

Thank you for your interest in today's judgment.

My name is Ava Princi, I'm 17 years old, and I'm one of eight students who brought this class action against the Federal Environment Minister.

Today's judgment is both thrilling and deeply relieving.

The judge has recognised that the Minister has a duty to take reasonable care not to cause us injury resulting from climate change. The court did not order an injunction stopping the mine. But it's not over yet.

There will be further submissions on what the duty of care means for the Minister's decision and the mine.

I am thrilled because this is a landmark decision. This is the first time a Court of law, anywhere in the world, has recognised that a government minister has a duty of care to protect young people from the catastrophic harms of climate change.

My future - and the future of all young people - depends on Australia stepping away from fossil fuel projects and joining the world in taking decisive climate action.

The Court accepted our evidence that the emissions released from the mining and burning of fossil fuels will contribute to serious and wide-ranging physical, mental and financial harm to young people.

The law now recognises that the Environment Minister is in a special position of power to prevent foreseeable harms to young people.

I feel elated by this decision and this is not over. This case was about young people stepping up and demanding more from the adults whose actions are determining our future wellbeing.

The class action was filed on behalf of all young people around the world. We received almost two thousand messages of support from young people in 39 countries on every continent - young people whose communities, health, and livelihoods are under threat from the same global climate crisis.

Young people have an enormously powerful voice and my fellow litigants and I hope that this case inspires more of us, everywhere in the world, to push for stronger, faster and deeper cuts to carbon emissions.

We will be going through this decision in greater detail with our lawyers and, no doubt, will have more to say later.

Thank you.