



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

MEDIA RELEASE

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The People's Climate Protest ... come and join in on 15 March 2019

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. says it's time for the citizens of Australia to be involved in a simple action to emphasise the need for the Federal Government to step up their pace on Climate Change mitigation by attending the electoral office of your Federal Member of Parliament on Friday 15 March 2019.

"The Coalition government's recent fanfare announcement, in an election year, of a \$200 million per annum investment to address climate change impacts, has already been widely criticized as wholly inadequate to tackle the still rising volume of Australian Green House Gas emissions (GHGs). What we need from government right now is a bold vision on climate policy which recognises the serious risks posed to the future economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Australians and seeks to deal with these risks by effective, strategic adaptation to increasing climate volatility and extreme weather events, and by making significant cuts to climate changing Green House Gas emissions. The current announcements will deliver neither of these objectives. Australian GHG emissions continue to rise and the federal government seems content to simply reproduce elements of the failed approach used in its earlier, so-called Direct Action strategy on climate change. As elsewhere in the world, recent opinion polling here reveals a strong public demand for effective action on climate change and in recognition that Australia will be particularly vulnerable to future climate change impacts if strong action is not taken.

It does not have to be like this. Robust economic modelling both in Australia and internationally has argued convincingly that a just transition to a prosperous, well-employed, low carbon future can be achieved and at a fraction of the costs to GDP touted by fossil fuel industry lobbyists. A climate stabilized future powered by reliable alternative energy sources, in which the health and well-being of future generations is prioritized, is definitely within our grasp, and is what is being called for, loudly, by communities around the world. Some of these calls are coming from inspiring new models of deliberative democracy; from the passion of young people, who see the direct threat to their future wellbeing posed by climate change; and from the determination of some citizens to prosecute climate change inaction by their government through legal proceedings. At present, and regrettably for the practice of democracy, what most often stands in the way of the exciting possibilities of a low carbon transition is government inertia and lack of vision, coupled with the pernicious influence over government of vested interests which want maintain the reckless danger of pursuing a business as usual economic model.

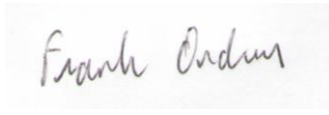
Climate change is not a problem for the future. It is with us here now and it needs urgent action to prevent it getting worse. Even over the next 10 years or so, on the current high GHG emission trends we are experiencing, it is expected that there will be noticeable, long term climate change effects in this local region. The Queensland government's own climate change science predictions suggest that that by 2030 the Toowoomba climate will be more like the current climate of Kingaroy; and by the same date, the climate of Brisbane will be more like the current climate of Bundaberg.

But amidst the doom and gloom there is also a very positive message to be heard. If we act quickly there is still time to turn the problem of climate change around and make it an opportunity to develop a new approach for fostering human progress and prosperity in the 21st century, in Australia and internationally. However, to achieve this bold vision here, we need a bold government that is prepared to look beyond the needs of the big end of town and consider the future quality of life of all of the citizens of this country. Isn't that what a democratically elected government is supposed to do?" said Mr. Andrew Nicholson, Climate Spokesperson for HOPE.

It is clear to many that the current approach of government to the seriousness of the risks posed by climate change to the future economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Australians is wholly inadequate and for that reason, and in an election year, Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. invites the community to push for real change and support the call for an honest, well considered and effective National Policy on Climate Change by protesting **in person** outside the electoral office of your Federal Member of Parliament on Friday 15 March 2019.

Mr. Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE said "it's a great opportunity for adult Australians to join students from secondary schools, TAFE and universities as they too "Strike for Climate" <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/> on 15 March".

In addition to the above actions on 15 March, Ms. Fiona Armstrong from Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) invites support for their initiative entitled "National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being". Read all about it at <http://www.caha.org.au/national-strategy-climate-health-wellbeing> .

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., ph 07 4639 2135
(Co-written by Andrew Nicholson and Frank Ondrus)