

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

OPEN LETTER TO AUSTRALIANS

Monday, 11 March 2019

Dear Citizens,

RE: Protecting our environment for future generations!

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. urges Australians to give serious consideration to environmental issues when casting your vote at the upcoming federal election.

HOPE supports the call from the Places You Love (PYL) Alliance <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> for a "new generation of national environmental laws" to better protect our environment for future generations.

In 2014, Places You Love Alliance convened an Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law (APEEL) <http://apeel.org.au/> to review Australia's existing environmental legislation and to provide recommendations to better protect and enhance our environment. Some of the major issues of concern were:

- Climate change – emphasis should have been on early mitigation and not 'sorry, it's too late' adaptation policies
- Deforestation and rampant land-clearing for agricultural purposes
- Adverse/perverse impacts caused by mining (particularly coal, CSG, quarrying materials)
- Decreased funding of key environment related departments - impacting staffing levels and their ability to adequately monitor compliance and then prosecute breaches
- Loss of protection for our marine environment

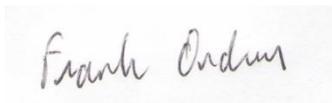
APEEL's technical reports and set of recommendations may be found at <http://apeel.org.au/> .

"Over recent decades, the Federal Government's lack of 'fair dinkum' stewardship of Australia's environment has been appalling to say the least" said Mr Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE Inc.

"HOPE and many of its environment NGO colleagues have responded to a range of community consultation exercises held by the Federal Government. The various 'committees' undertaking these consultation exercises have prepared reports containing recommendations to reflect the community's environmental concerns.

Regrettably, the majority of these reports' recommendations have never been fully implemented. Hence, the angst and frustration that we feel." said Mr Ondrus.

Ultimately, actions rests with you! When you cast your vote in the 2019 Federal Election, place the environment first.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.