

Dirty Banks

Tell your bank to clean up their act

You don't have to be an expert to let your bank know you don't want them to use your money to invest in new, polluting coal power stations. Here's a quick guide to talking to your bank – on the phone or in your local branch.

Background

Right now, we have a choice - between a healthy and sustainable future with safe, affordable clean energy or another generation of polluting coal power stations. Australia's big four banks are the main financiers of coal power in Australia and are **using your money to prop up pollution**. With 12 new coal power stations proposed around Australia, the question is, will the banks rule out funding more dirty coal power and drive investment in the new clean energy economy? That's up to you and me.

What do I say?

Step 1: Ask to make a complaint or to speak to the branch manager

- On the phone: "Hello, my name is ... I'm a customer with ANZ / Commonwealth / NAB / Westpac and I would like to make a complaint about the bank using my money to invest in polluting coal power stations."
- At the branch: "Hello, I would like to talk to the branch manager about the bank's investments if they are available."

Step 2: Let them know the problem

- "I've read about the bank's investments and understand that over the last 5 years, much more has been invested in coal infrastructure than in clean energy, despite everything we know about coal pollution making global warming worse."

Step 3: Tell them the solution

- "I would like the bank to make a commitment to not finance any new coal power plants and instead invest more in renewable energy."

Step 4: Make sure you're heard

- "Could you please record my complaint and pass it on to the CEO and board of directors – I understand they need to make the decision on this issue."

Remember:

- **The person you're talking to doesn't make the bank's investment decisions. Chances are that their personal views are aligned with yours – so be polite and friendly but assertive.**
- **It will come out best in your own words, read this through then think about how you'd like to say it.**
- **You don't need to answer difficult questions – you have a right to choose where your money is invested and the bank has a responsibility to act as a good corporate citizen.**

For more detailed information or to answer any difficult questions, please refer to the report, our website www.greenpeace.org.au/dirtybanks or call toll free 1800 815 151.