



IN A SHOCK move, the Federal Government announced today a sweeping program to tackle what it is calling a "climate emergency".

New coal, oil, and coal seam gas developments will be banned immediately.

The government will also commit the nation to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2020.

To back up the new approach powerful new legislation will be introduced under which the government formally declares the nation in a state of a climate emergency.

Announcing the policy earlier this morning, the Prime Minister said that "Australia faced a threat greater than any time since white

settlement. The climate emergency is a bigger threat than we faced in the second world war".

The new legislation, if passed by the Senate, will commit Australia to taking "all necessary measures within Australia and in partnership with all other nations to restore a safe climate at emergency speed".

The announcement has come as a shock to Australia's fossil fuel industry, despite the intense campaigning by climate groups over the last 12 months. Activists had collected 500,000 signatures on petitions calling for the declaration of a climate emergency.

The President of the Australian Coal Council, Amanda Muir, damned the new policy direction: "Doesn't the federal government

realise that Australia lives off fossil fuels?," she said.

Given the political conflict that Australia has faced over climate for the last decade, the Government included a surprise measure in the climate package. The opposition parties have been invited to nominate three senior front benchers to join what will be called the 'Climate Cabinet of National Unity'.

The Prime Minister argued at this morning's press conference that "cross-party support will be essential for the extremely strong climate action required. We have a huge task to build an economy which will restore a safe climate and we are going to have to move, as a nation, at extreme speed. National unity on climate is vital."

Ask ALL levels of government to declare a Climate Emergency!



To sign the Climate Emergency Declaration petition, scan the QR code above, or go to: <https://cedamia.org/sign>

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