



**Subject: stop funding the climate crisis**

**Dear Westpac Chairman,**

This spring and summer across Australia we experienced the most destructive bushfires in our recent history.

Millions of people have had their homes, livelihoods and health destroyed or impacted by fire and smoke and over a billion animals have died, bringing many ecosystems and species to the brink of extinction.

As bushfire survivors we have faced these and previous fires and borne the brunt of their unprecedented ferocity. We know, deeply, personally, what is at stake if humans continue to emit greenhouse gases at levels which are damaging the climate. Our jobs, homes and lives are on the line.

The science is clear. The unprecedented and extreme nature of these fires are made possible because the ever-increasing carbon emissions in our atmosphere is disrupting and warming the climate, exposing Australia to increasing heat and worsening drought. Carbon which has, in a very large part, come from the burning of fossil fuels.

We all need to do our part to bring global warming under control, but our major banks are failing to do theirs.

Even after the Paris Agreement was signed, you have loaned billions of dollars to coal, oil and gas companies and projects, allowing their expansion and supporting the generation of carbon emissions that have helped get us to this point. Your actions are delaying the necessary shift to renewable energy. Instead, your support for fossil fuels is fueling the problem, making you partly responsible for the fires which have ravaged Australia in the last few months.

This cannot continue. Too much is at stake. To combat ever-worsening fire seasons Australia and all countries need to urgently reduce carbon emissions and transition to technologies that will not disrupt the climate.

**We are calling on you to end your disastrous practice of funding fossil fuel companies and polluting coal, oil and gas projects. This includes immediately stopping lending to any company or project that will expand the scale of the coal, oil or gas industries and setting dates by which your exposure to these industries will reach zero.**

These dates must be in line with what is necessary to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees.

There is no time to waste. Our lives have already been turned upside down by bushfire. Ending your support for destructive fossil fuels could save the lives and livelihoods of many more people by helping prevent future fires.

Please don't wait until the fire is at your own door. By then, it is too late.

*Yours sincerely,*  
**Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action**

Supported By  
**MARKET FORCES**

[www.bushfiresurvivors.org](http://www.bushfiresurvivors.org)