

# DECOLONISING INTERNATIONAL AID

## Support and reparations for the Global South

Countries in the Global South are facing the climate crisis, a public health crisis, and an economic crisis. As a wealthy, colonial country, Australia has a responsibility to contribute its fair share of aid, and pay reparations for its role in the climate crisis and the ongoing damage caused by imperialism. The Greens' vision is to decolonise and reimagine international aid as not simply charity, but as a matter of global justice. Aid should never be a way to further our national ambitions or greedy trade interests. Aid programs should work to right historical wrongs and build communities in parts of the world that have been left destitute.



### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Increase Australia's aid budget to 0.7% of GNI by 2030**
- ▲ **Provide climate finance and reparations of \$4.5 billion from 2022-2025, more than tripling Australia's current commitment<sup>1</sup>**
- ▲ **Establish an independent development oversight agency**
- ▲ **Place the human rights and self-determination of women and girls at the centre of Australian development assistance programs**
- ▲ **Cancel future loan repayments from all countries in the Global South who owe debt directly to Australia**
- ▲ **Advocate for financial institutions and foreign governments to cancel any**

<sup>1</sup> Australia's current climate finance commitment is \$1.5 billion from 2020 to 2025. Only \$1 billion over five years is new funding and \$500 million of this is redirected from the existing aid budget, see

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/australias-support-for-other-countries>

**outstanding debt payments from  
countries in the Global South**

## **PAYING FOR OUR PLAN**

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

## **INCREASE AUSTRALIA'S AID BUDGET**

Australia's aid budget has been cut viciously since the election of the Coalition in 2013. Currently Australia only spends about 0.2% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas aid. The Greens will reverse this trend, increasing our aid and development budget to 0.7% of GNI by 2030 in line with our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Greens will establish an independent, dedicated government agency that oversees our aid program and ensures it is effective and equitable. The agency will ensure aid is not used purely to advance Australia's national and commercial interests and is always delivered in

partnership with recipient communities. We will place the human rights and self-determination of women and girls at the centre of Australian development assistance programs.

## **CLIMATE FINANCE AND REPARATIONS**

Australia must provide climate finance and reparations to affected countries and communities, commensurate with our historical and ongoing contribution to the climate crisis. Our aid programs must recognise the unique and disproportionate impacts on women and girls in this climate emergency.

Our Pacific neighbours are paying the heavy price of Australia's refusal to tackle the climate crisis. Communities face rising sea levels, the

annual destruction caused by tropical storms, the loss of arable land and drinking water, and the enormous social and economic challenges of displacement due to the climate crisis.

The Greens will renew and increase Australia's commitment to the Green Climate Fund with \$3 billion in funding from 2022 to 2025. Our policy will also provide additional climate reparations of \$1.5 billion over the next three years. This climate finance is in addition to the aid budget.

## CANCELLING DEBT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The world is staring down a debt crisis, with more than 30 countries facing default on their international debt obligations. Acknowledging the crisis, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank and IMF started the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), a scheme where poor, indebted nations could apply through the IMF to their bilateral creditors for a suspension of debt repayments. However, this suspension expired in June 2021 and was a debt deferral, not a cancellation.

The inequitable global distribution of wealth and debt is the unjust result of colonialism and imperialism. As a colonial power, Australia has a responsibility to do something about it.

The Greens will cancel all of Australia's bilateral debt and ensure we are a strong and principled advocate for global debt cancellation. By unconditionally cancelling repayment of these debts, Australia would signal its clear intent to advocate for wider debt cancellation.

The Greens will push for Australia to use its leverage to lobby international financial institutions and foreign governments to cancel debt for low-income countries in response to the global COVID-19 crisis.

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:**

[greens.org.au/platform](https://greens.org.au/platform)