



**Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
Minister for Industry and Innovation**

Mr Gautam Raju
Director, Our Say
PO Box 354
NORTH MELBOURNE VIC 3051

Dear Mr Raju,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 2012 forwarding the question posed by participants in the OurSay project regarding the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC).

The AYCC has played an important role in contributing to the policy debate on climate change and in lifting public awareness of this issue. The Government respects the enthusiasm and commitment of AYCC and its members – and we listen to your views.

Climate change is not just a challenge for the present but one that will impact the youth of today and tomorrow. They above everyone else will have to live with the legacy of today's decisions.

Every generation has endeavoured to leave the world in a better place than they found. No responsible Government can ignore the unequivocal advice from experts about the dangers presented by climate change.

That is why the Gillard Government has designed, legislated and implemented its Clean Energy Future package.

This policy includes the historic reform of putting a price on carbon pollution because this is the most environmentally effective and economically responsible way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The carbon price – together with the other elements of our Clean Energy Future package – will transition Australian industry to a low carbon economy while securing our economic competitiveness.

Placing a price on carbon will also help investments in the renewable sector. The transformation of our energy sector will drive around \$100 billion in investment over the period to 2050. This will be supported by:

- commercialisation and deployment of clean technologies through the commercially oriented \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- research, development and commercialisation of renewable energy at an early stage through the \$3.2 billion Australian Renewable Energy Agency
- research, development and deployment of clean technologies through the \$200 million Clean Technology Innovation Program
- increased use of renewable energy through the carbon price and the Renewable Energy Target.

Members of the AYCC should contrast this record of action by the Gillard Government with the approach of the Tony Abbott-led Coalition.

Under Mr Abbott, the Coalition has: appealed to the climate sceptics; conducted a massive scare campaign against carbon pricing; threatened to repeal the Clean Energy Future package; and offered an ineffective alternative policy approach which would fail to deliver on Australia's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

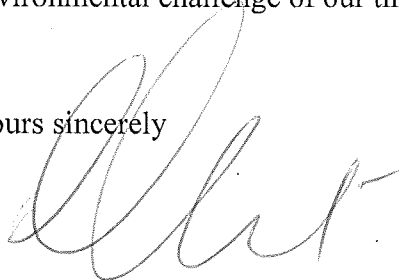
Labor is delivering real action to tackle climate change. The Coalition would take Australia backwards – even further back than in the days of John Howard.

This means the outcome of the next federal election will be critical.

The AYCC has played an important role in ensuring climate change has been at the forefront of political and policy debates in recent years.

I urge your members to carefully consider what is at stake as we head to the next election and to continue your campaigning and advocacy for real action to tackle this most pressing environmental challenge of our time.

Yours sincerely



GREG COMBET

8 August 2012