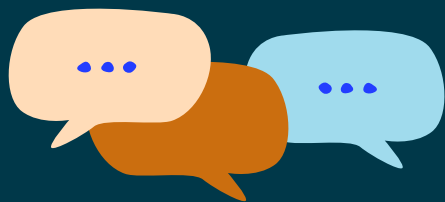


# Politics Resource



**Not all climate actions are created equal. Political engagement is certainly one with the highest impact.**



**Importantly, it doesn't have to be pretty and you don't need to be an expert.**



**In fact, generally, the more honest and authentic you are, the more successful your engagement will be.**

# Why is engaging with local representatives impactful?

Engaging with your local representative in Parliament is a crucial avenue for advancing climate action for several reasons:



1

**Members of Parliament (MPs) have the power to propose, amend, and vote on legislation.** Legislation can set the rules of the game, so to speak. Governments can implement policies that favour renewable energy over fossil fuels, through mechanisms such as subsidies, tax incentives, investment security, consumer protections and compliance.

**Australia's Federal and State governments are highly resourced, and their investment in climate action is critical.** The *annual* expenditure of the Commonwealth, Victorian and NSW governments are \$628b, \$93b and \$115b respectively. Government funding:

2

- **accelerates the transition** to a low-carbon economy by financing crucial research, infrastructure, and technologies.
- **generates more investment** by acting as a catalyst for private investment, as it reduces risk for private investors and demonstrates viability.
- **sets an example to other nations** that climate solutions are a smart investment.
- **saves Australian taxpayers money** in the long run by reducing costs associated with climate-fuelled disasters.

3

**MPs have a platform and public presence** that can be used to raise awareness about climate change. This also helps shape public opinion and generates momentum for action at the national level.



# How does it work?

MPs are accountable to their constituents and require their support for re-election.

Knowing that a significant portion of their electorate is concerned about climate change will make them more likely to take action on this issue.

**Whether they admit it to you or not, when MPs see your face or hear from you:**

- a. you become a mouthpiece for what the electorate “thinks and feels”, and;
- b. your views guide the MP’s opinions and decisions in the party room and at elections.



# TWO STEPS

for engaging successfully with your local politician on climate:

## Step 1: Find your State or Federal MP

We strongly recommend you engage with MPs that represent your area, as it is their job to listen to you and represent you.

**First**, find the name of your State District (VIC [here](#); NSW [here](#)) or Federal Electorate (VIC [here](#); NSW [here](#))

**Then**, find out who your:

- State MP is (VIC [here](#) - use the “Electorate” tab on the left; NSW [here](#))
- Federal MP is [here](#) (enter your postcode to search)

## Step 2: Decide how you want to engage with your MP

### [Visit your MP personally](#) (2-3 hours)

Go with a friend or family member for support (& more fun). **[Here is a 15min podcast](#)** on how to do it well. Setting up a meeting can take a bit of time but don't give up!

### [Write to your MP](#) (10-30mins)

You can do this during your lunch break!

### [Call your MP](#) (5-15 mins)

You can do this in a morning tea break!