



Edmund Rice Centre

for Justice & Community Education

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Media Release 13 August 2018

Proposed NEG will lead to a loss of Australia's credibility in the Pacific

The NEG as it stands means that Australia's Pacific Island neighbours are being offered no hope in their campaign to alert the world to urgent action to curb greenhouse gas emissions. They stand to lose not only clean water, food productivity, land, and livelihood but also identity, culture and heritage. They are vulnerable to climate change and they are on our doorstep.

Spokesperson for the *Pacific Calling Partnership*, Vincent Sicari said today, 'The proposed NEG is unacceptable. It shows that the Australian government is not taking seriously the concerns of our neighbours. It will lead to a loss of Australia's credibility in the Pacific. Australia will also lose credibility with the 84% of Australian voters that support clean energy.'

Sicari added, 'Australia may be minimally on track with our commitments under the Paris Agreement but it is not on track with our responsibilities based on our wealth and our emissions.'

'It is inexcusable that Australia is sticking to its inadequate target under the Paris Agreement when you look at the decisions made by other nations such as New Zealand, France, Germany, UK and Canada, the Marshall Islands and Fiji which have already indicated that they will strengthen their contributions. We need to join these nations and increase the minimal commitment we made under the Paris Agreement. This is a human rights and justice issue.'

Sicari explained, 'We in the *Pacific Calling Partnership* have a strong relationship with the people and governments of the low-lying Pacific Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Along with my colleagues, I have visited both nations and seen for myself the increasing coastal erosion and the effects of longer droughts. I have witnessed the relentless efforts of local people as they attempt to adapt to the increase in extreme climate events - planting mangroves, building sea walls, developing strategies for growing food in raised gardens and installing rainwater tanks.'

It is shameful that Australia spends more to contribute to green-house gas emissions than to support countries to cope with the impacts of climate change. Australia promotes its Overseas Development Assistance contribution of \$300 million over four years to the Pacific as a generous contribution and yet over the same four year period

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