Dear Prime Minister

At the secondary school our children attend, just as at all high schools in Australia, children learn the science behind climate change and the fact that it is both real and caused by man. These facts are indisputable from the weight of peer-reviewed scientific evidence. Our children know this. Our school community is therefore deeply disappointed and upset that you chose not to help the Pacific Islands win their struggle against the impending effects of climate change.

On Tuvalu you had an opportunity to do something great, something kind, something benevolent, something you would be remembered for with great joy by so many people in perpetuity. Yet, you chose to sell more coal. We find this very sad and so very short-sighted.

We believe that you are an intelligent person, so we must assume that you are aware that your leadership and your government is only paying lip service to the climate change issue. Nothing you are doing will make a major difference to solving the problems the world is now facing. This is very clear from the joint statement on climate change signed in March this year by dozens of climate change and energy experts in Australia. Eventually, your inaction will cause devastation, hardship, pain and suffering to countless numbers of innocent people. Are you truly so unkind and uncaring as to not care what happens to the world in which your children, grand-children & great-grand-children will be forced to live? We cannot keep putting off doing something about climate change.

The knowledge, skill, technology and will to make Australia completely free from using fossil fuels within the next decade exists here in Australia today. Researchers at several universities already have well-developed plans for this based on scientific data. You must know this. Yet you ignore it, probably because you are worried that the pain the Australian people will feel when you take serious action, will result in you losing government. Really? What's more important, your re-election or doing something that will make a difference to countless numbers of people? A bi-partisan agreement on serious climate change action would be a great start.

We are going to have to accept a certain level of pain if we are to avoid the full effects of climate change. The longer we avoid action, the worse the pain. Please, in the name of our children and future generations, please become the man of action that you could have been on Tuvalu.

Regards