

Open Letter: Dump Santos from the Tour Down Under

To the South Australian government,

As representatives of the cycling community in South Australia, we are calling on the South Australian government to dump Santos as a sponsor of the Tour Down Under.

Climate change is here and it is hurting the cycling community. Extreme heat and severe storms affect how we ride, train, and compete. This past summer alone, South Australia reached record high temperatures, with multiple areas recording their hottest day ever.

Climate change is caused by burning fossil fuels. Gas is a dirty fossil fuel.

Santos is one of the biggest gas companies in Australia. At a time when we should be transitioning away from fossil fuels, Santos has plans to drill for more gas.

It is a contradiction for the Tour Down Under to be sponsored by Santos. Their plans to drill for more gas will make climate change worse, which will hurt the cycling community.

The Tour Down Under is managed by SA Tourism, a state government agency. This means that the South Australian government has the power to decide who sponsors this event.

Already many governments no longer accept fossil fuel sponsorship, including the Australian Capital Territory government, and several local governments in South Australia.

The South Australian government is a world leader in action on climate change. It is time to align the sponsorship of government events with this climate leadership.

That begins with dumping Santos from the Tour Down Under.

Sincerely,

Representatives of the cycling community in South Australia