

# ALLIANCES FOR CLIMATE ACTION



## **Leaders from Australian cities, companies, financial institutions, faith, health, labor unions and First Nations join global climate action movement**

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*A new national multi-stakeholder alliance--Better Futures Australia--launches on August 19, during the [Better Futures Forum](#), calling on the Morrison Government to increase climate ambition ahead of the COP26 global climate talks. The domestic press release is [available here](#).*

Over seventy leading cities, companies, financial institutions, faith communities, health organizations, labor unions and First Nations joined forces today to announce Australia's first multi-stakeholder climate alliance, Better Futures Australia (BFA). These signatories are part of a network of hundreds of climate champions, ambassadors and partners from every sector of Australian society and the economy, representing over seven million Australians and more than \$220 billion in economic activity. The alliance is committed to scalable climate solutions as they collectively urge the Australian Federal Government to set emissions targets in line with the Paris Agreement. Meeting these obligations means that Australia has less than ten years to halve its emissions and must reach zero emissions before 2050.

Today, Better Futures Australia joins Alliances for Climate Action (ACA), the global network of national multi-stakeholder alliances from Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, the United States, Viet Nam and now Australia. These national alliances represent over 6,000 subnational and non-state institutions committed to supporting the delivery and further enhancement of their countries' climate goals through climate action, policy advocacy and public support. They are present in countries that together account for over 23 percent of global greenhouse emissions.

As an influential G20 country responsible for contributing over 1.3 percent of global emissions, Australia needs a whole-of-society approach to transform its emissions trajectory and build a prosperous future in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. By committing to 1.5C-aligned individual and collaborative climate action, Australian subnational and non-state institutions are demonstrating that they are ready to leverage domestic opportunities to create sustainable jobs, regenerate industries and communities,

and make Australia a clean energy superpower, while contributing to the global goal of an inclusive and resilient net zero carbon world no later than 2050.

Welcoming the Better Futures Australia alliance, **WWF's Global Climate and Energy Lead, and former Environment Minister of Peru, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal said**, "Extreme weather events like wildfires, drought, heatwaves and floods, which are reported almost daily in the news these days, are a stark reminder of what is at stake if we don't tackle the climate crisis immediately. Everyone - governments, business, cities, and citizens - must do their part to sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Better Futures Australia has risen to this challenge by mobilizing companies, cities, regions, Indigenous federations, labour unions, healthcare and religious organizations to drive the net-zero emissions transition together. I applaud the launch of BFA, and look forward to its contribution as part of the global Alliances for Climate Action."

**Forum speaker Gonzalo Muñoz, UN High Level Climate Action Champion, said**, "I warmly welcome the launch of Better Futures Australia - under the leadership of the Alliances for Climate Action - as a strong signal of bold climate leadership and radical collaboration between non-state actors across Australia. I applaud those actors within BFA who are already part of Race to Zero, and urge all others to join as we race towards a more resilient, zero carbon world. It is clear that to achieve an inclusive and just transition, we need to take action now and take action together. I therefore hope this launch encourages other non-state actors across the region to join Race to Zero and begin reducing emissions now."

**Forum keynote Ban Ki-moon, deputy chair of The Elders and former Secretary-General of the UN said**, "I am very supportive of the Better Futures Forum, where diverse Australians will showcase climate solutions already underway in every sector of the economy and society. It is timely to explore the opportunities that the inevitable transition to a zero-emissions world presents for Australia, as global leaders prepare to meet at November's critical UN Climate Summit where emissions reduction targets will be set."

**Forum speaker Jess Scully, Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Sydney, a BFA Signatory, said**, "The world is waking up. We're seeing more dramatic, accelerated and focussed climate action from all around the world, but we are not yet seeing that in Australia. And if we all work together and show that climate action isn't just driven by environmentalists but by business, by local government, by citizens, then we have a greater chance of putting pressure on those leaders who are not stepping up and leading."

**Forum speaker Dr Francis Wedin, Founder and CEO of the world's first and only Zero Carbon Lithium™ resources company, Vulcan Energy, and BFA Signatory and Ambassador said**, "I think Australia has a tremendous opportunity to change. There's been a lot of talk about the fact that Australia could be a

renewable energy super power. That is true. We need to take this opportunity, and the opportunity is now."

**Forum speaker Cathryn Eatock, co-chair, Indigenous People's Organisation, a coalition of 285 First Nations organisations, and BFA Signatory and Ambassador, said,** "Aboriginal culture is based on our obligations as custodians of country and our responsibility to our children and those yet to come. There are countless untapped opportunities to mitigate climate change. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived sustainably and recognise that we are all interconnected with and dependent on our environment. The Australian Government needs to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and step up to its global obligations to provide real leadership before it's too late."

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## **ABOUT ALLIANCES FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

Better Futures Australia is part of [Alliances for Climate Action](#) (ACA), a global network of domestic multi-sector coalitions committed to supporting the delivery and enhancement of their countries' climate goals, and collaborating to build the groundswell of climate action across the world. Through BFA, Australia is joining ACA partners in countries across the world, including the US, Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, and Vietnam. Alliances for Climate Action is globally coordinated by WWF, and supported by global partners including, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, CDP, Climate Action Network-International, Fundación Avina, The Climate Group, and the We Mean Business Coalition, together with leading national organizations.

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## **ABOUT BETTER FUTURES AUSTRALIA**

[Better Futures Australia's](#) (BFA) members and key partners represent over seven million Australians, totalling \$220 billion in GDP, assets and market capitalisation. BFA's membership includes all signatories, champions and ambassadors. Out of the hundreds of member organisations, more than 70 have formally signed the [Better Futures Australia Declaration](#) which makes them a [Signatory](#) of the Alliances for Climate Action. BFA's total representation does not suggest formal membership of the Alliances for Climate Action, but is an estimated calculation of the magnitude of the project. Find out more in our [FAQs](#).

Better Futures Australia is supported by Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) which represents over 100 members working collectively to amplify climate action and drive further ambition at a national scale. Partners include [ClimateWorks Australia](#); [Investor Group on Climate Change](#); [World Wide Fund for Nature Australia](#); [Australian Council of Social Service](#); [Australian Conservation Foundation](#); [Climate and Health Alliance](#); [Beyond Zero Emissions](#); [Smart Energy Council](#); [Cities Power Partnership](#); [Nature Conservation Council NSW](#); [Australian Marine Conservation Society](#); [The Sunrise Project](#); [Fundación Avina](#); [C40 Cities](#); [ICLEI Oceania](#); [Ironbark Sustainability](#); and [The Climate Group](#).

#### **For more about Better Futures Australia**

- BFA website: [www.betterfutures.org.au](http://www.betterfutures.org.au)
- Better Futures Forum website: <https://www.betterfutures.org.au/forum>
- FAQs: [www.betterfutures.org.au/faqs](http://www.betterfutures.org.au/faqs)

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