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TO: Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100 Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

22 November 2023

**RE: SUBMISSION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE AMENDMENT  
(DUTY OF CARE AND INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE EQUITY) BILL 2023**

The Whitsunday Conservation Council (WCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide the Senate with a submission to the above amendment.

The WCC is a regional conservation organisation associated with and supporting many Whitsundays based conservation groups. Our register of members and supporters currently stands at 1500 and includes many young people. WCC is concerned for their future.

The impacts of climate change are here now and increasing in intensity. Over the past decade, our region has been hit by significant heat waves, floods, fires, cyclones and mass coral bleaching events.

The future looks to be dire as rising global temperatures will bring more extreme weather events leading to more heat waves, floods, fires and mass bleaching events. You can't blame the younger generation for feeling depressed and helpless as they face such a harsh future.

These circumstances come as no surprise as consecutive governments have ignored their responsibility to mitigate global warming and build towards a better, climate safe future.

The government continues to open new fossil fuel projects which will only exacerbate the climate crisis. A responsible government would now stop all new coal and gas projects and move towards 100% renewable energy by 2035.

Decisions made today will shape our future. The government must step up and adopt this bill to ensure that our elected representatives uphold their duty and build a safe and liveable environment for our future.

Surprisingly, the case of Sharma v Minister for the Environment identified that key decision makers do not have to consider the impact their decisions have on children and future generations. This is very disappointing and unacceptable. This bill will change that by promoting intergenerational equity in government decision making.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this very important bill which will go a long way towards protecting current and future Australians, both young and old.

Sincerely,

Faye C Chapman  
Secretary  
Whitsunday Conservation Council