



**APRA  
AMCOS**



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Coal is ‘*Out of Touch*’ for pillar of music industry**

On the eve of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, the country’s largest and oldest copyright collecting society, APRA AMCOS has joined the global fossil-fuel divestment movement, by beginning the process of shifting holdings to financial institutions committed to fossil-free investment.

APRA AMCOS’ commitment is in tune with that of high profile songwriter members such as Missy Higgins, John Butler, Adalita, Nigel Westlake, Ash Grunwald and organisations such the Australian Guild of Screen Composers. Thousands have already divested such as the Royal Australian College of Physicians, the Uniting Church of Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Academy of Science.

The move is intended to send a message to companies mining coal in Australia and the banks which back them that it is wrong to keep doing so in the face of global warming.

Acclaimed singer songwriter and Chair of the APRA AMCOS Board, **Jenny Morris** said, “Musicians have always had an important role in shining a light on uncomfortable truths and there has never been a more important one than this: coal is out of key with the clear warnings of climate scientists, and it is now out of time.”

**Missy Higgins** added, "It's insane, in this day and age, that banks are still using our money to accelerate climate change. I've written to my bank and taken steps to divest, I know many other musicians have, too, and it's brilliant to see APRA AMCOS now leading the charge."

**Rob Hirst** said, "Big hugs and heartfelt slap on the back to APRA AMCOS for joining the Amplify Divestment campaign. Where we lodge our loot turns the tide from greed to green."

**Nigel Westlake**, composer and APRA AMCOS Board Member said, "APRA AMCOS’ decision to divest from fossil fuels on behalf of its members is an emphatic statement from a vibrant and culturally significant institution, which highlights the urgency for a swift transition to renewable energy sources if we are to avoid a two degree increase in global warming."

APRA AMCOS represents some 87,000 songwriter and composer members and is trustee for funds collected on their behalf and distributed as royalty payments. This 90-year-old organisation takes its social and environmental responsibilities seriously, reducing its own landfill footprint by 20 tonnes in the last two years and supporting campaigns which reflect the values and principles of their members, clients, staff and industry.



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APRA AMCOS Chief Executive **Brett Cottle AM** said, “By diversifying our investments away from institutions which support fossil fuel projects we aim to join those companies who want to send a strong message to the banking world that passive acceptance of inaction on climate change is simply no longer acceptable.”

Amplify Divestment, a partnership between Green Music Australia, Market Forces and 350.org, is mobilising musicians, as culturally influential people, to take part in the movement inspired by the words of **Bill McKibben**, who said, “If it’s wrong to wreck the climate, it’s wrong to profit from that wreckage.”

Green Music Australia’s Director, **Tim Hollo** said, “APRA AMCOS’ leadership is incredibly inspiring. It’s fantastic to see not just so many musicians coming on board with this campaign, saying ‘coal is wrong in an age of climate change, and we want nothing to do with it,’ but also the hugely positive reception they are finding from their fans when they talk about what they’re doing.”

### **Interview with key spokespeople available on request, from below.**

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Information on the campaign, photos, bios & quotes from artists involved are at [AmplifyDivestment.org](http://AmplifyDivestment.org).



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**APRA AMCOS** stands for the Australasian Performing Right Association Ltd and the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society Ltd, who together are responsible for the non-profit collection and distribution of songwriting royalties to approximately 87,000 songwriter, composer and music publisher members, and around 3,000,000 copyright owners worldwide.

**Green Music Australia** is harnessing the cultural power of music and musicians to lead the way to a greener world. We organise, facilitate and inspire musicians to improve our environmental performance. By leading by example, and bringing our audiences along with us, we create deep, cultural change.

**Market Forces** is a Friends of the Earth affiliate that works with individuals and groups around the world to prevent investment into environmentally destructive projects and programs.

**350.org** is an independent and NFP project working with dozens of organisations and thousands of individuals to effect ambitious climate action through national events, activities and campaigns. 350.org Australia participates in global 350.org campaigns to raise awareness and bring about positive change.