

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
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23 November 2023

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: Submission on the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in support of the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023.

**ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland (**EnvA**) is a grass-roots Central Queensland association concerned about the risks associated with coal mining, coal seam gas and climate change.

EnvA believes that opening new and expanding coal and gas projects:

- is contrary to meeting Australia's emission targets and Queensland's emission targets,
- is likely to result in irreparable damage to our local landscape and result in stranded assets,
- will put our local community at further risk of extreme weather such as increasing the intensity and frequency of storms, floods, droughts and bushfires,
- will damage our significant coastal resources including our beaches and the Great Barrier Reef through storm surge and increased coral bleaching events,
- will further degrade wildlife habitats of state and national significance through both habitat loss and climate change, and
- will contribute to the irreversible climate harm to our environment and lifestyle which we will hand on to future generations as a negative legacy of our generation.

**WHY WE SUPPORT THE BILL**

**Recent climate change induced impacts in Central Queensland**

We live and work in a beautiful part of Australia. The Great Barrier Reef is on our doorstep, we have a diversity of ecosystems from coastal wetlands, heathlands, woodland, forests through to rainforests. We also host a large number of iconic and threatened species including the koala, greater gliders, squatter pigeon and so many more.

But our local ecosystems and wildlife are under threat from clearing and climate change.



Just in the last five years, we have experienced numerous heatwaves, extreme and catastrophic bushfires, multiple coral bleaching events, unprecedented hail storms and spectacular storm surge events.

**Climate change will impact young generations even more than it is affecting us at the moment.**

Rising global temperatures and extreme weather events threaten the stability of our futures, as we face a lifetime of increased numbers and severity of climate disaster such as heat waves, wildfires, storms and floods.

While our current generation has been able to enjoy the wonders of our region, we are very concerned that our natural assets will not be available for future generations to enjoy and rely on for their livelihoods.

The health impacts of a warming climate is likely to impact the next generations even more than the current impacts. Heatwaves, new vector borne disease, extreme weather events will only get more frequent and severe – all of these are known to impact health and life.

Climate change will also result in increased costs to the next generations. For example, we have seen our insurance premiums rise due to the increasing claims for climate-related recovery in the last few years. Insurance coverage will be out of reach for our next generation. The building of new homes will also increase in price as ensuring they are climate-proofed will be more costly. And the tourism jobs available in our region are likely to be impacted as we lose our reef to bleaching and the places tourist love are irreparably damaged.

**Our government has a responsibility to care for our communities and the planet.**

We call on the government to take serious actions to avert the worst impacts of climate change including not approving any new coal and gas proposals. Australia is the third largest exporter of fossil fuels and is continuing to open new fossil fuel projects.

By continuing to greenlight these, the government is opening the floodgates to the climate crisis. The choice to not just continue, but to increase the mining and exportation of fossil fuels is an irresponsible one that will contribute to incremental warming, causing increasing climate harm. The impacts of these decisions on the next and future generations must be considered.

Our government must set a powerful global standard and demonstrate its commitment to climate action, hand in hand with young people, by adopting this Bill and upholding their duty as elected representatives to hand over a future to coming generations that is safe and liveable.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make comment in strong support of the Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Coral Rowston**

Director

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc.