

CLIMATE INTEGRITY SUMMIT 25

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WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025
PARLIAMENT HOUSE • CANBERRA

| Time | Session | Speaker |
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| 9:00am | Registration Parliament House Theatrette | |
| 9:30am | Opening remarks | Dr Richard Denniss Executive Director, The Australia Institute |
| 9:45am | Welcome to Country | Violet Sheridan Ngunnawal Elder |
| 9:55am | Keynote: Redefining Global Security: Climate action, peace, and the critical role of g7+ nations | Dr Helder da Costa General Secretary, The g7+ Secretariat |
| 10:15am | Address: Integrity at home shapes global outcomes | Polly Hemming Climate & Energy Director, The Australia Institute |
| 10:35am | Address: Small Islands making waves of change: The legacy of AOSIS | Her Excellency Ilana Seid Chair of Alliance of Small Island States & Ambassador and Permanent Representative for the Republic of Palau to the United Nations |
| 10:55am | Address: Creating jobs and building a good society while meeting the global warming challenge | The Hon Doug Cameron Former Senator for New South Wales |
| 11:15am | Address: Real Zero. Real corporate leadership | Dr Shanta Barley Chief Climate Scientist, Fortescue |
| 11:35am | Lunch Mural Hall | |
| 12:30pm | Address: The Shifting Geopolitical Order: Decarbonisation and the declining influence of the United States | Dr Emma Shortis International & Security Affairs Director, The Australia Institute |
| 12:45pm | Panel > Communicating with integrity: Building foundations for climate action | Chaired by Polly Hemming Dr Mila Rosenthal Executive Director, International Science Reserve & Co-founder, Planet Reimagined Jonathan Birchall Lecturer, International and Public Affairs Department, Columbia University & Lead Communications Officer, Open Society Foundations |

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| | | Craig Foster AM Human rights activist & Australian retired soccer player |
| 1:40pm | Address: Beyond the Energy Security Myth: The truth behind Japan-Australia LNG Relations | Yuki Tanabe Sustainable Development and Aid Program Coordinator, Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society |
| 2:00pm | Address: Australia and the Pacific 'Family' – Are Words and Actions Aligned? | Savenaca Narube Unity Fiji Party Leader & Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji |
| 2:20pm | Afternoon tea Mural Hall | |
| 3:00pm | Address: Intergenerational Climate Equity – A fair and sustainable future for young Australians | Senator David Pocock Independent Senator for the Australian Capital Territory |
| 3:15pm | Address: An Unstoppable Force: First Nations confronting fossil fuels | Antonia Burke Community leader |
| 3:35pm | Closing Plenary: Rights, resistance, and rising sea levels: Why protecting civil liberties is fundamental to climate action | Jennifer Robinson Human rights lawyer & barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, London |
| 4:05pm | Closing Remarks | Dr Richard Denniss Executive Director, The Australia Institute |
| 4:15pm | Close | |

Keynote: Redefining Global Security: Climate action, peace, and the critical role of G7+ nations

Dr Helder da Costa

General Secretary, The g7+ Secretariat

Representing conflict-affected countries, the g7+ advocates for sustainable, inclusive solutions to address the interconnected challenges of climate resilience, peacebuilding, and development. Highlighting the link between climate change and global security, Dr Helder da Costa will emphasise how global challenges like climate change exacerbate conflict, undermine stability, and disproportionately affect fragile and conflict-affected states, and how to pursue resilience therein.

Wealthy nations play a pivotal role in supporting the g7+ goals, and achieving true 'security' through genuine partnerships, enhanced climate financing, and knowledge-sharing. By aligning its efforts with countries affected by conflict and fragility, Australia can not only contribute to global stability but also strengthen its own domestic security by addressing the far-reaching impacts of climate-driven instability. This session will underscore the urgency of collective action and the mutual benefits of prioritising climate resilience in places affected by conflict and fragility as a cornerstone of global and national security.

Address: Integrity at home shapes global outcomes

Polly Hemming

Climate & Energy Director, The Australia Institute

Despite frequent claims that Australia is 'too small to make a difference,' historical evidence demonstrates our nation's outsized role in influencing international norms and policies. Australia's domestic policies across climate, human rights, environmental protection, and democratic institutions create ripple effects that shape international responses to global challenges.

With the 2025 federal election approaching, this timely discussion underscores how Australia's domestic choices have far-reaching implications for international cooperation on climate change, ecosystem protection, and human security. Far from being too small to matter, the integrity of Australia's actions at home fundamentally shape our capacity for meaningful leadership abroad.

Address: Small Islands making waves of change: The legacy of AOSIS

Her Excellency Ilana Seid

Chair of Alliance of Small Island States & Ambassador and Permanent Representative for the Republic of Palau to the United Nations

Multilateralism plays a vital role in advancing climate justice. The representation of Small Island Developing States in the United Nations - both individually and through alliances such as AOSIS - has played a transformative role in advancing global climate justice and action.

H.E. Ilana V. Seid, the Chair of AOSIS & Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations will highlight how nations with small populations like Palau can wield significant diplomatic influence in shaping global policy outcomes, and how AOSIS has been at the forefront of international negotiations, playing a pivotal role in shaping the Paris Agreement and amplifying the voices of small island states on the global stage.

Address: Real Zero. Real corporate leadership

Dr Shanta Barley

Chief Climate Scientist, Fortescue

Too many corporate and government climate strategies continue to rely on offsets, carbon capture and storage and the land and ocean's natural ability to absorb carbon. Fortescue's chief climate scientist discusses the rewards of replacing Net Zero with Real Zero targets that set clear deadlines for fossil fuel phase out – and the economic losses awaiting businesses and governments that fail to do so.

Address: The Shifting Geopolitical Order: Decarbonisation and the declining influence of the United States

Dr Emma Shortis

International & Security Affairs Director, The Australia Institute

Dr Emma Shortis will examine the United States' changing influence and the broader reconfiguration of the global geopolitical landscape. As new powers and alliances emerge, the traditional dominance of the US comes into question and Australia's unwavering allegiance to the United States risks aligning climate and security strategies with a partner that is failing to lead on the most pressing issue of our time.

By acting more independently and forging stronger partnerships with nations and blocs to advocate for genuine decarbonisation and adaptation funding, Australia has an opportunity to play a meaningful leadership role on the global stage. By embracing this potential and asserting itself as a proactive and innovative leader in the fight against climate change, Australia can secure its own prosperity and influence in a rapidly changing world.

Panel > Communicating with integrity: Building foundations for climate action

Chaired by Polly Hemming

Dr Mila Rosenthal

Executive Director, International Science Reserve & Co-founder, Planet Reimagined

Jonathan Birchall

Lecturer, International and Public Affairs Department, Columbia University & Lead Communications Officer, Open Society Foundations

Craig Foster AM

Human rights activist & Australian retired soccer player

Robust, science-based climate action depends on the integrity of communication—including in journalism, advocacy, and the regulation of information. Drawing on their diverse and extensive expertise, Dr Mila Rosenthal, Jonathan Birchall and Craig Foster will explore how a country's approach to media diversity, disinformation, public interest journalism, and activism shapes its climate discourse and global influence.

By exploring how protections—or their absence—impact public understanding, policy decisions, and accountability, the discussion will highlight the less obvious ways misinformation, corporate influence, and systemic barriers undermine progress on climate and human rights.

This session will explore how countries like Australia can inspire global strategies for achieving ambitious, science-backed climate solutions through innovative approaches and stronger safeguards for communication integrity.

Address: Beyond the Energy Security Myth: The truth behind Japan-Australia LNG Relations

Dr Yuki Tanabe

Sustainable Development and Aid Program Coordinator, Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society

This session exposes the myth that Japan's energy security depends on Australian LNG imports and reveals that the energy "security" narrative by policymakers serves commercial interests rather than reflecting genuine energy vulnerability or regional instability.

Far from addressing regional concerns in good faith, Australia's efforts to justify and perpetuate Australia's fossil fuel exports, undermine regional decarbonisation and human security.

Dr Yuki Tanabe, a Program Co-ordinator from Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society will provide insights into the reality of Japan-Australia LNG relations, the risks of ongoing investment in fossil fuels for both countries and how Australia's trade relationship with Japan could constructively contribute to regional decarbonisation.

Address: Australia and the Pacific 'Family' – Are Words and Actions Aligned?

Savenaca Narube

Unity Fiji Party Leader & Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji

As economic challenges in Pacific Island Countries are compounded and exacerbated by the climate crisis, the strength of what the Australian Government calls 'the Pacific family' is being tested. A prosperous and unified 'Pacific family' is essential for regional security, from climate resilience to geopolitical stability, and the alignment of Australia's promises with its actions are more important than ever.

Address: Intergenerational Climate Equity – A fair and sustainable future for young Australians

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

As we face the escalating impacts of climate change, the decisions we make today define the opportunities, rights, and wellbeing of future generations.

Senator David Pocock will explore the ethical responsibility of current leaders and policymakers to prioritise long-term policy solutions relating to environmental protection, distribution of resources, and governance structures that ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

Drawing from international principles and his Duty of Care Bill, Senator Pocock will discuss the specific concept of intergenerational equity in climate action and its potential to drive more ambitious and effective climate policies for the benefit of all.

Address: An Unstoppable Force: First Nations confronting fossil fuels

Antonia Burke

Community leader

First Nations peoples are reshaping the battle against fossil fuel expansion. Drawing on her community's successful challenge to Santos' offshore drilling plans, community leader Antonia Burke reminds us that when communities unite to protect what they hold sacred, no adversary is too large to challenge.

Communities labelled as "too small" or "too remote" are securing decisive wins that protect both cultural heritage and global environmental futures, simultaneously cutting through the myth that only those with money and power can shape outcomes. Communities bound by culture and connection are proving to be the most formidable opponents to fossil fuel expansion – and winning.

This address is for anyone who has ever felt powerless in the face of environmental destruction, offering hope and practical lessons from First Nations' leadership in the global movement for climate justice.

Closing Plenary: Rights, resistance, and rising sea levels: Why protecting civil liberties is fundamental to climate action

Jennifer Robinson

Human rights lawyer & barrister, Doughty Street Chambers, London

Robust judicial systems, protected civil liberties, and free speech are not merely parallel to climate policy but fundamental prerequisites for it. Genuine climate leadership requires nations to strengthen, not weaken, their democratic institutions and human rights protections, even when—and especially when—these rights are used to challenge powerful interests.

Drawing from her extensive experience in landmark international law, climate change and human rights cases, barrister Jennifer Robinson will challenge the notion that Australia is too small to influence global affairs and explore the recent International Court of Justice advisory opinion on climate change and human rights and the critical yet often overlooked relationship between democratic freedoms and climate action.

Through examination of current trends in international law, protest rights, judicial independence, and civil society engagement, this timely discussion offers crucial insights into Australia's unique position to influence positive change.

Jennifer Robinson appears by arrangement with Claxton Speakers International.
