**Climate Strike at Melbourne State Library**

26/3/2022

Miles Earl

University students have contested for a change in government regarding the inaction towards climate change, in front of the State Library in Melbourne yesterday.

Head speaker of the march, Anneke Demanuele, spoke on behalf of the Uni students for Climate Justice about what needed to change in the government.

“Our demand is that climate crisis is taken seriously, that we stop coal, we stop oil immediately from transitioning into an energy,” said Ms. Demanuele.

Ms. Demanuele went on to target the “rich and powerful” where “what they want is prioritised over the interest of ordinary people like us.”

With Ms. Demanuele drawing on Tesla CEO, Elon Musk in how his awareness of climate change has granted action of wanting to leave the planet.

“It is us who is left to burn while we can’t afford a ticket on the Elon Musk space mission,” she said.

Deeming climate change a “global problem” which requires “global solutions” including “transforming the whole damn system,” said Ms. Demanuele.

Sparking chants from the crowd of “system change not climate change, shut the mines down!”

But Minister of Environment, Sussan Ley, issued a statement the previous week saying, “we are committed to protecting our environment for current and future generations.”

And in an interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC, Ms. Ley would further add.

“I do care about the climate. I do care about children. I do respect their advocacy,” she said.

Indigenous activist and member of the Greens, Lidia Thorpe spoke last to reinforce how the upcoming election will be pivotal to make a real change.

“You need to vote for someone who will bring us all together and sure there is no inequality and no racism,” she said.

With Ms. Thorpe later saying that we “cannot and will not have climate justice without justice for First Nations people first”.