

COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels



CANA Submission

March 2026

Introduction

Climate Action Network Australia is 175 Australian civil society organisations representing millions of people. We welcome the COP30 Presidency initiative for a Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner.

At COP28, the first Global Stocktake decision calls for “transitioning away from fossil fuels in our energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science.” This political signal and agreement now needs plans, targets, timelines and trajectories. The consequence of a lack of planning would be a disorderly, inequitable or unjust transition, with overheating unchecked.

Legally, morally and politically, the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit stands as a scientifically established red line for a survivable planet, now backed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a legal obligation.

Our submission is guided by our lived experience as First Nations and settler communities on unceded land, and by the unbroken connection to and care for Country shown by traditional custodians across so-called Australia and Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait).

Our input is also shaped by Australia’s unique position as a leader in a domestic renewable energy transition but an outsized contributor to the global climate crisis via its fossil fuel exports. Lastly, our recommendations are responsive to Australia’s geographical and geopolitical position, linked to both fossil fuel finance and demand from East Asia and unwavering ambition from Pacific island states. Through this lens, we aim to identify pathways of particular relevance for Australia’s COP31 Presidency of Negotiations and ahead of the conclusion of the second Global Stocktake (GST2) at COP33 in Asia.

A handful of people in a handful of countries and corporations profit from fossil fuel volatility and conflict. Ordinary people pay – with their lives, and in energy costs, food prices, climate extremes and destabilised communities. The recent attack on Iran and the associated energy price shocks make visible the violent logic of the extractive system that perpetuates domination and an extreme concentration of wealth. The case for a rapid, just transition to affordable clean energy has never been clearer. Political leaders must break the cycle, not extend it.

Barriers

(a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social— preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?

No planned phase out framework

Fossil fuel expansion

Governments agreed to transition away from fossil fuels, yet collectively plan to allow production of [more than double](#) the amount of fossil fuels than would be consistent with limiting heating to 1.5°C. To be consistent with the Paris Agreement, global coal, oil, and gas supply and demand must decline rapidly and substantially between now and mid-century, with significant reductions achieved this decade. Wealthy oil and gas producers – the US, Canada, Norway, and Australia – have increased oil and gas production [nearly 40% since Paris](#), continuing new licensing despite the obligations of states now outlined in the ICJ Advisory Opinion.

Large, wealthy exporters like Australia have argued that they can meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement without addressing their exports — focusing on an accounting protocol rather than the goals, intent and ambition of the agreement. Australia [exports the bulk](#) of its fossil fuels to three of the world's wealthiest and most highly developed countries (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan). Only a comparatively small quantity of Australia's exported fossil fuels go to developing countries. The trade is [subsidised](#) with vast quantities of public money, further locking in the incumbency of fossil fuels and derailing East and Southeast Asia's renewable energy transition.

Lack of detail on global phase out architecture

The COP28 Global Stocktake decision established a political commitment to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, but provided limited operational detail on sequencing, enabling conditions, support mechanisms, and differentiated pathways. The TAFF Roadmap and Belém Declaration are not yet connected to the Paris Agreement architecture. Most NDCs contain no supply-side production commitments – including Australia's.

Lack of producer-consumer coordination

The lack of coordinated phase out planning between producers and consumers and across regions leaves countries exposed to risks: price volatility, stranded assets, fossil industry interference in policy-making, and shocks that deepen existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, with communities facing chaotic industrial shut-down, high prices and escalating disasters. Political and corporate interests in Japan and South Korea underwrite Australian gas expansion, on-selling across Asia, pressuring domestic climate policies, stalling the renewable transition for Southeast Asia — a fast-growing centre of energy demand. Without structured cooperation, the region risks locking in fossil fuel dependence through uneconomic carbon capture and storage, coal and gas — all incompatible with 1.5°C.

Inequality and Just Transition gaps

Inequality is one of the greatest barriers to a global transition away from fossil fuels. Inadequate public finance, technical gaps and lack of effective international cooperation hamper the ability of Global South countries to implement a transition. The COP30 agreement to develop a Just Transition Mechanism with a remit to enhance international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge sharing, represents a key lever for progress on addressing barriers to equitable, inclusive just transitions.

Weak environmental protection standards and laws

While States continually reaffirm their commitment to combatting climate change, the reality is that too often their domestic standards for environmental protection are weak and lack rigour due to ineffectual laws. Improved environmental standards should make it harder for fossil fuel projects to

receive approval and contribute to making renewable energy projects a more viable, affordable and sustainable option.

Structural Financial Barriers

Investor- State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)

CANA notes that many trade agreements present a substantial barrier to any framework that seeks to phase out fossil fuel production and acknowledges the very real threat of Investor-State Dispute Settlements. ISDS claims from fossil fuel companies for over \$80 billion in public money have been recognised in UNFCCC documents as a fundamental barrier to fossil fuel phase out. A roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels must be mindful of this risk and encourage governments to cooperate to remove ISDS from trade and investment agreements.

Polluters do not pay for their damage

Climate disasters are escalating and communities are facing the costs: storms, floods, bushfires, droughts and rising seas are leaving communities bereft. The Australian Government spends \$200 million annually on adaptation via the Disaster Ready Fund, yet economy-wide disaster costs are already at least \$38 billion per year. The situation is more dire across the Pacific. In 2023, Vanuatu endured two cyclones in one week with recovery costs reaching 69% of GDP, followed by a third cyclone later that year. International support provided was well below the cost of these events.

Yet the big coal, oil and gas corporations are not paying for the climate damage their products cause. There is an economic disconnect where the industry receives government subsidies, pays very low taxes — the fossil fuel industry pays amongst the lowest rates of tax of any industry in Australia — and at the same time they spend hundreds of millions of dollars seeking to maintain public support.

Lack of finance

The transition away from fossil fuels is undermined by the structural inequalities within the global financial system and creates substantial barriers for Global South countries seeking to achieve energy independence and relieve their debt-burden. Renewable energy projects in developing countries often face capital costs that are significantly higher than those in the Global North, which inhibits their ability to construct and deploy renewable energy technologies. This disparity stems from higher perceived investment risk, currency volatility, and limited access to affordable long-term financing.

Industry interference

Carbon pollution dumping

So-called carbon capture and storage technology has a 50-year track record of failure despite colossal public subsidies. Despite decades of development, carbon capture projects worldwide [only capture around 0.1%](#) of global emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ranks CCS as one of the [least effective](#) and most expensive reduction measures available. The implications of Asia's [growing promotion](#) and [subsidisation](#) of carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a pathway for meeting the Paris Agreement goals instead of increasing investment in reducing emissions is misguided and dangerous.

Influence of fossil fuel producers over political processes

Fossil fuel corporations lobby governments, manipulate public opinion, and distort democracy to block regulation. Coal, oil and gas corporations and their network of funded lobby groups are blocking progress on fossil fuel phase out to protect their profits. Extractive industry trade

associations and “think tanks” work together to fund colossal advertising campaigns, influence elections and systematically oppose regulation by governments, outspending pro-environment groups [27 to one](#).

Political donations and lobbying from industry [distort democracy](#) and undermine the passing of legislation. The outcome of this activity is political timidity among elected parties, despite the [overwhelming majority](#) of the public wanting governments to implement plans to address climate change.

BARRIERS CASE STUDY: North West Shelf expansion

In 2025 Australia approved a proposal from Woodside to extend the life of its North West Shelf gas processing facility to 2070 – a full 20 years after the 2050 global net zero target under the Paris Agreement. It is connected to Woodside’s Burrup Hub, which would consume 6% of the remaining global [carbon budget for 1.5oC](#). Assessed as a case study, this approval demonstrates the enabling conditions for fossil fuels — and therefore barriers to a transition away from fossil fuels — including:

- **Policy frameworks:** Australia’s *Future Gas Strategy* builds out a role for fossil gas out to 2050, which is disconnected from policies that underpin investment in renewable energy and Australia’s NDC.
- **Subsidies:** The federal and state governments in Australia continue to give enormous subsidies and other payments to on-shore fossil fuel producers to assist with their production costs
- **Industry lobbying and political influence:** Documents obtained under Freedom of Information illustrate the depth of access to policymakers by fossil fuel industry representatives. In the lead up to the North West Shelf project approval, Woodside engaged in extensive lobbying of Australia’s Minister for the Environment in a concerted — and successful — effort to weaken emissions reduction reporting requirements. This ecosystem of influence is not limited to Australian companies; research has affirmed the sustained engagement of Japanese companies in influencing Australian energy policy via private meetings with senior government ministers and participation in industry groups, using their access and networks to promote the role of new gas supply and LNG exports, while also ‘[raising concerns](#) about the potential competitiveness impacts of more stringent climate regulation’.
- **Diplomatic influence:** influence from trading partners, particularly in East Asia, is not limited to corporate representatives in Australia. Japan’s ambassador has been regularly and publicly outspoken in urging for domestic policies that would enable increased trade in fossil fuels and facilitate investment in false solutions including carbon capture and storage.
- **Public perception:** There is a deliberately inflated perception of the contribution of fossil fuel production to the Australian economy, and inadequate understanding of how coal, oil and gas are driving worsening extreme weather disasters.

Levers

(b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?

Uphold the rights and ambitions of Indigenous peoples

CANA recognises Indigenous Peoples' distinct status as inherent and collective rights-holders. Indigenous peoples rights continue to be violated through the production of fossil fuels and are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Conversely, Indigenous peoples also have a great deal to contribute to combatting climate change, particularly with respect to their knowledge of their environments. A roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels will be greatly enhanced by recognising and integrating the rights and ambitions of Indigenous peoples. Most importantly, a roadmap must recognise and integrate Indigenous peoples right to self-determination and afford them the authority to exercise this right through in accordance with the principles of free, prior and informed consent.

Plan national phase out roadmaps with targets and timelines aligned with limiting heating to 1.5°C

A TAFF roadmap should establish a shared global direction for a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, while recognizing differentiated national circumstances. It should provide a structure that supports countries to develop credible differentiated pathways for credible, time-bound commitments to phase out coal, oil, and gas in line with a 1.5 °C pathway. This requires an immediate halt to all new fossil fuel projects and approvals, a managed decline in production and exports, and full accountability for all emissions, including those from exported fuels.

Embed TAFF targets and timelines into the second Global Stocktake

We call for a forward integration agenda in 2026-2027, ensuring the Belém Declaration, TAFF roadmap, and Santa Marta outcomes inform GST2 inputs and NDC guidance. COP31 must signal that the next NDC cycle requires supply-side commitments on fossil fuel production. Accelerated implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) means incorporating fossil fuel phase-out targets, timelines, trajectories and just transition plans aligned with 1.5°C pathways, as urged by GST1. It can further integrate with the second Global Stocktake (GST2, due 2028) by providing a structured framework for reporting fossil fuel transition progress and NDC implementation, informing GST2 assessments. This creates iterative alignment: TAFF roadmap outputs strengthen NDCs, which feed into GST2 evaluations to refine future commitments.

Just Transition Mechanism

The Just Transition Mechanism agreed at COP30 must be established and operationalised at COP31 to support a just, and equitable TAFF. The mechanism should transform the principles agreed to in decision into a coherent, ambitious and actionable framework. Of central importance is the need to enshrine the equity, rights and meaningful inclusion of key stakeholders to ensure a just transition for First Nations peoples, workers, frontline communities and countries. The mechanism, along with the fundamental principles of the Just Transition COP30 decision, should be integrated into the development of a global TAFF roadmap.

Political leadership

A successful TAFF roadmap process will require strong and collaborative political ownership and participation at ministerial level throughout the year in domestic, regional and international level

processes. Leadership should be shared among future COP Presidencies and other countries committed to just, orderly, and equitable transition.

As Negotiations President for COP31, Australia should use its diplomatic capital to garner support of Parties for a TAFF roadmap agreement at COP31, working with COP30 and COP32 presidencies to build a TAFF arc from ambition to implementation. Australia should also ensure that all Parties submit, update and overachieve their NDCs, and drive provision of public, grant-based finance.

To lead credibly by example, Australia should develop a domestic TAFF roadmap that is aligned with 1.5°C, and is consistent with its historical responsibility and status as a major fossil fuel producer.

Finance

Strengthened public finance mechanisms and increased international support operating at the scale and speed of the investment required for the energy transition is required. Current climate policy frameworks rely too heavily on private finance to drive energy transition investments. Successful energy transitions historically depend on strong public investment, industrial policy, and strategic economic planning that is supported by capacity building measures that are appropriate for each country's economic, social, cultural and political circumstances.

Foster structured producer–consumer cooperation for orderly regional just transitions

Governments must establish bilateral and multilateral regional producer-consumer dialogues and cooperation to guide an orderly, just transition from fossil fuels toward equitable, resilient, renewable energy systems. High-income, high-polluting countries must lead. Cooperation aligns production decline with demand reduction, supports phase-down pathways, diversifies revenues, and sends predictable signals to investors and workers. Public finance must shift from fossil fuels to distributed renewable energy and economic diversification, building social equity, public support and avoiding social shocks. Cooperation must include scaled financial and technical support, supply chain cooperation, policy knowledge sharing, support for electrification, efficiency, distributed renewable deployment, grid connectivity, and industrial decarbonisation. Phase-out plans must include regional sectoral planning. Dialogues and actions must include strong civil society participation and respect national economic sovereignty.

Mechanisms for producer–consumer cooperation can include bilateral phase-out agreements with trading partners; regional cooperation integrating energy access and fossil fuel phase out pathways; subsidy reform; just transition and economic diversification; capacity-building and technical support; common monitoring, reporting, and verification; public engagement programs.

Good faith dialogues and ambitious and orderly planning between fossil fuel exporters and fossil fuel buyer countries can support the national interest and energy security of all countries.

Reform Investor-state dispute settlement

Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) threatens a just transition from fossil fuels requiring governments to begin building a coalition of countries committed to freeing themselves from ISDS. The impacts of ISDS are felt in all areas of society and economy, from health care and public services to national security and chemical safety regulation. It is a profoundly anti-democratic system that undermines rights and constrains sovereignty and self-determination.

Building a coalition of governments committed to freeing themselves from all forms of ISDS could enable such an alliance to explore:

- Cancelling treaties with ISDS, or renegotiating to remove ISDS, between the governments involved, in ways that address 'sunset clauses'

- Collective engagement with other countries to support further potential for stepping away from ISDS
- Committing to not signing any new ISDS agreements
- Including provisions on cancelling ISDS in a future Fossil Fuel Treaty
- Initiating negotiations for a multilateral treaty to bring about a world free from ISDS

Remove fossil fuel subsidies

Subsidies are an important economic tool that States can use to support industries and help to keep them economically viable. They are also a clear demonstration of the economic priorities of a State. A roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels will be compromised if States continue to pay fossil fuel subsidies. All direct, indirect and implicit fossil fuel subsidies must end – prioritising production subsidies first. Governments should redirect that finance to renewables, energy efficiency, and just transition programmes. In Australia’s case this should include ensuring big coal, gas and oil corporations can’t benefit from the Fuel Tax Credit.

Make polluters pay

While a roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels provides a framework for moving forward, it is critical that it also recognises and redresses the damage that has been done and will continue to occur. By virtue of their contribution to climate change and the economic benefits they have derived from their activities, fossil fuel companies have a differentiated responsibility to contribute to the costs associated with the loss and damage that has been caused.

Fossil fuel corporations have externalised the costs of climate damage onto communities for decades. Governments should implement a polluter pays framework: remove all fossil fuel subsidies; require corporations to pay a fair return for exploiting public resources; cooperate internationally to end corporate tax avoidance, including through a progressive UN Tax Convention; and introduce a climate pollution levy on coal, oil and gas corporations, with revenue directed to a compensation fund for communities adapting to disasters they did not cause. A constructive and progressive approach is needed to achieve agreements that could restore billions to government budgets to enable the just transition away from fossil fuels.

Uphold legal obligations

The 2025 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice with respect to climate change and human rights is a highly significant legal development which should increase the urgency with which Parties to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement take meaningful action to transition away from fossil fuels. Failure by States to take immediate and effective action to transition away from fossil fuels — particularly those who are among the highest producers and exporters — risks exposure to legal actions resulting in judgements in their domestic courts that are consistent with the ICJ advisory opinion. A roadmap must reinforce the critical importance of upholding human rights and the potential liabilities States face if they fail to transition away from the extraction, supply and use of fossil fuels.

Back a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

A multilateral Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty could be designed as a high-ambition coalition that is complementary to the UNFCCC. A Fossil Fuel Treaty can create the conditions under which states will be able to coordinate the managed phase-out of fossil fuel production, end new expansion, and support a global just transition. Open to all willing states, a treaty can build momentum, increase international cooperation, and function as a dedicated international legal instrument on fossil fuel phase-out: one that complements the Paris Agreement by addressing climate change at its root source. Modeled on successful international agreements that have managed the decline of harmful

industries and substances, a treaty would establish binding commitments to phase out existing production and end new oil, gas, and coal licensing.

Ensure the best available science informs frameworks

Scientific consensus forms the foundation for international calls for a managed, equitable phase-out of fossil fuel production and consumption. Burning fossil fuels is the dominant driver of climate change, responsible for roughly 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has established that limiting warming to 1.5°C requires global CO₂ emissions to fall by approximately 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by mid-century. Current trajectories far exceed this pathway.

The remaining carbon budget — the total amount of CO₂ that can still be emitted while staying within temperature limits — is rapidly depleting. Studies show that existing and planned fossil fuel infrastructure, if operated over its expected lifetime, would alone exhaust the 1.5°C budget. This means no new fossil fuel development is compatible with climate targets, and some existing production must be retired early.

Climate science increasingly warns of nonlinear tipping points — ice sheet collapse, permafrost methane release, Amazon dieback — that could trigger irreversible, cascading changes. The probability of crossing these thresholds rises steeply with each fraction of a degree of warming, and [exceeding 1.5°C of warming could trigger multiple climate tipping points](#), underscoring the urgency of rapid fossil fuel phase out.

Fossil fuel combustion causes an estimated 8 million premature deaths annually from air pollution. Transitioning to clean energy would deliver immediate public health benefits alongside climate mitigation, particularly in urban areas and communities near extraction sites.

Lessons

(c) What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

Mass community participation in the clean energy system

In Australia, one in three households has rooftop solar – the highest rate in the world. Community participation in the energy transition is already occurring at scale. This is a great success story where affordable clean energy, led by the community, is driving out old coal-burning power stations which can no longer afford to compete with the distributed clean energy system. The change has been supported by policies such as domestic Renewable Energy Targets, feed-in tariffs, and battery subsidies. All government programs supporting community and household renewable energy have been very popular with a very rapid take up, enabling scale up. This builds social licence for the transition, including in electorates that are important for national politics, and across diverse demographics who may be susceptible to disinformation on climate issues. Stronger equity settings in policy would improve these outcomes further, making the shift more accessible to renters and lower income households. Stronger policy to link renewable scale up and the replacement and planned phase out of coal in an orderly manner would increase justice for people who work in old energy systems and the stability of the energy system.

Fossil Fuel Free Pacific

Pacific nations have been global leaders in advocacy for limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C and are rightfully regarded as moral leaders who leverage their collective diplomatic voice to pressure major emitters. By limiting overheating, their advocacy has made people all over the world safer. Pacific leaders have articulated a vision centered on 1.5°C as a survival limit, phasing-out fuels, the adoption of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and 100% renewable energy targets. Many Pacific Island countries have committed to transitioning their electricity sectors entirely to renewables by 2030 or earlier, reducing dependence on expensive imported diesel. Pacific ambition for a fossil fuel free Pacific is a blueprint for the world that can initiate a race to the top.

Just transition case studies

Some countries have established national transition authorities to support regions impacted by the phase out of fossil fuels to support impacted workers, assist industries to transition to renewable energy, diversify their economic base through the development of new green industries, and support vulnerable sections of the community while minimising environmental impacts associated with the transition. Examples include Australia's Net Zero Economy Authority, the Scottish Just Transition Commission, Canada's Sustainable Jobs Partnerships Council, Spain's Instituto para la Transición Justa and the EU's Just Transition Mechanism (with associated Just Transition Fund and Coal Regions in Transition program). Early evidence suggests that these programs have been successful in supporting workers, industries and regions to manage the impacts of transition, however because they are resource intensive, few countries will be able to establish their own national authorities. It is therefore important and urgent to develop a global Just Transition Mechanism to support all countries to manage the transition away from fossil fuels, as agreed on at COP 30.

Equity

(d) How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different degrees of dependence on fossil fuels?

Ensure civil society and First Nations participation in roadmaps

Fossil fuel phase out roadmap processes must entail strong engagement and participation from Indigenous Peoples, civil society, academia, communities, cities and regions. This will ensure legitimacy and social licence and guard against corporate capture of the process. Including formal processes and transparent mechanisms for how inputs are considered will ensure transparency. The fossil fuel industry must be excluded given their multi-decade failure to engage in good faith and systematic undermining of ambition. Between [80 and 89% of the world's people](#) want their governments to be doing more to address climate change. Community and civil society participation, facilitated well, is the key to ambition as well as practical, on-ground implementation.

Differentiated timelines for phase out with wealthy nations moving first

Roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels must be anchored in clear principles taking account of historical responsibility for pollution, including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, national ownership combined with international coordination, and a rights-based development approach.

As a wealthy country with great capacity, a diversified economy, huge renewable resources, and a huge historical contribution to pollution and overheating, Australia is an example of a country that should be taking the lead on a rapid, fair phase-out of coal and gas extraction and exports. Given its position as a major fossil fuel producing country, and as COP31 Negotiations President, Australia could be pivotal in stimulating a concerted international effort away from fossil fuel production. It

should seek particularly to engage other high-income, fossil fuel exporting countries, like Norway and Canada.

Just transition built into national roadmaps

Too often the transition is approached purely as a technical and financial challenge. Yet as the growing opposition to transition around the world demonstrates, the world's ability to achieve net zero is threatened unless people everywhere can see that the transition is managed in a just and equitable way. This means considering the impacts of transition on different parts of society, particularly workers, frontline communities, Indigenous peoples, women and children, vulnerable households and nature. It also means ensuring that any benefits are distributed equitably and are invested in the long term resilience and wellbeing of all. The Just Transition Mechanism that was agreed on at COP 30 could play a pivotal role in ensuring justice and equity concerns are incorporated into TAFF roadmaps, NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDs.

Accelerate affordable clean energy access

Accelerating affordable access to clean energy requires an effective international framework that combines binding commitments with differentiated, but firm timeframes. It is also vitally important to drastically scale-up levels of finance that do not exacerbate the debt burden that global south countries are currently experiencing. Technology sharing through more flexible licensing agreements that promotes and supports domestic manufacturing are also vital.

The redirection of subsidies from fossil fuel producers to renewable energy deployment is a much needed reform that should promote a more equitable and just transition process. Such reforms could support the required reskilling of the workforce, enable investments into affected communities and provide energy security and safeguards.

It is critical that such reforms are underpinned by transparent reporting and independent review mechanisms to provide confidence and evidence to enable identifying priorities and making adjustments as they are required.

Conclusion

The barriers and levers outlined in this submission make clear that voluntary commitments and fragmented national actions are insufficient to drive the rapid, equitable transition away from fossil fuels that climate science demands. While the COP28 Global Stocktake decision marked a historic political signal, it lacks the operational architecture, binding timelines, and enforcement mechanisms necessary to ensure that fossil fuel production declines in line with 1.5°C pathways.

Pacific Island nations have repeatedly called for timebound commitments on fossil fuel phase out, recognising that their survival depends on systemic change rather than incremental adjustment. Australia, as COP31 Negotiations President and one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters, has both the responsibility and the opportunity to champion ambition for the just, orderly and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. Doing so would align Australia's international leadership with the ambitions of its Pacific neighbors, demonstrate leadership and collaboration to trading partners navigating their own transitions, and provide a credible foundation for the producer-consumer cooperation essential to an orderly global phase-out.