To the AGL board, executives, staff and fellow investors,

My name is Ashjayeen Sharif. I’m eighteen years old, and started studying at the University of Melbourne this year. Perhaps some of your children are attending classes alongside me.

This should be the most exciting time of my life, with a future of endless possibilities ahead of me, yet at the same time I’m worried.

And AGL is one of the reasons why. AGL is Australia’s single biggest contributor to the climate crisis, and the AGL board keeps fueling it with coal.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has again warned what will happen if we don’t act with urgency and cease burning coal, oil and gas.

Extreme fire seasons, crippling droughts, mass flooding. The collapse of our food systems, and incalculable damage to our economy. All of this will happen in my lifetime, and that of your children.

This is not the future I want.

If AGL brings forward the closure of Loy Yang A and Bayswater power stations to 2030 or earlier—the date climate science marks as the cut-off for coal closure—young people like me have a better chance at a safe, healthy future.

That’s why I have become an AGL shareholder and nominated myself to join the AGL Board of Directors.

As AGL staff, shareholders and decision-makers, you have the power to change our energy system for the better. By becoming a provider of 100% renewable electricity, you will not only protect Australia’s climate but also the company.

Last week, AGL announced losses of $2.06 billion. That’s what happens when you run a coal company in an increasingly renewable powered world.

AGL’s current leadership has ignored climate science and failed to read the market. Now it’s costing shareholders and all Australians. If they won’t see sense, a first year university student like me can do a better job.

Because it’s my future that’s at stake, and that of your children.

Ashjayeen Sharif, Victorian School Striker