



SHANE RATTENBURY

Leader of the ACT Greens

5 June 2025

Andrew Barr
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
Leader of the Parliamentary ACT Labor Party
Member for Kurrajong

Dear Chief Minister,

Andrew

As you may have recently seen, the Albanese Government—through its new Environment Minister, Murray Watt—has approved the extension of Woodside's North West Shelf gas project. This environmentally destructive development is forecast to release billions of tonnes of carbon pollution into the atmosphere and operate until 2070.

On this World Environment Day, I am writing to urge the ACT Government to take a strong and public stand against this decision. The North West Shelf extension is expected to produce more annual emissions than all of Australia's coal-fired power stations combined. It directly undermines the scientific consensus on climate action, the Federal Government's own net-zero targets, and the ACT's long-standing record of climate leadership—a record that our two parties have set together in government.

In 2019, the ACT Legislative Assembly declared a climate emergency, committing our city to ambitious emissions reductions and a clean energy future. Since then, Canberra has led the way in transitioning to 100% renewable electricity, cutting emissions, committing to phase out fossil fuel gas, and advocating for national reform. But those efforts are undercut when the Federal Government continues to approve fossil fuel projects that will pollute for decades and blowout any meaningful attempt at net-zero emissions.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt here in Canberra—from dangerous heatwaves and bushfire smoke to flash flooding and biodiversity loss. Decisions like the North West Shelf extension will only make these threats worse, putting additional pressure on our environment, economy, and health system—setting the ACT Government up for a difficult future.

In response, the ACT Greens are calling on the ACT Government to reaffirm its climate leadership by publicly opposing the North West Shelf project and writing to the Prime Minister and Federal Environment Minister to demand a legislative ban on new coal and gas approvals.

Canberra has led the nation before. In the face of this national climate failure, we must do so again. I urge you, and the ACT Government to speak out—to stand up for our climate, our community, and the generations who will inherit the consequences of today's choices.

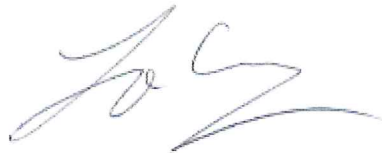
This moment demands not politics, but leadership and common sense—for the sake of our shared future. I trust you and your government will treat this issue with the seriousness it warrants.

Kind regards,



Shane Rattenbury

Leader of the ACT Greens
Greens Member for Kurrajong



Jo Clay

Deputy Leader of the ACT Greens
Greens Member for Ginninderra



Laura Nuttall

Greens Spokesperson for Young People
Greens Member for Brindabella



Andrew Braddock

Greens Spokesperson for Climate
Greens Member for Yerrabi