CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Australia Pushes Fossil Fuel Phase-Out at COP31 in Antalya

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 13



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Australia's climate minister Chris Bowen released a strong draft agreement at COP31 in Antalya on Monday local time. The 18-page document calls for an immediate transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. Bowen urged developed nations to reach net zero by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2040. The draft also targets tripling climate adaptation funding to at least US$120 billion by 2035. It expressed deep concern that global warming would pass 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Bowen warned that the draft would not be final, as some elements may not win all parties' support. Simon Bradshaw, a policy analyst at Greenpeace Australia Pacific, said the draft had some of the strongest language seen in a COP decision draft. Over 60 civil society groups, including 350.org, Oxfam, and Amnesty International, sent an open letter urging Australia to raise ambition at the talks.

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2 Key words

urged /ɜːdʒd/ *verb*
to strongly encourage or advise someone to do something, often because it is important or urgent.
The teacher urged her students to review the material before the exam.

emissions /ɪˈmɪʃnz/ *noun*
the gases or substances that are released into the air by factories, vehicles, or other sources.
Many countries have pledged to reduce carbon emissions by half within a decade.

adaptation /əˌdæpˈteɪʃən/ *noun*
the process of changing or adjusting to new conditions, especially in response to climate change impacts.
Farmers in arid regions are investing in drought adaptation to protect their harvests.

ambition /æmˈbɪʃən/ *noun*
a strong desire and determination to achieve something, often a high or difficult goal.
The company raised its ambition to become the world's largest supplier of electric vehicles.

draft /drɑːft/ *noun*
an early version of a formal document that has not yet been finalised and may still be changed.
The committee circulated a draft proposal for members to review before the final vote.

civil society /ˌsɪvəl səˈsaɪəti/ *noun*
organisations and groups that represent the interests of ordinary people, separate from government and business.
Civil society groups played a key role in pushing for stronger environmental laws.

3 Grammar focus

Reporting what people said

said (that) + a statement, usually one tense back

Reported speech passes on someone's words without quoting them. The tense often shifts back (is becomes was, will becomes would), and pronouns and time words change to fit the new point of view.

1. Bowen warned that the draft would not be final, as some elements may not win all parties' support.
2. Simon Bradshaw, a policy analyst at Greenpeace Australia Pacific, said the draft had some of the strongest language seen in a COP decision draft.

Who is speaking in each sentence, and what did they say?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Key Details from the Text

Answer each question in a short sentence or phrase. Use only information from the lesson text.

1 What two targets for developed nations does the draft agreement set?

2 How much climate adaptation funding does the draft target, and by when?

3 Who are the three civil society organisations named in the text?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Passives and Reporting Verbs

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Pay attention to tense and voice indicated by the hint.

1 A strong draft agreement _____ (release) by Australia's climate minister at COP31 in Antalya.

2 Bowen _____ (warn) that the draft would not be final, as some elements may not win all parties' support.

3 Climate adaptation funding _____ (target) to be tripled to at least US$120 billion by 2035.

4 An open letter _____ (send) by over 60 civil society groups urging Australia to raise ambition at the talks.

EXERCISE 3 Match the Words to Their Meanings

5 points

Match each term (1–5) with its correct definition (a–e).

1 urged _____

2 emissions _____

3 adaptation _____

4 ambition _____

5 civil society _____

A the process of adjusting to new conditions, such as climate change impacts

B gases or substances released into the air by human activity

C groups representing ordinary people's interests, separate from government and business

D a strong desire and determination to achieve a high or difficult goal

E strongly encouraged someone to do something important or urgent

EXERCISE 4 Put the sentences in order

4 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A The draft also targets tripling climate adaptation funding to at least US$120 billion by 2035.

B The 18-page document calls for an immediate transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems.

C It expressed deep concern that global warming would pass 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

D Bowen urged developed nations to reach net zero by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2040.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____ _____

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 5 **Summary and Opinion**

Write a short summary (80–130 words) of the COP31 draft agreement released by Chris Bowen. In your summary, state what the draft asks for and who supports or reacts to it. Then add ONE sentence giving your reasoned opinion on whether the targets in the draft are realistic. Use at least three of these words: draft, emissions, adaptation, ambition, urged. Write 80 to 130 words.

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Key Details from the Text

1. The draft urges developed nations to reach net zero by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2040. These are the two explicit targets mentioned in the text.
2. The draft targets tripling climate adaptation funding to at least US$120 billion by 2035. Both the amount and the year are stated in the text.
3. The three organisations named are 350.org, Oxfam, and Amnesty International. The text explicitly lists these three names.

Exercise 2 Passives and Reporting Verbs

1. was released The subject is 'a draft agreement' (singular), and it received the action, so we need the past simple passive: was + past participle.
2. warned The original text uses 'Bowen warned...', which is a reporting verb in the past simple introducing a that-clause.
3. is targeted The draft 'targets' funding — we can rewrite this in the passive: funding is targeted. Present simple because it describes the document's content.
4. was sent The groups sent the letter; in passive voice the letter (singular) was sent. Past simple passive: was + past participle.

Exercise 3 Match the Words to Their Meanings

1. E. strongly encouraged someone to do something important or urgent
2. B. gases or substances released into the air by human activity
3. A. the process of adjusting to new conditions, such as climate change impacts
4. D. a strong desire and determination to achieve a high or difficult goal
5. C. groups representing ordinary people's interests, separate from government and business

Exercise 4 Put the sentences in order

B, D, A, C The 18-page document calls for an immediate transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. Bowen urged developed nations to reach net zero by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2040. The draft also targets tripling climate adaptation funding to at least US$120 billion by 2035. It expressed deep concern that global warming would pass 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Exercise 5 Summary and Opinion

Australia's climate minister Chris Bowen released a draft agreement at COP31 in Antalya that calls for an immediate transition away from fossil fuels. The draft urged developed nations to reach net zero by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2040. It also targets tripling climate adaptation funding to at least US$120 billion by 2035. Over 60 civil society groups sent an open letter pushing Australia to raise ambition at the talks. Bowen warned the draft may not survive unchanged. I believe these targets are ambitious but could be realistic if wealthy nations lead with genuine political will. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.