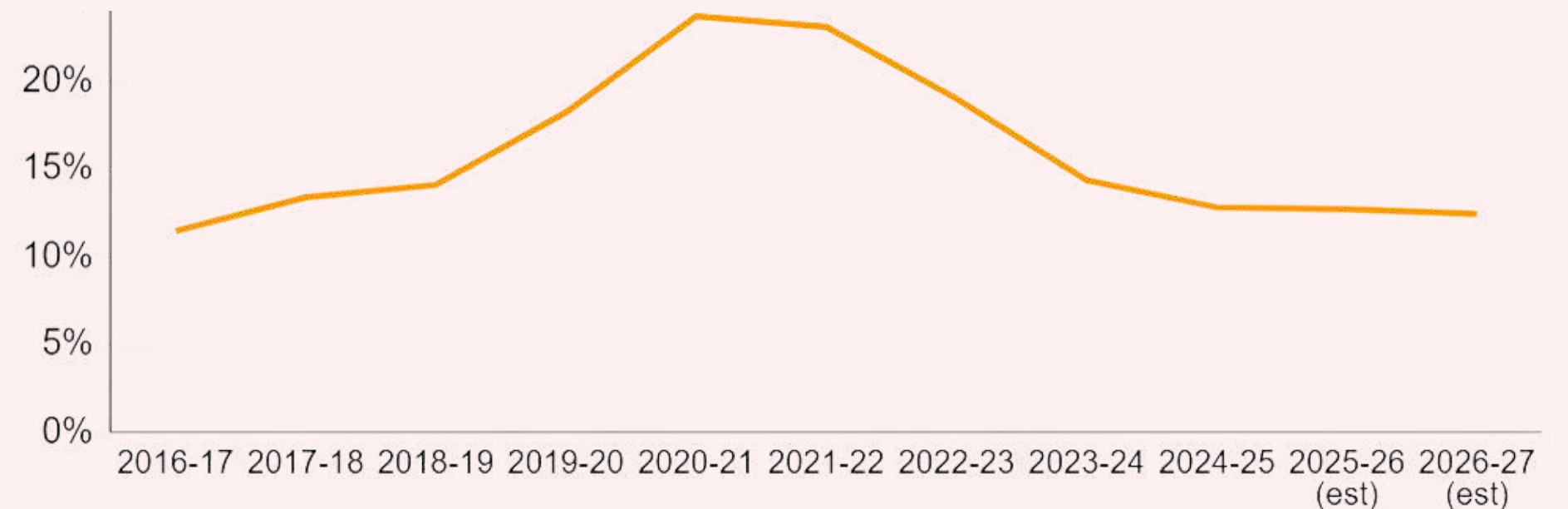


Health is one of the **smartest investments** a country can make. It is the foundation upon which all other development progress is built. Children need good health to learn, adults need good health to work and support their families, and communities need strong health systems to prosper. Strong health systems improve educational outcomes, strengthen economies, reduce poverty and increase resilience to future crises.



Yet Australia's investment in global health as a proportion of total aid is at its **lowest level in almost a decade**. At the same time, our region faces growing challenges from pandemics, drug-resistant infections, malnutrition, food insecurity and the health impacts of climate change.

Health ODA and Total ODA



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PEOPLE

Double Australia's
Investment in
Global Health



WE CALL ON THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

to **double Australia's investment in global health** over the next five years as part of an expanded aid budget.



This investment will:

Strengthen regional health security

by preventing a responding to health threats such as pandemics, drug-resistant infections and emerging diseases.



Support healthier and more prosperous communities

through stronger health systems, better nutrition and improved health outcomes.



Help ensure Australia remains a leader in global health

as a trusted, reliable and influential partner across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

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ASK 2:

PLANET

Climate action today
protects our future, our
health and our region.



Strengthen Australia's Global Climate Leadership

Keep 1.5°C alive by phasing out fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energy in line with science-based emissions targets.



Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. It threatens lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, food security, health systems and regional stability. Nowhere are these impacts felt more acutely than in the Pacific.



Climate change remains the **single greatest threat** to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific.”

- 54th Pacific Islands Forum Communique 2025



Climate change is also a profound health crisis and is worsening health outcomes everywhere. Globally, between 2030 and 2050 it is expected to cause an additional **250,000 deaths annually** from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone.



As President of Negotiations at COP31 and also a major fossil fuel exporter, Australia has both a unique opportunity and responsibility to accelerate the global transition to clean energy. Leadership on climate action at home **strengthens Australia's credibility internationally and with our Pacific family.** It enhances our ability to drive ambitious outcomes through multilateral processes, including our role as co-host of COP31.

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ASK 2:

PLANET

Climate action today
protects our future, our
health and our region.



Phasing Out Fossil Fuels and Ramping Up Renewable Energy



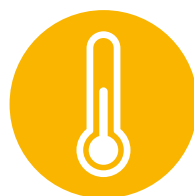
Australia is one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters, and the world's largest coal exporter. We are also the world's 12th largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases. As **fossil fuel use is the largest driver of climate change, phasing out fossil fuels** is one of the most effective steps Australia can take to protect people, planet and peace.



It is a necessary step to achieving Australia's share of the "35 by 35" electrification commitment - a flagship initiative of COP31, backed by co-hosts Australia and Türkiye, to raise the share of global energy met by electricity from roughly 20% today to 35% by 2035.



Yet Australia continues to invest in fossil fuels: in 2025-26, **Australia gave the fossil fuel industry AUD\$16.3 billion in subsidies - over 3 times more than it spent on international aid**. The Australian Government also continues to approve new coal and gas projects - in 2025, it approved a 45-year expansion of our country's largest gas export terminal.



Australia and other nations have committed to keeping the 1.5 degree temperature limit alive. Analysis by the Climate Council shows that an emissions reduction target of **net zero by 2035** is the only target available to Australia with a strong chance of contributing to **holding global warming below 2°C**.



The Government can achieve this by committing to a timed roadmap to phase out fossil fuels and ramp up investment in renewable energy, aligned with science-based targets of keeping 1.5°C within reach. This will only be possible if the Government ends subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and ceases to approve new coal and gas projects.

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Phasing Out Fossil
Fuels and
Ramping Up
Renewable Energy



Australians want stronger climate action

Polls show that the majority of Australians and over 500 businesses and civil society groups want stronger climate action.



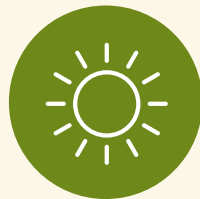
Weak climate action is bad for business

Industry groups warn that insufficient action on climate will lead to job losses and cost Australia billions in lost business revenue, GDP as well as smaller superannuation returns and higher insurance premiums.



The world is moving forward

80% of Australia's trading partners have made net zero commitments and will increasingly be seeking renewable energy suppliers.



A fast, fair transition from a fossil fuel heavyweight polluter to a world-leading clean energy superpower is a win-win for everyone.



It would help Australia do our fair share to limit global heating and **protect lives in Australia and overseas.**



It would **boost renewable energy jobs**, support Australian companies to be leaders in the global renewable energy revolution, and **future-proof our energy export market.**



It would demonstrate much-needed **leadership on climate multilateralism** during our term as COP31 President of Negotiations.

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PLANET

Phasing Out Fossil
Fuels and
Ramping Up
Renewable Energy



WE CALL ON THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

to keep **1.5°C alive** by phasing out fossil fuels and
accelerating the transition to renewable energy in
line with **net zero by 2035**:



Commit to **net
zero by 2035** to
align Australia
with the global
effort needed
to **keep 1.5°C
alive**



Stop
approving
new coal
and gas



End fossil
fuel
subsidies



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ASK 2:

PLANET

Climate action today
protects our future, our
health and our region.



Contributing our fair share to the global climate finance target



Climate finance is funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in the Global South. It is essential in **helping marginalised communities to build resilience to climate-related shocks**, in countries which have done the least to cause climate change yet are bearing the harshest impacts of climate change.



In 2024, Australia and almost 200 other nations agreed to **triple the global climate finance goal**. To meet our fair share of this target, Australia should triple its climate finance. This means upgrading our climate finance target **to at least AUD\$11 billion** for 2025 - 2030 (a fraction of what Australia gives the fossil fuel industry each year in subsidies).



This increase should be **new and additional to the existing aid budget**, and should not increase the debt burdens of recipient countries.



WE CALL ON THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

to support community climate resilience in
our region by **contributing our fair share of
global climate finance**

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ASK 3:

PEACE

The world's biggest challenges require collective solutions.



Champion International Cooperation and Multilateralism



Global challenges don't stop at borders

In an increasingly interconnected world, Australia cannot achieve security and prosperity alone. The challenges that define our age - **conflict, climate change, pandemics, displacement and economic instability** - do not respect national borders. They require collective solutions.



Australia has a proud tradition of leadership

As a middle power, Australia has a long and proud tradition of helping **build coalitions, strengthen international institutions and advance practical solutions** to shared global challenges.



We achieve more together

At a time when international cooperation is under pressure, Australia should once again be a **confident advocate for the idea that countries achieve more when they work together** than when they act alone.



Cooperation is the thorough conviction that **nobody can get there unless everybody gets there.**

- Virginia Burden

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PEACE

Champion
International
Cooperation and
Multilateralism



WE CALL ON THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

to be a **strong and vocal champion** of international cooperation, effective multilateral institutions and the rules-based international order.

We are asking for Australia to:



Champion the value of **international cooperation**



Support the effectiveness and **continual improvement of international institutions** including the United Nations and World Health Organisation



Work with other **middle powers and Pacific leadership to build coalitions** capable of addressing shared challenges

Strong international institutions do not emerge by accident. They are built, sustained and improved by countries willing to lead and invest. Australia has done so before and can do so again.



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Australia's Tradition of Global Leadership



Australia has a proud history of helping shape international outcomes far beyond what our size might suggest.

Among many achievements, Australia has:

- Helped shape the **creation of the United Nations** through the leadership of Dr H.V. Evatt.
- Played a leading role in building **Asia-Pacific regional cooperation** through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (**APEC**).
- Helped secure international **protection for Antarctica**.
- Contributed to major **global arms control and non-proliferation** agreements.
- Worked with regional partners to help **resolve conflict in Cambodia**.
- Supported international efforts to **end apartheid in South Africa**.
- Helped develop the **Responsibility to Protect doctrine** to prevent mass atrocities.
- Played an important role in **preserving and advancing international trade cooperation** through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (a major free trade agreement between 12 countries)
- Recently helped lead the **Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel**.

These achievements demonstrate that **middle powers can help shape history**. Through values-based leadership, coalition building and practical diplomacy, Australia has repeatedly helped make the world safer, fairer and more prosperous.

We can do so again.