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OPEN LETTER ON GAS EXPORTS

Leading scientists call for a 25% tax on gas exports to make Australia a scientific powerhouse again

Science is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of all Australians, but despite a long history of world-leading discoveries, according to the Australian Academy of Science, Australia’s science system is going backwards. Declining funding risks weakening national capability, driving talent overseas and eroding our global competitiveness.

Good science needs good scientists. Yet Australia is facing a mass exodus of its science workforce with a third of surveyed workers saying they planned to leave the sector altogether.

Despite welcome recent increases in CSIRO funding by the Albanese Government, it has not prevented the loss of over 800 jobs under this government, with up to 350 more to go in the crucial fields of health and biosecurity, climate, environment, agriculture and food.

Australia Institute research shows that, in the midst of a mass extinction crisis, spending on environmental protection is just 0.3% of federal spending and set to decline to 0.1%.

Yet, at the same time, the Australian Government actively chooses to forego billions of dollars annually by not taxing the gas industry properly.

Australia’s gas exports make climate change worse. They damage our environment and present risks to agriculture and the economy. There are better, cheaper, cleaner alternatives to most uses of gas.

We call on the Australian Government to implement a 25% tax on gas exports to properly fund infrastructure and public services essential to Australia’s wellbeing, including scientific research and protecting our environment.

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