CLIMARTE
EMERGENCY:ACTION



Creative Recovery Network

26 October 2026

The Hon Chris Bowen MP
President of Negotiations COP31
Minister for Climate Change and Energy
Australian Federal Government
E: minister.bowen@dcceew.gov.au

Dear Minister Bowen,

Over the years we've felt encouraged by your advocacy for renewable energy and by your powerful statements like '*it's up to you to make me deliver effective climate policies'*.

Understanding how critically important and how tough a job it is for you and your team, please know how appreciative we are that you are the President of Negotiations for COP31.

CLIMARTE is specifically concerned about the growing role and access fossil fuel lobbyists' have had in previous COPs and their capacity to undermine negotiations.

As the world's third biggest fossil fuel exporter with a very well documented fossil fuel lobbyist problem, it's in the interests of honest international dialogue that we lead in acknowledging the profound, multilayered harm fossil fuel lobbyists are wreaking on our own country.

In the hope of both supporting and encouraging the Australian Government's position further, we outline the key challenges, specifically regarding the role and power of fossil fuel industry lobbyists:

- 1,602 fossil fuel lobbyists were reported to have attended COP30.
- More than half a century of empirical evidence shows fossil fuel industry lobbyists' are engaging in deceptive tactics to undermine scientific consensus in order to continue peddling what they know to be lethal and incalculably costly products.
- Many fossil fuel lobbyists are also political leaders with ties to industry funded—Atlas Network affiliated—so-called 'think tanks' which abuse charitable laws.
- Fossil fuel war profiteering is in plain sight, with evidence that companies are making 'windfall war profits' amidst 'net favourable' conditions.
- As governments have sought to protect their people from impoverishment, a recent United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) report warned that global, explicit fossil fuel subsidies are on track towards $US1.1 trillion this year.
- Public fossil fuel subsidies exacerbate market manipulation (manufactured scarcity and dependence) on the centralised and expensive (highly profitable) fossil fuel systems that are collapsing the Earth's ecosystems.
- Fossil fuel lobbyists are obstructing the development of the only long term solution to stabilise economies; local, affordable, regenerative energy systems.

Culture is now one of the 30 objectives of the Action Agenda: Objective 19 under Pillar 5 on fostering human and social development. Having culture finally incorporated into the Action Agenda provides an incredible opportunity to finally expel fossil fuel lobbyists from negotiations. It is an opportunity to prioritise voices from civil society organisations representing countless caring people all around the world; people who are desperate for meaningful, effective climate action commensurate with the emergency.

As the President of Negotiations, Australia has an exceptional opportunity to truly lead the world. We acknowledge your leadership in highlighting the devastating impacts of climate change on our Pacific neighbors and the commitment the Albanese government has made to support islander communities.

Most Australians are watching. Most are looking for vision and action to lead us out of the climate apocalypse that is now upon us and into a socially and ecologically regenerative future.

In response, from the start to the finish (Nov 2027) of your leading role in COP31, CLIMARTE is presenting *COOL: How We Did It* . Focussed on solutions, the artwork features creative roadmaps and blueprints depicting socially and ecologically regenerative food and energy systems. Since the technologies have been around for more than a century, the futures referenced are incredibly encouraging.

So, when you see our special COP31 edition of Eugenia Lim's popular poster *The Coal Face** featured on stickers and tote bags, please recognise it as a powerful symbol reminding you—and all delegates—that we are watching and backing you to deliver the most effective climate policy action the world has ever seen.

Yours with hope and determination,

Deborah Hart
Chair & Creative Producer
CLIMARTE

Pippa Bailey
Lead Convenor
Cultural Gardeners

Scotia Monkivitch
Executive Officer
Creative Recovery Network

*This is an adaptation of Eugenia Lim's *The Coal Face (ScoMo)* which was initially commissioned for CLIMARTE's 2019 Poster Project.