



# BUSTING SIX EMISSIONS MYTHS

## MYTH #1

### “AUSTRALIA IS ON TRACK TO MEET ITS PARIS TARGET”

Australia is not on track to meet its Paris target. The government’s own published data shows our greenhouse gas emissions have been rising consistently for five years. To be on track to meet our target, our emissions would need to be falling - not rising.

## MYTH #2

### “AUSTRALIA IS DOING ITS FAIR SHARE ON CLIMATE CHANGE”

Australia’s Paris target is to reduce our emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030. This is one of the least ambitious targets amongst developed countries. If other countries adopted Australia’s target the world would be heading for more than three degrees of warming.

## MYTH #3

### “OUR PER CAPITA EMISSIONS ARE THE LOWEST IN 29 YEARS”

Australia has the highest emissions per capita in the developed world. It is true that Australia’s emissions per capita have fallen more than most countries, but this is from an extraordinarily high baseline, and has largely been driven by rapid population growth. Even with this drop, we still have the highest per capita emissions in the developed world. Our emissions per capita are higher than Saudi Arabia, a country not known for its action on climate change. Ultimately, our international targets are not based on per capita emissions.

## MYTH #4

### **“AUSTRALIA’S LNG EXPORTS ARE DRIVING DOWN GLOBAL EMISSIONS”**

To effectively tackle climate change, existing coal and gas infrastructure needs to be phased out globally, as rapidly as possible. Our LNG exports may be ‘cleaner’ than coal but they are still polluting and need to be swiftly phased out if we are to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. Australia is the second biggest exporter of thermal coal and LNG, both of which are polluting. In terms of all of the fossil fuels that Australia extracts, we are the fifth biggest polluter in the world.

## MYTH #5

### **“AUSTRALIA EARNED THE RIGHT TO USE ITS KYOTO CARRYOVER CREDITS BY OVERACHIEVING ON EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS IN THE PAST”**

The Federal Government is planning to use dodgy ‘carryover’ credits from the Kyoto Protocol to meet its Paris target, an accounting trick which countries such as the UK, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, France and New Zealand have deemed invalid and not in the spirit of the Paris Agreement. It should be noted that these carryover credits largely resulted from Australia negotiating two very weak Kyoto targets (2<sup>nd</sup> weakest in the world for Kyoto 1 and the weakest for Kyoto 2). It wasn’t hard to overachieve on such dismal targets.

## MYTH #6

### **“EMISSIONS HAVE FALLEN IN THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR”**

Emissions from electricity production account for only 33% of our total emissions. While emissions from electricity are down, and this is good news, there has been a bigger rise in emissions from other sectors, such as transport and fugitive emissions. Our overall economy-wide emissions, which relate to Australia’s Paris commitments, are increasing and have been for five years in a row.