

Company/organisations scenario briefs

This document contains **six fictional company briefs**, each outlining a climate-related scenario and including an example press release from a real organisation.

These briefs provide context for each group's role, communication approach, and intended message during the mock press conference.

Note: All companies are entirely fictional. Any research should focus on the industry, **not on replicating** the real-world examples provided.

Scenario overviews

1. Mining Company – Defensive (pg. 3)

Scenario: Coal mining company, Smith Prospecting, faces allegations that chemicals from its mines have leaked into local waterways, threatening nearby towns and wildlife.

Angle: The company takes a defensive stance, aiming to protect its image, downplay the severity of the incident, and challenge the credibility of the accusations while maintaining a tone of authority and control.

2. Fishing Company – Defensive (pg. 5)

Scenario: Fish are Friends Not Food (FFNF), a major commercial fishing company, faces accusations of operating in endangered waters, threatening marine biodiversity and breaching sustainable fishing laws.

Angle: FFNF adopts a defensive stance, aiming to protect its reputation, question the credibility of activists, and frame itself as a responsible, sustainable operator unfairly targeted by misinformation.

3. Not-for-Profit Organisation – Transparent (pg. 8)

Scenario: Guilty Garments, a not-for-profit organisation, investigates and exposes unethical and unsustainable practices within the fashion industry, aiming to inform consumers and pressure brands to reform.

Angle: The organisation takes a transparent stance, using facts, data, and investigative findings to promote accountability. Their message focuses on honesty, evidence, and empowering consumers to make informed, ethical choices while advocating for industry-wide change.

4. Fashion Company – PR Spin Team (pg. 10)

Scenario: Fashion Super, a fast-fashion brand, is accused of exploiting overseas sweatshops and promoting over-consumption through low-cost, short-lived clothing. To divert attention, the company launches a 'Super Future' sustainability initiative focused on recycled materials, tree-planting, and trend forecasting.

Angle: The team adopts a PR spin approach, using positive, forward-looking messaging to shift focus from unethical practices to corporate responsibility. The tone emphasises optimism, progress, and brand values while subtly deflecting criticism.

5. Multinational Corporation – PR Spin Team (pg. 13)

Scenario: PlastiCorp, a global plastics and food production company, faces mounting criticism for contributing to deforestation, plastic pollution, and carbon emissions. In response, the company launches a new initiative, Feeding the Future, focused on sustainable agriculture and recycling commitments.

Angle: The team takes a PR spin approach, redirecting attention from its environmental and ethical controversies by highlighting selective sustainability goals, positive social messaging, and future-oriented promises to reinforce an image of corporate responsibility and progress.

6. Farmers – Activist Response (pg. 15)

Scenario: Farmer-led organisation Farmers Environment Protection Authority (FEPA) is challenging mining companies for their role in driving the climate crisis and calling out government inaction. They argue that while agriculture is criticised for emissions, the far greater pollution from mining and fossil fuels is being overlooked.

Angle: FEPA takes an activist stance, using facts, comparisons, and persuasive language to expose double standards and advocate for fair treatment of farmers. Their message aims to inspire public support, pressure policymakers, and highlight the need for stronger emission reductions from the mining sector.

Mining Company - Defensive

You are representatives from the **mining industry**.

PART 1

Included below is a real-world example of a mining company's response to allegations made against it.

Task: Review the media statement and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are mining representatives from the company **Smith Prospecting** and must respond to allegations that the **chemicals from your mines are leaking into local waterways**. Use the real-world media statement as inspiration to create your own.

You will take on the role of a **defensive company** and can choose whether your company is trying to protect your image, downplay the situation or manipulate the story. Your audience is the **general public**, so make sure the **tone, language, and persuasive techniques** in your press release reflect your chosen stance.

Smith Prospecting image

Smith Prospecting is a coal mining company based in Queensland. We have played a major role in Australia's development, with coal from our mines helping to generate electricity for around 40% of the state. Established in 1960, we pride ourselves on maintaining high safety standards, protecting our workers, and following Australian environmental protection laws.

What's the issue with mining?

Mining is one of the largest producers of toxic waste. During processing, heavy metals and chemicals can mix and create harmful by-products. If these contaminants aren't disposed of properly, they can leak into waterways and pose serious risks to animals and people who rely on that water. Contamination can also kill aquatic life and impact biodiversity in the local area. Although improper waste disposal remains a challenge in the industry, it is monitored by government agencies and independent climate organisations that track water pollution levels.

The hidden truth

Smith Prospecting has recently faced criticism after an independent climate group reported that contaminated water from one of its mines had not been managed or disposed of correctly, leading to leaks into nearby waterways. This poses risks to local communities and wildlife that depend on these water sources for drinking. **Smith Prospecting has denied the claims but has not yet provided evidence to support its position. Scientists from the climate group have tested the water and confirmed contamination, and Smith Prospecting has now been asked to respond formally to these allegations in a press release.**

Real-world case:**Media Statement on a Report Published by OCCRP***Statement - Adani Group 31 August 2023*

We categorically reject these recycled allegations. These news reports appear to be yet another concerted bid by Soros-funded interests supported by a section of the foreign media to revive the meritless Hindenburg report. In fact, this was anticipated, as was reported by the media last week.

These claims are based on closed cases from a decade ago when the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) probed allegations of over invoicing, transfer of funds abroad, related party transactions and investments through FPIs. An independent adjudicating authority and an appellate tribunal had both confirmed that there was no over-valuation and that the transactions were in accordance with applicable law. The matter attained finality in March 2023 when the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India ruled in our favour. Clearly, since there was no over-valuation, there is no relevance or foundation for these allegations on transfer of funds.

Notably, these FPIs are already part of the investigation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). As per the Expert Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, there is no evidence of any breach of the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) requirements or manipulation of stock prices.

It is unfortunate that these publications, which sent us queries, chose not to carry our response in full.

These attempts are aimed at, inter alia, generating profits by driving down our stock prices and these short sellers are under investigation by various authorities. As the Hon'ble Supreme Court and SEBI are overseeing these matters, it is vital to respect the ongoing regulatory process.

We have complete faith in the due process of law and remain confident of the quality of our disclosures and corporate governance standards. In light of these facts, the timing of these news reports is suspicious, mischievous and malicious - and we reject these reports in their entirety.

– Spokesperson, Adani Group

Fishing Company - Defensive

You are a representative from the **fishing industry**.

PART 1

Included below is an example brief on a real fishing company's response to allegations made against it.

Task: Review the media release and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are representatives from the company **Fish are Friends Not Food (FFNF)** and must respond to allegations that **you have been fishing in endangered waters**. Use the real-world media release as inspiration to create your own.

You will take on the role of a **defensive company** and can choose whether your company is trying to protect your image, downplay the situation or manipulate the story. Your audience is the **general public**, so make sure the **tone, language, and persuasive techniques** in your media release reflect your chosen stance.

FFNF image

FFNF is one of the largest commercial fishing companies in Australia. Operating across the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans, our fleet of 23 vessels supplies fresh, premium-quality seafood to consumers around the country. As one of Australia's leading fisheries, we are committed to responsible fishing practices and to protecting the health of our oceans for future generations.

What's the issue with fishing?

Fishing is one of Australia's biggest food industries, with around one in three Australians eating seafood every week. In recent years, there has been growing concern about overfishing and its impact on marine biodiversity. Overfishing can reduce fish populations, disrupt food chains and even lead to the extinction of species. Fishing in protected or endangered waters is generally prohibited, but there have been cases where this has occurred, sometimes involving large commercial operations. These issues have led to stricter sustainability laws and closer monitoring by environmental and government organisations.

The hidden truth

FFNF has recently come under fire after climate activists accused the company of fishing in protected waters. FFNF strongly denies these claims and has provided evidence showing that all its fishing activities comply with Australian and international regulations. However, **the company has faced intense backlash on social media and is now preparing a formal press release to respond to the allegations and clarify its position.**

Real-world case:

MEDIA RELEASE: Sustainable fisheries targeted in baseless ocean-grab

Seafood industry responds to Macquarie Island Marine Park announcement

Austral Fisheries (Austral) and Australian Longline Fishing (ALF), along with Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), the national peak body representing Australia's commercial seafood industry, and the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, the peak-body representing commercial fisheries in Australia's Commonwealth waters, have condemned the Albanese Government's announced restructure of the Macquarie Island Marine Park, labelling the tabled plans an ocean-grab funded by international activists with no basis in science, designed to tarnish the sustainably managed Toothfish Fishery.

Tragically, Minister for the Environment Tanya Plibersek has chosen to use a proposal funded and driven by an international activist group, Pew Charitable Trusts, rather than a proper Australian government review, Austral CEO David Carter said.

The redesign of the park represents a serious overreach by the Minister that will send shockwaves through the Australian communities and regions who rely on marine estates for employment, tourism and recreation.

This is nothing more than a green-washed PR stunt designed to garner the support of the Greens and teal-independents, while making the eNGOs happy, SIA CEO Veronica Papacosta said.

The process of the government using submissions and plans developed by international activists sets a terrifying basis for future land and ocean conservation. If this is a process that will be relied upon by the Albanese Government, then the Australian public and industry requires transparency of this process and how, if at all, it works with existing and endorsed scientific reviews.

Australia's primary producers should be extremely concerned by the precedent today's announcement sets and the ability for a sitting Minister's agenda to be hijacked by conservation activists.

The Australian seafood industry welcomes any conversation on sustainability because we are deeply committed to a sustainable ocean. As fishers, our priority is the ocean. It's our future and the future of generations to come. However, this is an attack on one of the world's most sustainable, well-managed fisheries. The fact this is happening to two of the world's most progressive, and forward-thinking fishing companies is a disaster.

As part of the proposed Macquarie Island Marine Park restructure, grounds that include the current fishing footprint will be categorised as category four. This means although these areas are technically a marine park zone, they will still permit commercial longline fishing, CFA Chair Dr George Kailis said.

Austral and ALF represent the only industry members operating within the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery, who will now be forced into taking fish from Marine Parks, despite both operations being classed as sustainable by the Australian Government and independent third-parties. This has poor optics for the businesses and their international trade, and means the clock is ticking for further reduced access in the future.

This move sends a chilling message to the investment made on environmental and sustainable practices, as demonstrated by both companies.

Not-for-profit organisation (NFP) - Transparent

You are representatives from a **not-for-profit organisation (NFP)**.

PART 1

Included below is a real-world example of a NFP's press release statement speaking to their trial against an energy company. They take a transparent approach and aim to clear up any key details.

Task: Review the mission statement and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are representatives from **Guilty Garments**, a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to shed light on fashion brands' sustainability and ethical practices. Its goal is to inform consumers and encourage the fashion industry to become more environmentally and socially responsible. Use the real-world mission statement as inspiration to **create your own**.

Guilty Garments – about us

Guilty Garments is an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to exposing the fashion industry's impact on the environment and on people. We investigate how major brands produce, distribute, market, and sell their clothing, assessing how sustainable and ethical their practices are. Our easy-to-understand ranking system helps consumers make informed choices, rewarding companies that do the right thing and encouraging others to improve.

What's the issue with fashion?

The fast fashion industry has a big environmental footprint. It's the second largest consumer of water globally and contributes around 10% of total carbon emissions.

The fashion production cycle includes four stages – production, distribution, marketing, and consumption – and issues occur at every step. During production, some brands rely on sweatshops or factories with poor working conditions, where workers are underpaid and work long hours. Human rights violations have been widely reported in these environments.

The fabrics used in fast fashion also demand large amounts of water, contributing to high water use across the industry. In distribution, transporting clothes across long distances adds carbon emissions too.

Marketing plays a big role. Fast fashion companies often promote constant new trends to encourage people to buy more, even when they don't need to. This overconsumption leads to huge amounts of waste. In fact, an estimated 92 million tonnes of textile waste is produced by the fast fashion industry every year. Because these clothes are often low-quality and short-lived, they're quickly thrown away to make room for the next new thing.

Real-world case:

Ethical Consumer's Mission Statement

Ethical Consumer's primary goal is making global businesses more sustainable through consumer pressure.

1. Helping you to challenge corporate power: It is becoming widely accepted that the global economic system should be able to pursue ethical as well as financial goals. In a world where people feel politically disempowered, and where governments are becoming less powerful than corporations, citizens are beginning to realise that their economic vote may have as much influence as their political vote.

This is true for both individuals and institutions such as clubs, societies, companies and local authorities. We therefore have a team of researchers tracking corporate behaviour on a daily basis so that you have up-to-the-minute information on which to act in the marketplace.

2. Democratising the market: Ethical Consumer aims to enable you to assert your own ethical values through the market by providing information about the company groups that lie behind the brand names on a product-by-product basis. Information is presented in a way (with accordions and rating tables) that allows you to make decisions based upon your own beliefs and priorities. We do however recommend [Best Buys](#) for those who are broadly sympathetic to all the issues we cover.

3. Transparency of research: Most of the information we use comes from previously published sources - from campaign groups as well as from business directories, company reports and government data. Unlike some ethical rating projects our ranking system is fully transparent and all our data included in each product guide is available to subscribers.

4. Letting the companies know: We encourage people not only to buy ethically but also to let the companies know why. This is the most effective way to drive behaviour change. Subscribers to this website have a handy one-click facility to email a company with comments on their ethics - both positive and negative - on company profiles. Our researchers also contact all the companies before beginning each ranking project to ask them detailed questions on your behalf about their policy and practice on ethical issues.

5. Wider political action: Consumer action is not a replacement for other forms of political action. But it is an important additional way for people to exert their influence. For example, most of our product guides contain details of campaigns for changes in regulation which need your support too. We also have our own list of broader regulatory changes which we believe are necessary for a sustainable and compassionate future.

Fashion - PR team

You are representatives from the **fast-fashion industry**.

PART 1

Included below is a real-world example of a press release from a clothing company announcing their new scholarship program. The release shifts attention away from accusations of poor working conditions and the promotion of overconsumption.

Task: Review the media statement and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are representatives from **Fashion Super**, a fast-fashion company currently facing accusations of using overseas sweatshops to keep prices low and attract more customers, despite the low quality of your products.

Your task is to take on the role of the company's **Public Relations (PR) team**. Decide whether your company will aim to **protect its image, downplay the situation, or reshape the story**.

Your audience is the **general public**, so make sure the **tone, language, and persuasive techniques** in your press release reflect your chosen stance.

Fashion Super image

Fashion Super is an Australian-owned fashion company with an international audience, known for its innovative yet timeless designs and chic image. Fashion Super is a brand for everyone – we pride ourselves on helping customers express their true selves and feel confident every day of the week.

Guided by our values, we aim to lead by example with a strong ethical compass, striving to be a brand loved by customers, respected by society, and seen as a contributor to positive change. We follow all regulations in the markets where we operate and always aim to do the right thing. This makes us proud of the work we do and excited about paving the way for the future of fashion.

The hidden truth

Since its beginning, Fashion Super has focused on maximising global profits and company growth. To keep prices low and compete with other fast-fashion brands, Fashion Super produces clothing in sweatshops in Bangladesh, where many workers – mostly women – work 14-16 hours a day, seven days a week. These factories are often unsafe, cramped, and at risk of fires, injuries, or even building collapse.

Because of these low production costs, Fashion Super makes large profits while keeping prices cheap. However, the clothes are often poor quality and not made to last. The combination of low prices and fast-changing trends encourages over-consumption, leading many customers to keep buying new clothes even as old ones are thrown away.

Accusations of using sweatshops and promoting over-consumption have affected many fast-fashion brands, including Fashion Super, which has been working hard to keep this out of public attention.

Fashion Super's new initiative

In response to these accusations, Fashion Super has launched a new initiative called **Super Future**, aimed at promoting sustainability and eco-consciousness. As the climate changes, we all need to do our part for the planet. Through Super Future, we plan to:

- Use **50% recycled materials** in our garments within the next five years to reduce waste and our carbon footprint
- Donate **10% of profits** from clothing sales to plant trees in Brazil and Colombia, helping keep our atmosphere clean and green
- Develop **trend forecasting** systems to better match production with consumer demand, reducing overproduction and waste

Real-world case:

Inditex will fund the university education of 50 female textile industry workers in Bangladesh for five years

The beneficiaries of this new Inditex scholarship program, aimed at promoting professional development at the Asian University for Women, will be selected from the workers of Inditex's partner suppliers in the country. Inditex and the Asian University for Women have launched a new scholarship program to support the academic training of female textile factory workers in Bangladesh. Inditex will allocate €3.75 million to fund this initiative, enabling 50 women to access pre-university and university education over the next five years, providing them with new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Access to higher education for women remains a critical issue in Bangladesh, where female university enrollment is increasing at a slower rate than that of men. In this context, AUW is dedicated to empowering women from all backgrounds, equipping them with the skills to become more qualified professionals, leaders in their communities and workplaces, and advocates for economic and cultural development.

"At Inditex, we believe that empowering women through education is one of the most effective ways to drive lasting and meaningful change in these communities. Through this scholarship program, we are investing in the future of female workers – the backbone of our supply chain – by providing them with the tools to unlock new opportunities and foster progress within their communities," said Inditex CEO Óscar García Maceiras.

"At a time when uncertainty in global affairs has reached a new height, the partnership between Inditex and the Asian University for Women reminds us of what really matters – the weakest in our society must get the opportunities to rise above the circumstances that circumscribe the possibilities in their life. As the first one in my family to enter university, I

know how powerful higher education can be in opening doors that otherwise remain unimaginable. I commend Inditex for this far-reaching commitment that will help deepen AUW's ability to identify talent where few others see them and nurture them so that they too can contribute in the making of a better future for themselves and the world", Cherie Blair, Chancellor of the Asian University for Women.

Set to launch in the upcoming academic year, this initiative will enable 50 female textile workers in Bangladesh to cover their tuition, accommodation, and living expenses for five years. The selection process will begin in the coming weeks and will take place at Inditex's supply chain factories in the country. As part of the process, AUW will conduct informational sessions, selection interviews, and admission tests at participating factories for all interested workers.

Multinational Corporation - PR Team

You are representatives from a **multinational corporation (MNC)**.

PART 1

Included below is a real-world example of a press release from a multinational food and beverage company announcing its new regenerative agriculture program. The statement aims to draw attention away from ongoing accusations of environmental and human rights issues, including deforestation and child labour.

Task: Review the media statement and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are representatives from **PlastiCorp**, a multinational corporation currently facing accusations of plastic pollution and deforestation. These issues are linked to the company's production of plastic – its main source of revenue – and the clearing of forests for agricultural purposes to produce food products in multiple countries around the world.

Your task is to take on the role of the company's **Public Relations (PR) team**. Decide whether your company will aim to **protect its image, downplay the situation, or reshape the story**.

Your audience is the **general public**, so make sure the **tone, language, and persuasive techniques** in your press release reflect your chosen stance.

PlastiCorp's image

PlastiCorp is one of the world's leading plastics companies, with products sold in over 180 countries. We are pioneers in innovation, investing \$2 billion annually in research and development. Our team of over 250,000 employees comes from diverse backgrounds, creating a strong and supportive workforce. With more than 40% of our employees being female and 80% of management positions held by locals, PlastiCorp envisions an equal and inclusive future. We have also set an environmental target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The hidden truth

Like many multinational corporations, PlastiCorp has faced controversies relating to human rights, labour practices, resource exploitation, and environmental harm, including pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and habitat destruction.

PlastiCorp's focus on plastic production contributes to significant waste and pollution, releasing over 80 million metric tons of CO₂ annually during production and distribution. The production of plastic requires crude oil, a fossil fuel, which limits incentives to adopt more sustainable practices.

In addition, PlastiCorp clears forests to produce agricultural products, causing habitat loss for wildlife, soil degradation and increased water scarcity. These practices damage native ecosystems and contribute to environmental challenges around the world.

PlastiCorp's new initiative: Feeding the future

Despite these challenges, PlastiCorp is committed to building a sustainable future. Our new initiative, Feeding the Future, focuses on helping farmers adapt to changing climates and supporting them in adopting sustainable methods that reduce environmental impact.

We also aim to include 30% recycled plastics in our packaging by 2030. With climate change affecting communities globally, we believe it is essential to take action today to create a better tomorrow.

Real-world case:

Nestlé's Commitment to Regenerative Agriculture

Our Net Zero Roadmap shows that nearly two-thirds of our greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, so addressing these is essential for achieving our objectives. Our aim is to make regenerative agriculture practices the standard in the food industry – addressing environmental and social aspects holistically. Reforming the way the world grows food will take time. That's why we're investing heavily in supporting agricultural communities for the long term. We work closely with suppliers and farmers to encourage them to take up these ways of working, which is also expected to help us reach net zero and deliver benefits to nature and communities.

Regenerative agriculture puts people at the center, supporting solutions that are right for their regions and crops. We understand that shifting from traditional practices to new ways of farming can be difficult, which is why we follow a holistic approach that includes finance and incentives, training, and creating market demand for ingredients grown on farms that have adopted regenerative agriculture practices. This is especially important for smallholder farmers who may not have the financial resources to make these investments. We cannot do this alone. We need policymakers to work with the private sector to build strong ecosystems to encourage the adoption of regenerative approaches.

In Côte d'Ivoire, our income accelerator program is enabling cocoa farming families to raise their incomes, keep children in school and benefit the local environment. Working with smallholder farmers to build skills and knowledge, they are using techniques to improve the quality of the local soils while developing new revenue streams by growing a wider variety of crops.

Our Agriculture Framework, guided by agro-ecological principles and practices is a holistic model that considers healthy, organically rich soil as vital to protecting and restoring land. It encourages our suppliers and farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices that make sense locally. These might include planting a more diverse range of crops on farms and implementing precision farming techniques to reduce the use of fossil fuel-based fertilizers and pesticides.

The framework also covers water stewardship and environmental stewardship. We are also encouraging industry alignment on common frameworks and metrics for regenerative agriculture.

Farmers - Activist Response

You are representatives from the **farming industry**.

PART 1

Included below is a real-world example of an activist group's response to a company's ties to a major fossil fuel emitter.

Task: Review the press release and **identify language techniques** used to persuade the audience, the **tone** and the **key argument/s** made.

PART 2

You are representatives of the **Farmers Environment Protection Authority (FEPA)**, challenging mining companies over their contribution to the climate crisis.

Task: Using statistics and facts, create your own press release to argue your case. Consider your **audience (the general public)** and choose a **tone and persuasive techniques** that reflect your organisation's stance.

Farmers Environment Protection Authority image

FEPA is an Australian farmer-led organisation dedicated to educating the public about the challenges farmers face in relation to climate change. The organisation promotes farming practices that protect the environment, adhere to emission reduction goals, and support sustainable, long-term agriculture. FEPA also aims to bridge the gap between farmers, the government, media and other like-minded organisations.

What's the issue in agriculture?

Agriculture is often targeted by the government as a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, producing an estimated 17% of Australia's GHG emissions. However, the industry has made significant progress in reducing its emissions, including adopting practices under the Carbon Farming Initiative and the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

In comparison, the energy industry produces almost 55% of Australia's GHG emissions, yet new mining projects continue to be approved. To meet Australia's goal of net zero emissions by 2050, the government needs to prioritise the transition to renewable energy, which will require increased pressure on the mining industry.

FEPA's new initiative

FEPA is calling on the mining industry to step up its efforts to reduce emissions so Australia can meet its climate targets. The first step of the initiative is to create a press release highlighting the disparities in how agriculture and mining are treated. Subsequent actions will include creating a petition and organising a rally to gather support for farmers. These steps, and further details, should be clearly outlined in the press release.

Real-world case:

Rebels call on ANZ, Westpac and NAB to ditch Santos

Extinction Rebellion Australia, 27 Aug 2024

Activists unite to raise their voices in a nationwide call on banks to live up to their own climate promises by not lending to Santos.

One of Australia's largest producers of oil and gas, Santos is pursuing dangerous expansion plans, building two new gas projects, the Barossa project in Tiwi Islands and Narrabri project in New South Wales. Local banks ANZ, Westpac and NAB are among lenders continuing to finance Santos, despite their own claims of supporting the Paris Agreement to pursue net zero emissions by 2050. All three banks are signatories to the United Nations' Net-Zero Banking Alliance, aligning them with the goals of the 2016 Paris Agreement, yet they have collectively loaned \$45.3 billion to the fossil fuel industry over the past eight years. This new joint loan to Santos demonstrates they have no intention of stopping.

In contrast to ANZ, Westpac and NAB, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has recently announced that it will 'no longer provide finance to oil and gas producing companies that don't have a Paris-aligned transition plan'.

On Wednesday 21 August Extinction Rebellion joined in with other activists in a nationwide day of protest led by Market Forces. Staged in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, activists demanded that Santos abandon their expansion plans and that the banks abide by their public commitments to the Paris Agreement and cease funding expansion of the fossil fuel industry. In Adelaide, a vibrant, noisy march visited the offices of ANZ, Westpac and NAB, finishing up at Santos' headquarters. The Sydney rally was held at the headquarters of the Westpac bank and in Melbourne, the rally visited NAB and ANZ headquarters.

Extinction Rebellion spokesperson Anna Slynn states:

With the impacts of the climate crisis being felt across the globe and average temperatures rising, we cannot afford to expand coal, oil or gas production. It beggars belief that three of our major banks are about to lend more money to climate wrecking fossil fuel company Santos.

We will continue to take a stand against the greed and destruction of the fossil fuel industry and its financial enablers. This loan must be stopped. We call on ANZ, Westpac and NAB customers and shareholders to join us by complaining directly to their bank, switching to another bank, or investing elsewhere.