

Giving it your 5% just isn't enough!

Background

In 2014, *The 24 Hours of Reality – 24 Reasons for Hope* is a global livestreamed event to highlight the great progress that has been made on climate change all around the world and that the solutions aren't that far out of reach.

But time is running out and two things are certain. Many of the observed impacts of climate change are already racing ahead of predictions. Put simply, it's getting worse, faster. The other thing is that the longer we leave it, the harder it will get. It's harder to find resources to create the shifts we need to see if we're using them to adapt to the increasing consequences.

Taking place on 23 September, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders from government, finance, business and civil society to Climate Summit 2014 to galvanize and catalyse climate action.

Over 120 heads of state will be there, but our [Prime Minister will not](#). He's instead sending our Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, which is better than nothing, but far from ideal.

Ban Ki-moon is using the event to accelerate progress ahead of the negotiations in Paris at the end of 2015. Currently Australia is one of the first to take a large backward step on its commitment and contribution to those negotiations.

It's time to tell our Foreign Minister that when she takes a 5% reduction to the table in these global forums, it doesn't represent what we'd like to see. Call her now and let her know, or leave a message.

The Ask

You'll most likely get a staff member, so ask them to pass on the message. That said, be prepared to speak to the Minister. To help with your conversation, below are a few talking points.

1. Call and introduce yourself, where you are from and a little about yourself. Keep it brief.
2. Let the Minister know you personally care about climate change and why. Again, one point is enough.
3. Thank the Minister for going to represent Australia at the UN Summit, as you feel it's important for our country to be represented in these global forums. Then convey that it's unfortunate that our Prime Minister won't be there like the 120 other heads of state.
4. Let the Minister know you're disappointed that Australia currently has a 5% emissions reduction target. If that was the position taken at global negotiations, it would set us on a trajectory of an increased 3.7 degrees by the end of this century¹. In Australia that would mean:
 - a. Dangerous water shortages widespread in urban and rural areas.
 - b. Run-off in Murray-Darling River Basin is likely to decline with further warming, such that irrigated agriculture is projected to decline by 90 percent by 2100.

¹ http://climateactiontracker.org/assets/publications/publications/CAT_Trend_Report.pdf

- c. Massive and widespread loss of species. More than 50% of habitat Eucalypt species likely to be lost Australia Wide.
 - d. Others can be found here:
http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/verve/resources/TCI_MediaBrief_IPCC_September2013.pdf
5. Let the Minister know that you'll be keeping an eye on our government's progress between now and the global negotiations in Paris at the end of 2015 and that you expect better.

The How To

- Call her Electorate office in Subiaco: 08 9388 0288. If you're not in WA, be mindful of the time difference.
- Let us know how you go by emailing climaterealityaustralia@acfonline.org.au