

Statement of Atticus [REDACTED]

Name: Atticus [REDACTED]

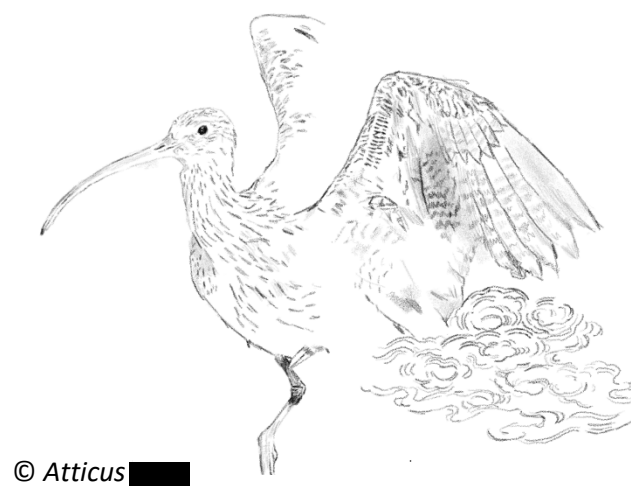
Date of birth: 10 June 2011

Date: 9 March 2025

1. Hello, my name is Atticus [REDACTED] and I am thirteen years old. I live on Larrakia country in Darwin, Australia and I started Year 8 at the start of 2025. Darwin is a smallish city 140,000 people. It's super remote. The nearest state capital takes days of driving to get to. Because of this we have access to incredible birds and nature all over the city and have some of the greatest sunsets in Australia. Sometimes though, the sunsets are scarred by the silhouettes of gas rigs and fossil fuel export ships and it reminds you of what is actually going on. My pronouns are he/him.
2. I am making this statement in support of my joint complaint to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Climate Change detailing how Australia is violating mine, and other young people's human rights. I want the Special Rapporteur to take my story into account and if she could come to Australia and see what's happening to young people who are at the frontlines of climate change, I think that would be great.



3. Darwin is a great place to live. I enjoy the nature, birdlife and wildlife you can see just from your house. I enjoy the arts at school. My hobbies include birdwatching, skateboarding, gaming, writing poetry and art. I would say that I draw every day and I also like to take photographs of the birds that I see. I got given a camera by a family friend that can take really good photos.
4. I like to go to East Point and Lee Point in Darwin to see our local birds and to take photos of them. We have lots of shorebirds in Darwin too. Darwin has a third of Australia's bird species. As climate change affects Darwin, a lot of Australia's bird species are going to suffer.
5. I made some of my art into postcards and have a small business that runs at festival sometimes. I like to draw birds and have turned some into postcards and badges.



6. I used to live in Melbourne, but we moved to Darwin about two years ago. I like living in Darwin and one of the reasons is because my respiratory illness is much easier to manage up here. My family knew that every time we travelled to tropical places, my allergies got better so that was a reason why we moved to Darwin. I would have to stay inside on windy days in Melbourne because my allergies could get so bad. Even in January this year when I went back to Melbourne, I started getting affected by my allergies almost straight away. I had to take an antihistamine every day because my skin got really dry from eczema and I was getting rashes. That does not happen because the weather is different in Darwin.

How climate change has directly affected me

7. I think about the devastation of the environment all the time and how climate change is linked to that. I think about the extinctions, climate change, rising waters and natural disasters. I have

always loved animals and feel a strong connection to them, even more than humans sometimes. I don't want to have to deal with this stuff but generations before me have messed it up. I hate hearing the horror stories about extinctions, like there being only two northern white rhinos left in the world. I think about the impacts of the rising waters in Australia and islands being lost. I also think about the polar bears in the Arctic.

8. I can get really pessimistic and think that if humanity never existed, this would never have happened. I feel sad because I see all these things happening and then it turns into white rage and anger because it always comes back to humans. But we are here and we need to make the world as good as we can.



The Gouldian Finch is the symbol of the “Save Lee Point” Campaign.

9. We recently went to Lee Point to see a really rare bird. We went with a friend who had not gone in a long time and they noticed that about 100m of Casuarina Forest has disappeared. In about two years, we have noticed about 20-30m disappearing as the by product of climate change. Our friend Amanda, a bird expert, told us that the mangroves will takeover where the Casuarina Forest has been washed away which is good for erosion but it will eventually takeover the mudflats which is where the shorebirds roost and feed.

Environmental activism and art

10. As I said before, we like to go to Lee Point and we found out it was in danger in 2023. We had heard it was a really good place for bird watching, including seeing the Gouldian Finch. I had not seen the destruction firsthand but then in July 2023 the bulldozers started to push down all the old trees. Lots of people from Darwin got together to protect the forest after the Traditional Owners from the Batcho Family started a case stop the destruction.

11. I started writing poetry about Lee Point. I shared my poetry at a few protest events and even read my poetry to Senator David Pocock from the Australian Parliament when he visited Darwin. I make art when I feel happy but also when I feel sad. Making art can be relieving.

My Poetry	
<p>Lee Point Haikus</p> <p><i>Cardboard signs tremble Inked pleas for nature's refuge Lee Point, we fight on</i></p> <p><i>Sunsets paint the sky Bulldozers mar the canvas Lee Point's hues erased</i></p> <p><i>Angrily we stand A quarter of the NT Never have a say *</i></p> <p><i>The nightjar's hidden nests Would never beat the bulldozers If we were not here</i></p> <p><i>If politicians Will never see nature's beauty We will take a stand</i></p> <p><i>Birders and all others Together with strong elders We will save Lee Point</i></p> <p>© Atticus [REDACTED]</p> <p><i>*This line refers to the quarter of Northern territory's population who are too young to vote.</i></p>	<p>"aLEEPOINTphabet"</p> <p>Awful, automated army attempt to Bash back big brained birders Cos cuckoos and curlews could crash for cold cash Dash down dozers, destroy Drongo dens Emphasis on evil, evergreen executioners Fun facts found flying friends filling flocks Greedy government grabs gerygone's ground Hold hands, humans hasten help, hurt honeyeaters Iconic ibis, inquisitively interested in impending injury Jokingly jousting jabiru's jabber for justice Kookaburra kin keep killing on the king tides Larrakia, lead us against lazy laws Major movers mow down meek mammals Now natives need new nests Open minded objectors organize Peaceful protests, political power Pittas plead to Plibersek* Quick with questions, quotes, and queries Regular rallies, radical rebels Stop the slaughter, save the small Top end trees, to tall to touch Tawnys tell the truth to Tanya Up here is unique and underrated Vote for vegetation value When I wonder will we win This exact excellence exists Young and all yell yes! One on a zillion, amazing zone © Atticus [REDACTED] <i>*Tanya Plibersek is Australia's Environment Minister</i></p>

12. I try to fight back against this devastation of the environment, but it can get a bit much and I get tired and exhausted. Since the Lee Point protests started, I have also got around the no new gas

and fracking campaigns and also have gone to the AYCC [Australian Youth Climate Coalition] protests through some of the connections I made at Lee Point. AYCC is a great organisation because you feel like you're being heard and you've got a community of people. You feel like you're making a difference.



A picture of me painting a
"Save Lee Point" Corflute



A painting I made to protest a big gas
project in the NT called Middle Arm

Future harms associated with climate change

13. I feel like I have a weight on my shoulders but I do not have traction as a kid and no one listens to you. It is the responsibility of government to protect the environment and stop climate change. I'm not an old guy in a suit in Parliament. But if they were to ask me, how do I want to inherit the world – burning, or pretty good? In the long term it's not going to be them that deal with all the crap they created. It'll be us.
14. It's so hot in Darwin, you think that this couldn't be natural sometimes. You got outside and you're sweaty instantly and it just feels when you're in the sun that you are roasting. It's hot normally in Darwin but there are times when you are like "damn!". I have heard people saying Darwin is getting hotter and that is really scary. We have to stay inside when it's too hot. I can't play with my friends outside when it's too hot.
15. On hot days at school, we stay inside and go to places like the library. When I am at home and it is a hot day, we go to the foreshore for the nice breeze but that is usually when it starts to cool down.

16. I remember from living in Melbourne that the weather is different down there, it can be really random. There can be really hot days in Melbourne too. Our house used to have an evaporative cooling system, but that system didn't work so well because it became more humid down there and it requires a dry heat. Melbourne is also really windy, and the wind and seeds are a bad combination for my respiratory illness. I am worried about Darwin getting hotter. Melbourne is cooler but then I have the problems with my allergies.
17. I am worried there is not going to be much left when I am older. And if we keep going with this, there won't be much left. I wish I could just worry about my life like they did 100 years ago and just settle down and have a nice life, but I have to worry about the environment.

Australian government inaction on catastrophic climate harms

18. I am worried about living in a world where you can't go anywhere without seeing the effects of climate change and lots of extinctions and stuff. And bushfires and food and water shortages. I would like the government to do more. They get paid by the corporations, get tonnes of money but it's good in the short term and they get a lot of money but it wrecks everything in the long term. They are wrecking Australia.
19. I feel angry when I see things like new projects that destroy the environment. I have been advocating for causes that want stop to destroying the environment. We are stuck in a boom-and-bust system. The government is not thinking about anything but just money.
20. If the government would listen to me, I would tell them to cut emissions and have a goal to reduce them. I would ask the government to listen to the climate scientists and doctors because they are people who have studied this problem, and they know more about it then people who are swayed by money. We already know it's going to a disaster in the future. We need the government to listen to the experts and take proper action. And it is important that they listen to young people.
21. I think that the government is not interested in working towards a proper response to climate change because they are more interested in short-term gain. They put money first for people that are older rather than thinking about how that might impact life for younger generations in the long term.

22. I know for a fact that the government isn't thinking about reducing its emissions because I see gas ships from my balcony at home. When I see them, I know that the government isn't thinking about anything but making money. They aren't thinking about me, other young people or plants or animals that need to be protected – these things don't have a foot in power either and they are priceless.
23. The government needs to actually reach out and ask young people about how we are being impacted by climate change. It is important for them to understand this because we are going to be the ones that are going to have to deal with most of climate change. I wish the government would listen more to the people that are going to be affected by climate change firsthand and really think about what's going to happen once they are dead.



A photograph of some people protesting in Sydney with that quote my poetry to take a stand.

24. Older generations didn't know much about climate change, and it hasn't affected them much at all. On the other hand, as children, we know the dangers and have the fear of what's going to happen soon because of climate change, and we are not swayed by money or power. You can't eat coal, you can't drink gas! What will me and other young people do if there's no nature left for us. They need to listen to us now.

I confirm the contents of this statements are a true and correct record of my evidence.

Name: Atticus [REDACTED]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'A' followed by a 'B' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

9/3/2025

Signature

Date