



SPRING BBQ GUIDE:

PARIS PRIMER



With spring in the air and football finals around the corner, it's time to catch up on some facts for BBQ banter. Here's a quick rundown on why Australia needs the Paris Climate Agreement.

1 THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT IS GOOD FOR AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD.

As extreme weather events, worsened by the burning of coal, oil and gas, continue to accelerate, more than ever before Australians need Paris. **Walking away from the international Paris Climate Agreement would be catastrophic for Australians**, farmers, businesses and the country's natural icons, along with global efforts to tackle climate change.

Countries around the world, including Australia signed the Paris Climate Agreement committing to keep global average temperature rise below 1.5 - 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. While countries' **current pledges are not yet sufficient to limit temperature rise below 2 degrees**, the Paris Agreement requires countries to ratchet up efforts over time.

2 AUSTRALIANS NEED THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT.

Australia is in the firing line of climate change. Australians are facing increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather, including droughts, bushfires, heatwaves and supercharged storms, testing the limits of our coping capacity. Australians need the Paris Climate Agreement to work to in order **limit the impacts of extreme weather on our livelihoods, safety and health.**

3 AUSTRALIA'S EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET IS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE.

Australia's current 2030 emissions reduction target of 26-28% (below 2005 levels) falls significantly short of what is required to effectively tackle climate change.

The Climate Change Authority (2015) **recommended a 45-65% emissions reduction target for 2030** (below 2005 levels), based on scientific evidence, what comparable countries are doing and what is in the best interests of Australia.



4**AUSTRALIA'S EMISSIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT AND RISING.**

Australia is the 16th largest emitter of carbon dioxide worldwide, and the 10th highest on a per person basis (Global Carbon Atlas 2018). Australia's share of global greenhouse gas pollution is 1.1%. If we count up all the countries with emissions under 2% it pretty quickly adds up to around 40% of global greenhouse gas pollution.

Australia's greenhouse gas pollution levels have been going up for three years, and are now approaching all-time highs (Department of the Environment and Energy 2018). The rate at which our emissions are increasing is now the highest of any year since quarterly reporting began in 2009.

Apart from electricity (where emissions are falling due to increased uptake of renewable energy and reduced demand), **pollution from all others sectors of the economy is rising.**

Australia lacks credible national climate policy. As a result, recent analysis indicates that we are not on track to meet even our woefully inadequate 26-28% emissions reduction target (UNEP 2017; Climate Council 2018).

5**WHAT ABOUT CHINA, THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA?**

China aims to peak its greenhouse gas pollution levels by 2030 or sooner, and is implementing a suite of policies, including launching a national emissions trading scheme and investing heavily in renewable energy. **In 2017, China made up almost half of all global investment in renewable energy.** China aims to reach 680GW of non fossil fuel power by 2020 - that's more than 12 times the capacity of Australia's National Electricity Market! (AEMO 2018; REN21 2018).



India aims to add 175GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 - an amount more than three times the size of Australia's National Electricity Market (AEMO 2018; REN21 2018). Between 2002 and 2015, the share of renewable grid capacity in India has increased over six times, from 2% (3.9GW) to around 13% (36GW).



The United States (US) under President Donald Trump is the only country that has stated an intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. The US cannot legally withdraw until November 2020 at the earliest. A broad coalition of 20 US states, 50 major cities and 60 big businesses have committed to achieving the US' emission reduction commitments regardless of the President's actions (The Guardian 2017).

