



TOP REASONS

**Why Australia has a
climate responsibility
towards South Asia**

1 As a developed country Australia has obligations towards all low-income, climate-vulnerable countries – to support with their adaptation, resilience, loss and damage, and just transition.

2 Australia has been contributing less than 1% of the global target of climate finance, while it should be at least contributing its fair share of 4.8%.

4.8%
Fair share target

<1%
Current contribution



US\$300 billion

Developed nations' new international climate finance goal annually by 2035

AUD\$14 billion

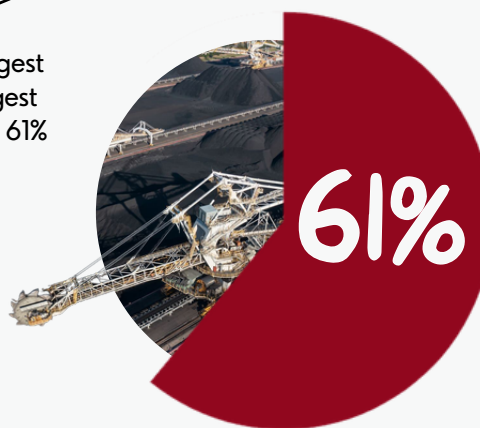
Australia's fair share of the new global goal per year by 2035

3 Meanwhile, in 2023–24, Australian governments handed out \$14.5 billion in fossil fuel subsidies to industries that are driving the climate crisis.

Australia is handing out the same amount in fossil fuel subsidies as its entire new annual fair share of climate finance.

4 Australia remains one of the world's two largest exporters of coal. Australia also has the largest pipeline of coal export projects, making up 61% of proposed coal export projects globally.

5 Coal burning is majorly responsible for climate change and needs to be rapidly phased out to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement – the climate treaty adopted by 195 countries in 2015



Australia leads with 61% of proposed coal exports globally



6 The International Court of Justice's advisory on climate change in 2025, now backed by a United Nations resolution, reiterates that **countries must provide climate finance to help achieve the goals set in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to within two degrees.**

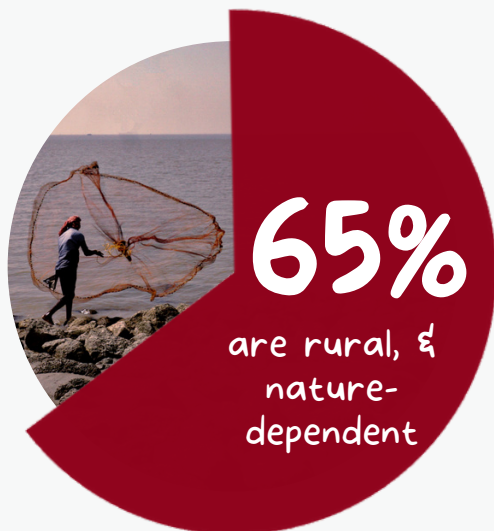
7 Australia's current financial contributions focus on the Pacific Islands and South East Asia; but Pacific Island countries have said that these fall short of the ambitious and transformative action that this region needs from Australia.

Apart from phasing out fossil fuels and their exports and ending fossil fuel subsidies, Australia needs to increase its global climate finance contribution overall, and additionally, loss and damage contributions.



8

Australia must include neighbouring South Asia in its climate contributions because small countries in South Asia, both low-lying Bangladesh and mountainous Nepal, are critically at risk and demand climate justice.



9

South Asia is recognised as the world's most climate impacted region on account of millions of people who are socioeconomically vulnerable. South Asia is home to one-fourth of humanity, and 65% of this population is largely poor, rural, nature-dependent and lead subsistence livelihoods.

10

With increasing Australian trade and investments in South Asia, the region is important for Australia's economic future. Climate contributions towards South Asia are necessary to protect Australia's economic interests.

11

South Asians are now Australia's largest migrant community. Experiencing catastrophic climate impacts in both places, South Asians in Australia make contributions to support their communities that are climate-impacted. They care about Australia fulfilling its climate responsibility towards South Asia.

LOWY INSTITUTE theinterpreter
6 May 2026

Beyond the model minority: Rethinking Australia's Indian diaspora
Reducing what is now Australia's largest overseas-born community to an economic asset is corroding the foundations of social trust.

SBS News
24 October 2022

"And the celebration is set to get even more popular in Australia as the number of people from Nepal – the country's fastest-growing migrant community, according to the latest Census – continues to grow."

Dhaka Tribune
31 October 2024

Bangladesh, Australia seek effective initiatives to promote regular migration

12

Australia is already experiencing climate migrations from South Asia, and these are likely to increase as the effects of climate change deepens.

Australia needs to consider both just climate contributions and compassionate inclusions for South Asian climate migrants.

AUSTRALIA CAN:

- support adaptation and resilience building in South Asia through effective loss and damage and climate finance contributions
- support clean, just and self-reliant energy development in South Asia

