

**The Hon Chris Bowen MP**

Minister for Climate Change and Energy  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

28 May 2025

Dear Minister Bowen,

**Re: Elevating Gender Justice in Climate Policy and Australia's COP31 Nomination**

On behalf of Zonta Australia, I write to urge the Australian Government to embed gender justice as a central pillar of climate action, both in domestic policy and in its leadership role on the international stage.

Zonta Australia represents over 2,200 members across 102 clubs nationwide, united in our mission to build a better world for women and girls. As part of Zonta International, a global human rights organisation with consultative status at the United Nations, we are committed to advancing gender equality, ending violence against women and promoting women's leadership in all spheres, including climate action.

Recognising that climate change is a human rights issue and a women's rights issue, Zonta International launched the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action campaign. This initiative aims to implement Zonta's Statement on Climate Change by:

- Gathering the facts: Understanding how climate change disproportionately affects women and girls;
- Leading by example: Taking personal and collective action to reduce carbon footprints and build resilient communities;
- Using our voice: Advocating for gender-equal climate policies at all levels of government;
- Collaborating: Working with like-minded organisations to amplify our impact.

As Australia progresses its nomination to host COP31, we commend your leadership and extend our best wishes for a successful outcome. This is a vital opportunity for Australia to demonstrate its commitment to inclusive, science-based and justice-focused climate leadership in partnership with our Pacific Island nation neighbours.

We respectfully call on the Government to:

- Champion gender justice as a foundational element of Australia's climate response;
- Ensure the meaningful participation of women and marginalised groups in climate policy and decision-making;
- Integrate gender-responsive approaches into environmental reforms and sustainability initiatives; and
- Support leadership and education pathways for women and girls in climate science, policy and innovation.

Zonta Australia would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with your office and contribute to a gender-equal, climate-resilient future for all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

Bridget Mather PSM

Chair: Zonta Australia Committee

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