



THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

MC24-001532

Ms Sharon Claydon MP
Member for Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Sharon.Claydon.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Claydon

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 January 2024 regarding the Statement prepared by the 55 students from 12 high schools across Newcastle and the Hunter region who participated in the recent Youth Forum on the Right to a Healthy Environment hosted by the Centre of Law and Social Justice at the University of Newcastle.

I was pleased to read of the students' strong commitment to promoting a healthy environment and their willingness to engage in constructive discussions about the diverse range of issues raised in their Statement. I congratulate the students and all involved in organising this forum, and for producing a considered and thoughtful Statement.

I agree with the students that Australia's natural environment is in an alarming state of decline, with serious consequences for young people if action is not taken. To that end, I have released the government's *Nature Positive Plan: better for the environment, better for business*.

The Government is delivering the *Nature Positive Plan* by:

- Protecting 30 percent of Australia's land and seas by 2030 – doubling the size of the Macquarie Island Marine Park and adding 2.3 million hectares to the national reserve system through Indigenous Protected Areas.
- A commitment to no new extinctions – investing \$500 million to protect our threatened species, including cracking down on feral animals and weeds.
- Hosting the first Global Nature Summit to drive investment in nature, setting up the nature repair market and encouraging businesses to report on their reliance and impacts on nature.

The Government's *Nature Positive Plan* commits to reforming Commonwealth environmental laws so they work better for the environment and better for business. Key elements of these reforms are establishing Environment Protection Australia (EPA) and setting up Environment Information Australia (EIA).

We are committed to taking ambitious action on climate change. In September 2022, the landmark Climate Change Bills were passed, enshrining the government's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of a 43 per cent reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050 in law.

Young Australians can help support climate action and Australia is committed to promoting youth voices in international climate engagement.

I look forward to continuing to work with members of the community, including young people, as we deliver our Nature Positive Plan.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me and for bringing these matters to my attention. I have copied this letter to the Minister for Youth, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tanya Plibersek' in a cursive style.

TANYA PLIBERSEK

cc: Minister for Youth, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP

28.3.24