

18 August 2025

Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
334A Marrickville Road
Marrickville, NSW, 2204



By email: A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au

Cc: Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy,
Minister for Local Government.

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

Re: Australia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and 2035 emission reductions target

As the eight member councils of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), we are writing to you today with a simple and urgent message: while climate change is a global challenge, its impacts and the solutions to it are profoundly local. We see these impacts firsthand in our communities and believe that an ambitious national plan must include a robust partnership with local government.

We urge the Federal Government to set an ambitious 2035 emissions reduction target and, critically, to formally recognise the contributions local government can make within its 2025 NDC submission. This is how we can build a resilient Australia and deliver meaningful climate action where people live, work, and raise their families. We urge the government to:

1. *Set an ambitious science-based target linked to limiting global warming to 1.5°C*

A small window of opportunity remains to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C. To have the best chance of achieving a safe climate, it is critical that the Federal Government adopts a 2035 science-based target that is linked to a national carbon budget. This is the most scientifically robust way to protect our communities and the places we value most. It provides Australia with the credibility to be part of global efforts to reach net zero.

2. *Recognise the contribution of local government in Australia's NDC*

As a signatory to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) at COP28, Australia has committed to working with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of climate strategies, including NDCs.

Local government is already on the front line of climate action, with many Victorian councils having a strong track record of delivering nation-leading work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts.¹ Recent studies demonstrate that councils can unlock 7-15% of the abatement potential within their communities through a range of council-lead interventions across the built environment, land use planning, waste and transport sectors.² The potential of these

¹ Examples include the [Victorian Energy Collaboration \(VECO\)](#), [public lighting upgrades](#) and [substantial investment in adaptation](#)

² [EAGA Community Net Zero Technical Analysis \(June 2023\)](#)

voluntary actions are not captured within the Climate Change Authority's advice and should be recognised as additional to our national commitments. These opportunities could be realised if councils were adequately resourced to rollout place-based solutions within their communities.

3. Establish a multilevel governance approach to strengthen NDCs and showcase outcomes at COP31 in Adelaide

Enhanced cooperation between national, state and local governments will help rapidly reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation. This could be achieved through the implementation of a multilevel governance approach – one that would promote effective coordination between and across all levels of government and give those on the frontlines a seat at the decision-making table.³ This would involve a new strategic cross government partnership to pioneer the development of Locally and Subnationally Determined Contributions (LSDCs) using the emerging framework developed by UN-Habitat.⁴

Australia's bid to host COP31 in 2026 presents an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate global leadership. This is a chance to show the world what we are made of by demonstrating our progress on implementing our CHAMP commitment through a robust multilevel governance delivery model. We are ready to work with you to leverage the respective capabilities and resources of all levels of government to ensure the best outcomes for the climate and Australian communities.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Kate Hely
Executive Committee Chair
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Councillor, City of Stonnington



This letter has been approved through EAGA's formal governance structure as described in the EAGA Memorandum of Understanding 2025-30. The submission may not have been formally considered by individual member councils.

³ Melbourne Centre for Cities, Many Hands Make Light Work final report, July 2023 ([link](#))

⁴ Seizing the Urban Opportunity: a 3-step guide for strengthening NDCs 3.0 ([link](#))