

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



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# Thank You for Your Support

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The Climate Council continues to be Australia's leading climate science communications organisation, thanks to our incredible supporters. Our community power us to be innovative in our tactics, bold in our vision and courageous in demanding climate action.

Our impact is thanks to the passion of our supporters who are driven to reach out to their networks and raise awareness for the climate crisis. It's thanks to this groundswell of support for climate action that we saw climate change elevated to a top three vote influencing issue at the 2019 federal election. Now we must redouble our efforts and transform widespread concern into action.

Looking to the future, we will continue to work hard to change the narrative with the most up to date information on climate change and solutions. Whether it's our Climate Councillors in the media tackling misinformation or chatting about the impacts of climate change at a weekend BBQ, we know that in order to change hearts and minds we all must work together to tell these stories.

Thank you to the mums and dads, school kids and strikers, volunteers and action takers for supporting independent climate science research and communications. As the critical decade to take action draws to a close and we become increasingly aware of the scale of the impacts of climate change, the mission of the Climate Council is more urgent than ever.

**Images (clockwise from left):** Climate Councillor Professor Will Steffen, Amanda McKenzie, Karl Mallon and Tom Kompas at the Compound Costs report launch, Climate Council supporters and Cities Power Partnership members at Bungala Solar Farm SA, the Climate Council 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Sydney, the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action launch.



## A Message from

# Climate Council Chair Gerry Hueston

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**It is my pleasure to share with you the Climate Council's 2018-19 Annual Report.**

The past year has been a challenging time for climate action. Despite public concern for climate change being at its highest levels since 2007, we have not seen the urgent policy action required at the federal level to reduce emissions. This year, we've even seen political support for the expansion of coal mining activities despite the clear need for the use of coal globally to rapidly decline. There has been no action on transport emissions and no coherent energy policy that would drive lower emissions. Not surprisingly, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and the 2018-19 summer was the angriest yet, breaking over 200 temperature records across the country.

I continue to find strength, however, in the Climate Council and our community of supporters. In the past year, we've seen the younger generations taking to the street, demanding that our political leaders take notice. States such as South Australia and Tasmania have taken the lead on transitioning to clean power, with targets to be 100% renewable by 2025 and 2022 respectively. Just ten years ago, about 85,000 households had rooftop solar and now that figure has risen to over 2 million. And through our Cities Power Partnership program, over 400 pledges have been made by local governments to reduce emissions.

I'm proud of the Climate Council and its role in providing expert, science-based advice on climate change and energy, contributing to the shift in public opinion in favour of climate action over the past six years. Through our strategic projects, research, education and

communications the Climate Council is changing the hearts and minds of Australians, alerting them to the devastating impacts of climate change and providing hope by showcasing the solutions we have available.

As the Climate Council develops our forward strategy, I look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead. For the first time, climate change and the environment ranked as a top three vote influencing issue at the federal election. Now, we have a chance to build upon the momentum we have gained, and transform widespread concern into pressure for our leaders to take action at all levels. Make no mistake the action required now is far more urgent than it was at the start of the decade and the cost required is now a lot higher than it would have been if we had coherent policy settings ten years ago.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors, the Climate Councillors, staff, volunteers and our incredible supporter base for their passion and persistence. I would also like to extend particular thanks to our CEO Amanda McKenzie for her clear vision and strategic leadership and to Katrina Porteus and Martin Rice, who did a great job as Acting CEOs throughout 2018. Time and again I have seen the Climate Council and our community faced with setbacks, but we have prevailed. I look forward to us increasing our impact to catalyse Australia's leadership in facing up to what is now the world's greatest challenge.



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**Gerry Hueston**  
Climate Council Chair

## A Message from the CEO and Chief Councillor

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From the very beginning, the Climate Council's mission has been to ensure climate change is front and centre in the national conversation. Although the past twelve months have had their ups and downs, it's fair to say that climate change has been elevated to a top priority issue.

It's clear, however, that there is much more work to do to transform this concern into action. From unprecedented bushfires in Queensland to an unrelenting drought, the impacts of climate change are well and truly here. We know that to avoid increasing intensity of extreme weather events, we need to rapidly decrease our greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward a clean energy future. In the face of Federal Government inaction, the Climate Council along with state and local governments, households and businesses, have been getting the job done.

As we reflect on the past year, we are especially proud of the impact the Climate Council, alongside the tremendous community of Australians concerned about climate change, have achieved. Often it can feel like losses stack up against you, so we wanted to share a few of our top wins:

- › The woefully inadequate National Energy Guarantee, which set targets far too low and would not have facilitated increased investment in renewable energy and storage, was disbanded.
- › The Rocky Hill coal mine was rejected on social and climate grounds - thanks in part to the evidence provided by Climate Councillor Professor Will Steffen.
- › In the wake of pressure created by our report *Powering Progress: States renewable energy race*, - where we singled them out as the only state without a renewable energy target or a net zero emissions - the Western Australian Government is updating their climate policy to include establishing a net zero emissions plan.
- › Following a widely read story about the 'Just Transition' movement from our International Media Trip, the NSW Government Committee of Environment and Planning has set up a Parliamentary Inquiry.
- › After years of calling out the Government for delaying the release of greenhouse gas emissions data, by ourselves and others working in the climate space, the Senate finally approved a deadline for its release.

In 2019, we proudly launched a brand new group, the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA). This formidable group of 23 former fire and emergency leaders from every state and territory have banded together to call for stronger action on climate change. Emergency leaders can articulate the damage caused by climate change with authority and experience. ELCA is already having a significant impact on the public narrative, shaping the environment in which politicians make decisions and having a powerful direct impact on current emergency service personnel.

In addition, we have scaled up our landmark research and projects. The Cities Power Partnership remains Australia's largest climate program for local government and has seen over 100 councils make a combined 400+ pledges across renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport. Our Climate Media Centre has worked with hundreds of everyday Australians, from farmers to healthcare workers to community energy groups, to confidently share their stories and experience of climate change impacts, as well as the innovative solutions they are working on. We've expanded our research into a new project area, providing a comprehensive analysis of the expected costs of climate change impacts. Our first report in this project came at a timely moment when the national debate centred on the economic costs of acting on climate change, ignoring the billions worth of damage extreme weather events such as floods, severe storms, drought and bushfire is set to have.

Of course, our projects, research and strategic interventions would not be possible without the support of our community. Throughout the highs and lows of the past six years, your support has been unwavering and has enabled us to be bold and ambitious in our convictions. Our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration events in September were an awe inspiring moment to reflect on how far we have come with the backing of the Australian public. We'd like to thank all of you, from the school students running bake sales as fundraisers to the supporters who joined our Renewables Roadtrip, to the hundreds of emails we receive each week asking for advice or simply letting us know we are on the right track.

This report provides an update on the Climate Council's interventions and impact over the past twelve months. We look forward to continuing to work with you to maximise our impact and ensure we continue to shift concern for climate change into action.

*Thanks for being part of the Climate Council,*



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**Amanda McKenzie**  
CEO



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**Prof Tim Flannery**  
Chief Councillor

# Impact Summary

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The Climate Council's mission is to shift the public conversation on climate change by intervening strategically and authoritatively. Since 2013, we have been a trusted source of evidence-based climate science, releasing 111 publications across climate change impacts and available solutions. Our Climate Councillors and staff are highly sought after in the media, securing us over 53,000 media items worth over \$118 million in ad coverage.

Polling throughout 2019 has revealed that concern for climate change is at its highest levels since 2007. According to polling by the Lowy Institute, 61% of Australians think *'global warming is a serious and pressing problem [and] we should begin taking steps now, even if this involves significant costs'*. This is a stark contrast to 2012 where only 36% of Australians shared this opinion, highlighting the momentum we have contributed to over the last five years.

Polling throughout 2019 has revealed that concern for climate change is at its highest levels since 2007.

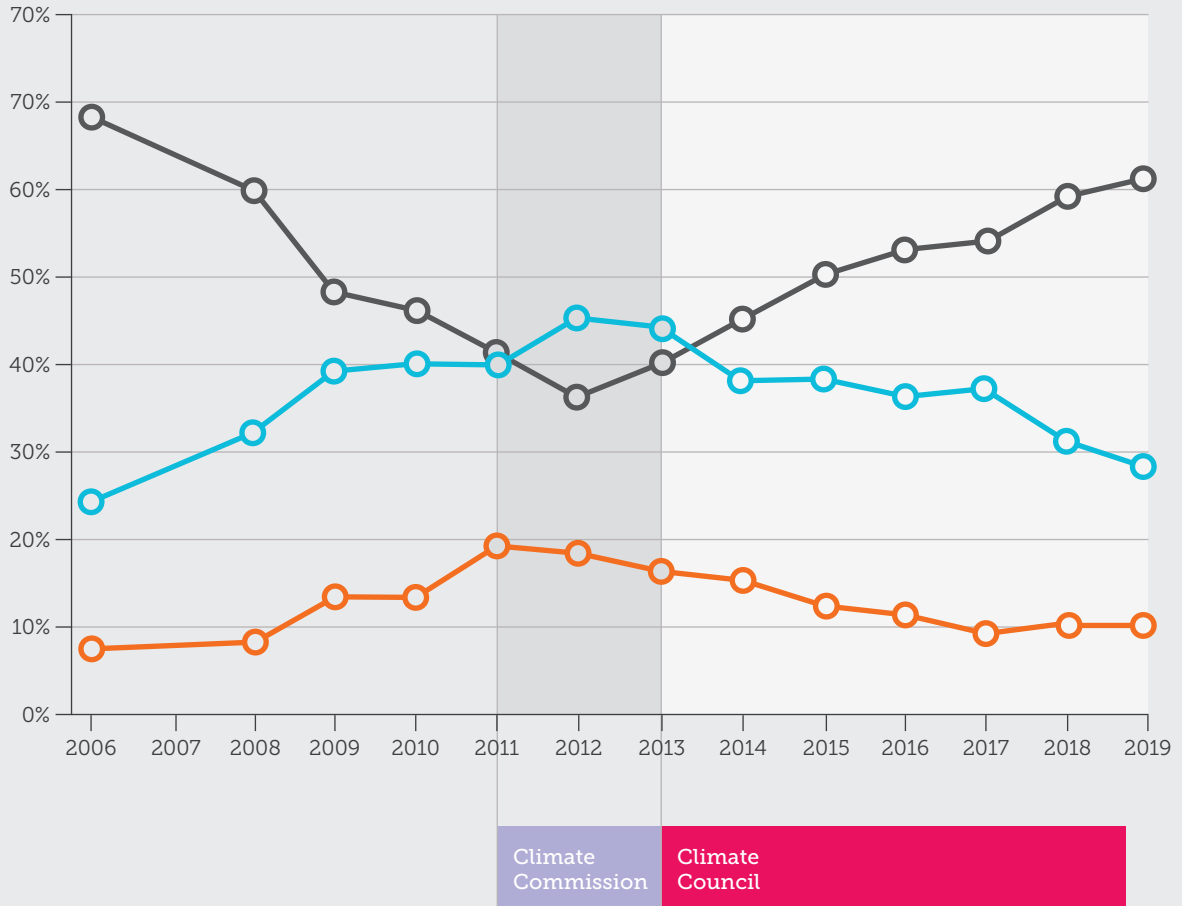
Over the past year, the Climate Council has engaged in a wide range of strategic interventions to reach new audiences and foster a media and political environment that creates sufficient pressure to create a policy response to climate change. These interventions have included counteracting the narrative that the cost of acting on climate change is too high, with the message that inaction is set to impact our economy much harder. We launched a new group, the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action, to introduce a new trusted voice for climate action and counteracted misleading claims that Australia is on track to meet its emissions reduction targets with a joint statement signed by Australian climate and energy experts.

Our Climate Councillors and senior researchers are also in high demand to provide expert evidence. In the past year alone, Professor Will Steffen provided evidence in the Rocky Hill coal mine court case which saw the mine rejected on social and climate change grounds. Similarly, our Head of Research Dr Martin Rice gave evidence to the Senate Committee on the Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program, arguing that funding is "nothing more than a golden band aid solution" unless we tackle climate change.

The result of the 2019 federal election has demonstrated that the work of the Climate Council on driving the national conversation forward and keeping up the constant drumbeat of climate change and solutions is more important than ever.



### AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

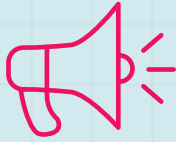


- Global warming is a serious and pressing problem. We should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs.
- The problem of global warming should be addressed, but its effect will be gradual, so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost.
- Until we are sure that global warming is really a problem, we should not take any steps that would have economic costs.

Figure 1: Public concern about climate change has grown significantly over the past five years.

Source: Lowy Institute 2019.

# IMPACT SNAPSHOT



OVER

**\$118M**

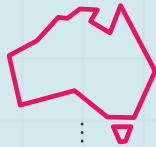
**IN MEDIA COVERAGE**



OVER

**53,000**

**MEDIA ITEMS**



CONSISTENTLY THE

**#1**

**ORGANISATION**

COMMUNICATING ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
NATIONALLY



REACHED  
MORE THAN

**488M**

**READERS, VIEWERS**

**& LISTENERS**



RELEASED

**111**

**PUBLICATIONS**



CONSISTENTLY HAVING  
**4 OF THE TOP 5**

**SPOKESPEOPLE**

COMMUNICATING ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE

# Research Publications

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Since inception the Climate Council has released 111 publications.

In the past year, we have released 17 reports, factsheets and briefing papers. Many of the Climate Council's publications are released at timely moments to ensure that climate impacts and solutions are front of mind at critical moments. Examples of this include the release of *Ageing and Unprepared: Energy in New South Wales* weeks before the state election and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Limiting Temperature Rise to 1.5°C*, which explained the significance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report days after it was published.

Through the release of our science-based publications, the Climate Council continues to influence and set the national narrative on climate and energy. Between 2018-19, our reports covered issues from climate change fuelled extreme weather, businesses investing in renewables, the high economic cost of inaction on climate change and solutions to decarbonise the transport sector. Our major report content is categorised into the following: climate science and impacts, climate solutions, energy and emissions

and international action. The figure below reflects the distribution of report between each of these categories.

While public concern for climate change is at its highest levels since 2007, there are still vested interests spreading misinformation from the cost and economic opportunities of a renewable powered future to downplaying the influence of climate change on extreme weather events. At moments where the national conversation reaches fever pitch, it's important that the Climate Council steps in as a voice for science. We strive to make this information accessible to all Australians in order to empower their actions against climate change and to engage in the conversation.

Our reports have informed government and agency policies, emergency services planning, educational resources, and as a resource for other campaigns organised by the environmental movement. This is testament to our reports' ability to be accessed by, and resonate with, a wide range of stakeholders. To ensure accuracy, all major Climate Council reports are peer-reviewed. We would like to thank all our expert reviewers in 2018-19 for their support of our research.

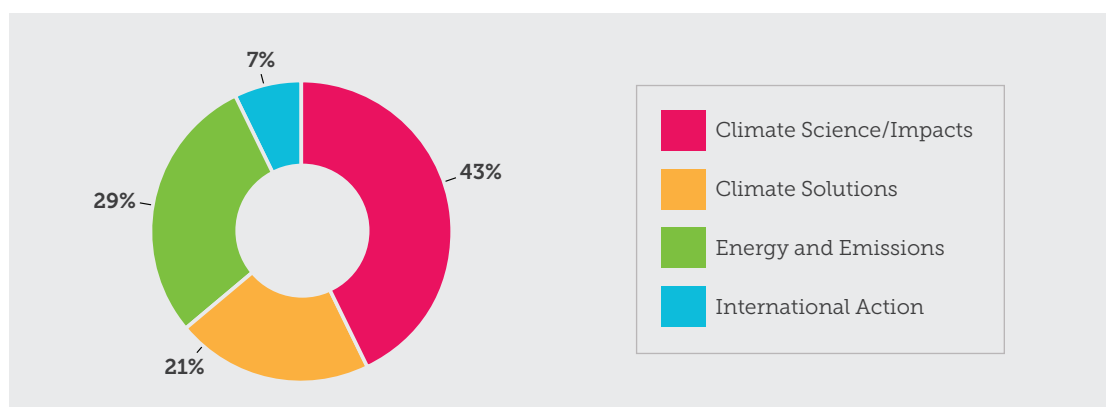
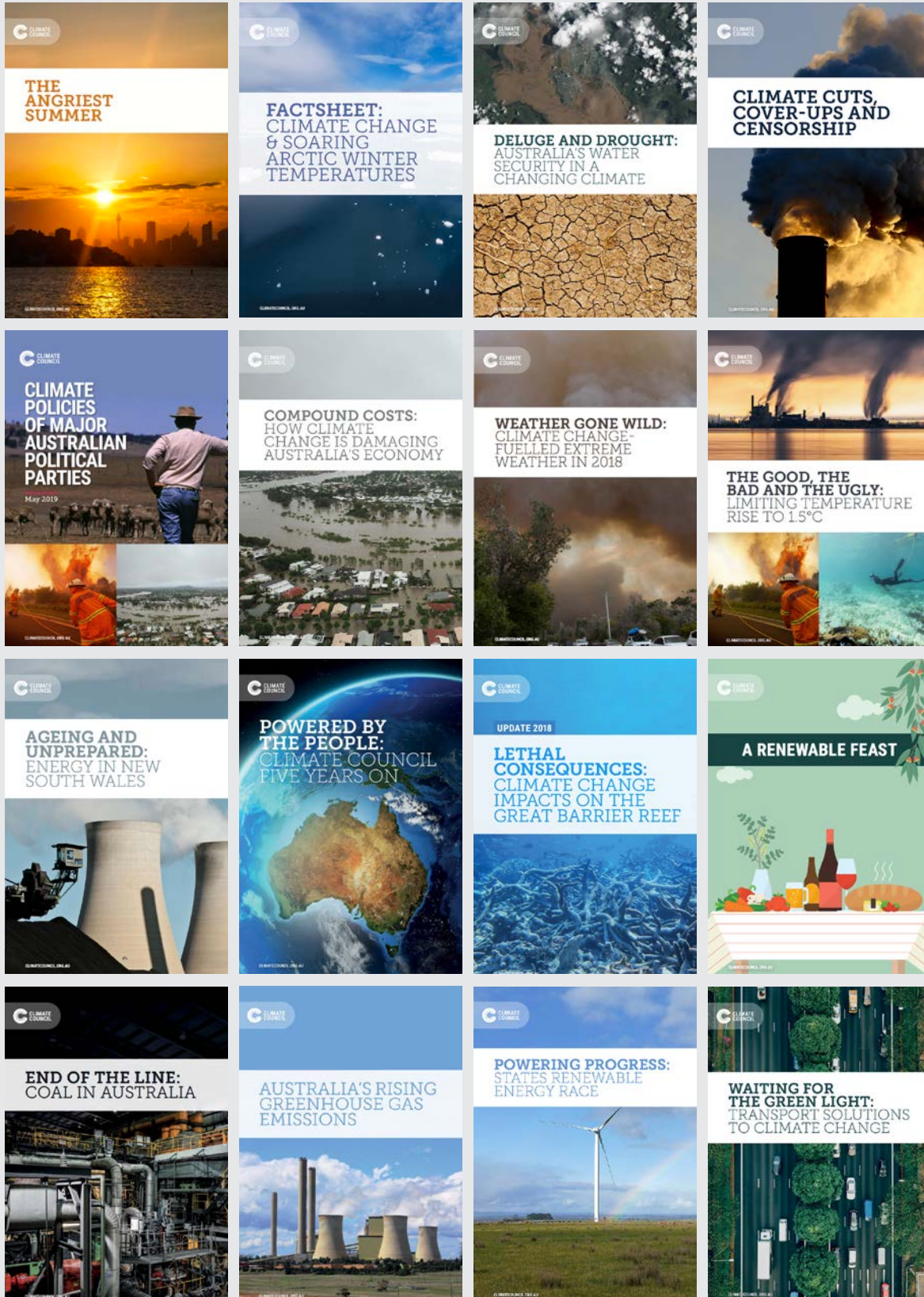


Figure 2: Climate Council 2019 reports per category.

## Climate Council Reports 2018-19



The Climate Council's reports focus on four themes: climate science and impacts, climate solutions, energy and emissions and international action.

## Feature Report

# Deluge and Drought: Australia's Water Security in a Changing Climate

Water is essential for life. It shapes where and how we live, determines the availability of food and other services that underpin human well-being and is crucial for healthy natural ecosystems. Yet in Australia and globally, the water cycle has been significantly influenced by climate change, leading to more extreme droughts and floods.

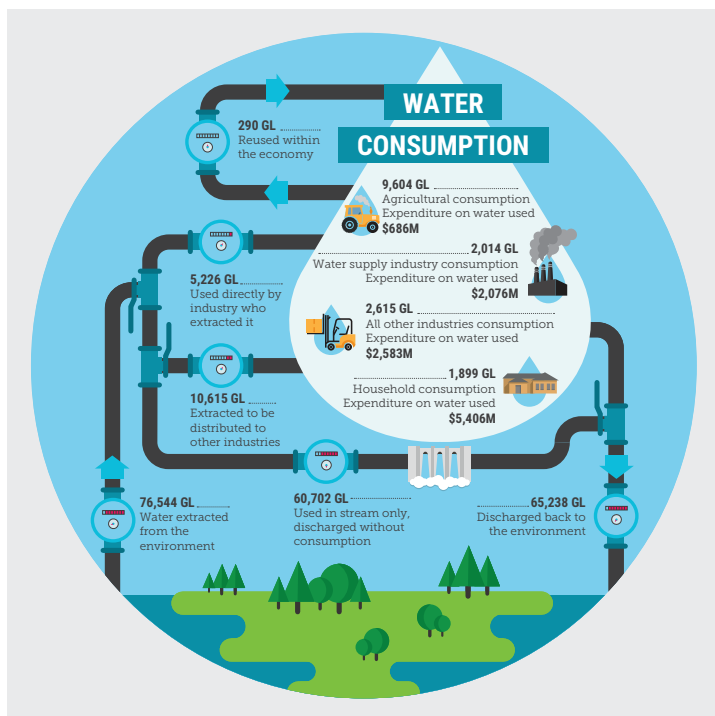
In November 2018, the Climate Council released a new report, *"Deluge and Drought: Australia's Water Security in a Changing Climate."*

The report found that with shifting rainfall patterns, the severity of droughts and floods has increased, exemplified by the severe drought being experienced across Queensland, NSW and northern Victoria.

In order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The quickest way to decrease emissions is in the electricity sector by transitioning away from coal, oil and gas. Without this transition, profound changes to Australia's water cycle are projected, with increasing threats to our urban water supplies, the agriculture sector and natural ecosystems.

Due to our decision to launch the report in both Quirindi, NSW and Sydney, the report reached a wide regional audience in the grips of the drought with an opinion piece written by Professor Will Steffen published across all regional Fairfax papers. In addition, we were on the front page of Tamworth's Northern Daily Leader and the report was picked up by Prime 7 Tamworth, NBN9 Tamworth and ABC's 7pm news bulletin.

Image: Water consumption and related flows in Australia, 2015-16.



## Feature Report

# Waiting for the Green Light: Transport Solutions to Climate Change

In 2018, the Climate Council embarked on a new flagship project aimed at identifying climate change solutions for the transport sector - Australia's second largest source of greenhouse gas pollution. 'Waiting for the Green Light: Transport Solutions to Climate Change' is the first report in the project. This report focuses primarily on road transport as this is the bulk of Australia's transport emissions due to our high reliance on cars, high polluting vehicles and a low ratio of spending on public transport compared to building roads.

The report provides a vision for a low emitting road transport sector in Australia. The Climate Council put forward nine recommendations for policymakers. State, territory and federal governments must do their fair share to create a policy environment that encourages emissions standards on vehicles, investment in public transport and transitioning public transport fleets to electric vehicles, powered by renewable energy.

There are many benefits to improving Australia's transport sector, from less congested roads, improved air quality and reduced transport costs through the uptake of public transport, and improved cyclability and walkability.

The project provides the opportunity to build on our network, engaging with new experts and partners in the transport sector. The report gained significant media coverage and interest, as well as strong digital reach (our second highest performing report from a digital perspective) for a relatively untested topic. This demonstrates that the Climate Council can harness our skills, tactics and resources to bring attention to new areas which may not yet be regarded as 'newsworthy'.

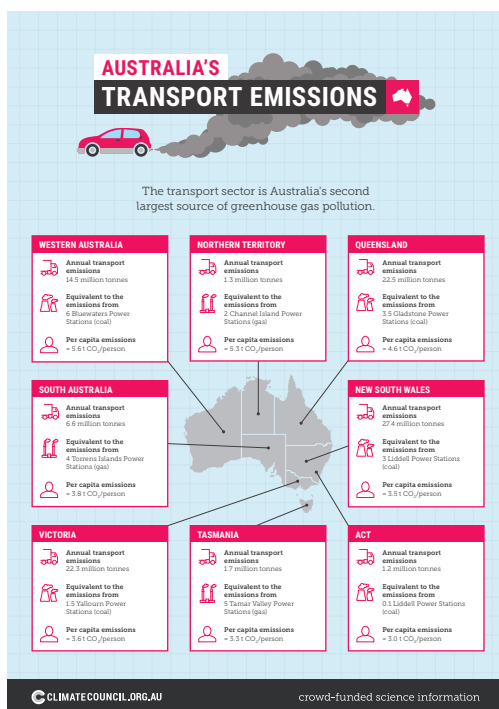


Image: ABS 2017; Clean Energy Regulator 2018; Department of the Environment and Energy 2018 (See Waiting for the Green Light: Transport Solutions to Climate Change for the full reference list).

# Media Coverage

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Climate change has been elevated to a top three vote influencing issue - to the point where concern for climate change is at its highest level since 2007. The Climate Council's mission has been to achieve this increase in public concern, primarily through media coverage of climate change impacts and solutions.

This year, the Climate Council held its position as the leading organisation communicating on climate change nationally with more media mentions than the next four organisations combined. Our Climate Councillors and staff generate a high level of publicity at strategic moments by calling out inaction and communicating the stories and findings of our reports. When the Federal Government has withheld the release of greenhouse gas emissions data or when extreme weather events rock the nation, it's the Climate Council the media turns to for expert analysis and comment.

Over the past year, the Climate Council has dramatically increased the diversity of trusted voices on climate change through training and strategic support. From community energy groups, to tourism operators, EV industry professionals and emergency service workers, we are broadening our understanding of how climate change is set to affect everyday Australians and the solutions available, and elevating these stories in local and national media. Through newspapers, TV, radio, magazines and online media we have reached a cumulative audience of over 488 million people. We will continue to work toward reaching new audiences, on a regular basis, with consistent, hard-hitting climate messages.



Image: Head of Research Dr Martin Rice on Al Jazeera news.

## Case Studies

### CASE STUDY 1

Each quarter, the Federal Government is required to release Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Although it does take time for this data to be compiled and analysed, the government is notoriously late to release it publicly. The Climate Council has previously called out the Government for delaying the release and for publishing the data when it's least likely to receive attention such as on Christmas Eve.

After six months of waiting, on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Climate Council drew attention to the missing emissions data from the Federal Government. For days, our calls were left unanswered until the data was released on the night of September 28<sup>th</sup>. This date happened to coincide with a Victorian public holiday, the Friday night before the AFL and NRL Grand Final matches and the long weekend in NSW, ACT and South Australia.

That same night the Climate Council's Head of Research Dr Martin Rice called out the Government for releasing the data at a time when it was least likely to attract scrutiny, especially as it revealed that Australia's emissions were up yet again. Dr Rice penned an extremely important opinion piece in the Sydney Morning Herald called A Cynical Attempt to Avoid Scrutiny. This led to a segment on ABC's Media Watch in which Dr Rice was quoted numerous times. Due to the mounting public pressure, the Senate voted to ensure the Government releases the data within 5 months of the conclusion of the quarter. This was an important win for the Climate Council and ensures the data is published regularly.



**CASE STUDY 2**

In February and early March 2019, there was misinformation being spread in the media from the Federal Government and others regarding Australia's performance on climate change. In particular the message that Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are coming down despite the Government's own data showing they were on the rise.

After six months of waiting, on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Climate Council drew attention to In response, the Climate Council sought to shift the narrative by publishing a joint statement signed by

28 experts in science, energy and other emitting sectors in both The Australian and the Financial Review. This statement clearly highlighted that Australia is not on track to meet our 2030 emissions target. This joint statement enabled us to reach key audiences from the general public, to journalists writing about climate change to those confused about Australia's performance due to misleading messages. We'd like to thank the Climate Council community for mobilising their support and funding the ad's placement in both the Australian and the Financial Review reaching hundreds of thousands of Australians.



Image: The joint statement in the Australian Financial Review.



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Image: Climate Councillor Greg Bourne at the launch of our report 'Waiting for the Green Light: Transport Solutions to Climate Change'.



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Image: Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie interview on ABC's The Drum about the link between extreme weather and climate change.



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Image: Climate Councillor Professor Lesley Hughes on Channel 10's The Project speaking about the coral bleaching damage on the Great Barrier Reef.

# Digital Content

The Climate Council uses social media and the web to tell stories and provide information about climate change to the Australian public. At a moment's notice, we conduct digital interventions in order to swiftly refute misinformation and ensure the facts remain front and centre in the conversation. We are known for our video explainers, mythbusters and our character-driven videos that tell inspirational stories about climate action.

Over the past year, we have focused on growing our online audience and producing engaging, original content. We have also sought to incorporate strong calls to action, as our supporters are increasingly seeking suggestions on what they can do to combat the climate crisis. Video content continues to be a successful medium to communicate complex information in easy to understand

ways. These videos can then be shared with friends and family, leveraging our community's personal networks and reaching those who are not typically engaged in the media debate. These videos are influential in connecting people with stories about a positive, hopeful future through adopting climate solutions.

In July, the Climate Council launched a new website, Energy Facts Australia. This website was developed as a resource for clear, trustworthy information in response to the misinformation spread about energy issues in Australia. Our research team worked tirelessly to develop simple explainers for the website, especially on common buzzwords that we hear, but don't often understand. As the Climate Council continues our research into Australia's energy sector, we will continue to update the website to reflect the latest technological advancements and data releases.



Image: Climate Council Instagram post.

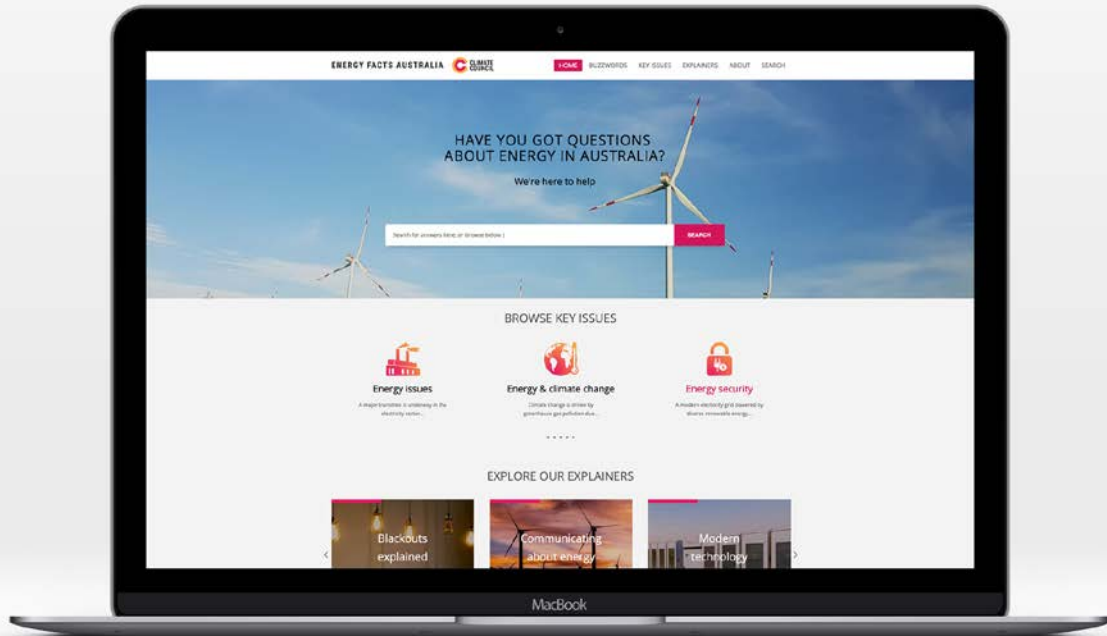


Image: The Energy Facts Australia website.

An important goal of the Climate Council’s digital strategy this year has been to grow our online audience, as 17% of Australians now rely on social media as their primary news source (an increase of 4% from 2017). It’s incredibly important that the Climate Council can offer content that engages and inspires our supporters. This is especially critical for younger audiences, who expect to receive information in creative and evolving ways. It’s important that we engage Australians with the Climate Council’s impact and provide avenues to take action.

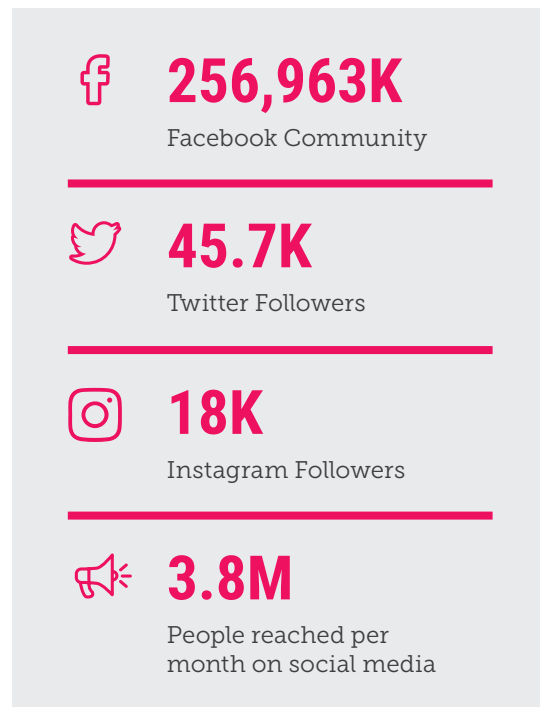


Figure: Figures correct as of June 2019.

## CASE STUDY 3: SMOKE AND MIRRORS: THE CLIMATE FILES

In April 2019 the Climate Council released a damning new report outlining five years of Federal Government failure to act on climate change. This has included cuts to science funding, withholding data and perpetuating misleading claims. In order to reach as many Australians as possible with the findings of this report, our Digital team produced a series of three videos entitled *Smoke and Mirrors: The Climate Files*. These videos were strategically released in late April and early May as part of our drumbeat of climate and energy coverage in the lead up to the federal election.

### **Burying the Data**

The first video in the series outlines the federal government's history of withholding greenhouse gas emissions data. For five years in a row, the government chose to release this data in the week leading up to Christmas (even on Christmas Eve) to avoid scrutiny. This begs the question, what is the Federal Government trying to hide? Through this data, it is clear that Australia's emissions are on the rise and have been for the past four years. The video ends with a call to action to hold the government to account for censoring the data.

### **Attacks on Science**

In the past five years, the federal government has led a series of attacks on science. Funding and jobs have been threatened at CSIRO and ARENA while the Climate Commission and Renewable Energy Target were completely abolished. While the government threatened to abolish the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Climate Change Authority, it gave funding to the fossil fuel industry. Australia's climate policy must be underpinned by science.

### **Misleading Australians**

Federal government representatives from energy ministers to the Prime Minister have been guilty of cherry picking the data and misleading Australians. Time and again, they have falsely claimed Australia is on track to meet its Paris Climate Agreement targets despite data showing a four year trend of rising greenhouse gas emissions. In the aftermath of the South Australian blackout event of 2016, then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull pushed the blame on renewable energy sources, despite already knowing the cause was a supercharged storm disrupting infrastructure. Australia needs a government that leads, not misleads.



Image: Smoke and Mirrors: The Climate Files.

## Social Media Tiles



Image: A selection of the tiles posted across our social platforms.

## Climate Council Project Review

# International Transformation Project

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### OUTCOMES

#### UK - Technology and Innovation

Once the leader of the industrial revolution, the UK has committed to phasing out coal by 2025. Additionally, the country is banning the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2040. Incredibly, the UK has managed to have strong, bipartisan support for climate action despite the political turmoil of Brexit.

We received fantastic media coverage, with a common message highlighting how Australia is lagging behind the bipartisan progress which the UK has achieved. Highlights of the coverage included two featured segments on Channel 9's Today Show.

#### Germany - Just Transition

In early 2019, Germany's Coal Commission recommended the country phase out coal, completely, in less than two decades' time. Germany will need to close more than 80 brown coal mines in the next 19 years in order to meet its Paris climate commitments. It will be a complex and difficult transition, but one that it accepts must be undertaken in order to address climate change.

Coverage of the Germany leg of the trip focused on how well Germany has transitioned away from the black coal industry, and the lessons Australia can learn involving key stakeholders, to ensure coal communities are not left behind. Journalist participant Nick O'Malley's two page spread featured in both The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

### IMPACT

The International Media Trip exceeded expectations in terms of influencing journalists and gaining widespread coverage. Media coverage as a result of the trip has reached an audience of 1.6 million, worth \$1.4million in equivalent advertising value.

We were fortunate to have a group of highly engaged journalists with us who took on board every opportunity provided - from exclusive interviews with experts and business leaders to private briefings with the Climate Council's Head of Research Dr Martin Rice. Throughout the trip, the attendees commented that the experience had greatly enhanced their knowledge of climate and energy issues, provided examples that bipartisan agreement is possible and given them the confidence to be more critical in their reporting. One journalist said that the trip will change their reporting for years to come.

Our media advisors will continue to build relationships with the journalist participants and leverage their networks. We are also looking at how we can offer briefing sessions between journalist and Climate Council researchers, to improve journalists knowledge of climate change and energy and build their confidence in climate reporting.

**Please note:** The Climate Council offset the carbon footprint of the flights and transport associated with this trip, by investing directly into renewable energy projects.



“The main message that Australia needs to do more was hard to miss.”



Images: An electric double decker bus.

Humber Gateway Wind Farm, the Today Show interviews Head of Research Dr Martin Rice.

The former Zollverein coal mine site is now home to the Ruhr Museum.

“I was surprised by the high level of consensus over the need to act on climate change between industry, government, unions and ordinary people.”



# Climate Council Project Review

## Cities Power Partnership

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In less than two years, the Cities Power Partnership has become Australia's largest climate change program for local government. With over 100 councils on board, tangible action and exciting projects are taking place, as well as invaluable connections and opportunities for collaboration emerging as local leaders step up to the challenge.

The goal of the Cities Power Partnership this year has been to deepen engagement with members, listen to the needs of local communities and provide support and solutions. In order to do this, the team has hosted a range of events from roundtables to an insight trip, continued to encourage knowledge sharing through the monthly webinar series and engaged with every member council to find out how their climate solutions projects have been tracking.

In October 2018, we hosted our first National Summit in Kiama. Over two days members were brought together to celebrate local action, share insights and knowledge and learn from industry leaders and representatives. We heard from our keynote speaker Mayor R. Rex Parris of Lancaster, California who shared his experience of a Republican heartland leading the way in renewable energy. It was truly an honour to work with the attendees and learn from each other to develop strong, local responses to climate change.

## OUTCOMES

### Climate Action Pledges

Collectively, our member councils have made 400+ pledges to take action on climate change. Projects include:

- › Bega Valley Shire has passed a Clean Energy Implementation Plan which provides a framework for future energy efficiency measures and transitioning to renewable energy.
- › Rural City of Wangaratta has established an innovative funding model to help business owners fund environmental upgrades to buildings.
- › Hawkesbury City Council launched its City Solar Program that will see 500kW of solar power installed at twelve council sites.
- › Hepburn Shire is home to Australia's first community-owned windfarm, which we featured on social media through a fun video celebrating their communities efforts.

### Bushfire Roundtable

With the support of member council Blue Mountains, we held a bushfire roundtable for council representatives, emergency services personnel and community members. Expert speakers included Climate Councillor and former NSW Fire & Rescue Commissioner Greg Mullins and provided an opportunity to connect, share best practice when it comes to preparing for climate risk and the implications for local government.

### **Joint Statement from Mayors**

During the May Federal election campaign, 15 Cities Power Partnership council Mayors signed a joint statement demanding that tackling climate change be made a top priority at the Federal level. These Mayors recognise that action on climate change must come from every tier of government and that the Federal government must address our escalating national emissions.

### **South Australia Insight Tour**

The CPP invited 17 Mayors, Councillors and project officers to Port Augusta to witness the renewables revolution. Over three days, the group along with supporters of the Climate Council toured large scale renewable energy sites including the Snowtown and Hornsdale wind farms, Bungala solar farm and the Tesla Big Battery. Climate Councillors Professor Lesley Hughes and Professor Andrew Stock presented to the group and former South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill participated in a Community Energy Forum attended by those on the tour. Participants also had the opportunity to meet the current and former Mayors of Port Augusta and learn from their experience of transitioning from a coal community to Australia's renewables capital.

### **Western Australia Engagement**

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River approached the Cities Power Partnership team to speak at their Climate Action Summit which coincided with the famous Margaret River Pro Surfing event. The team used this invitation to increase engagement with Western Australian members by also hosting a council roundtable in Perth. An important objective of the events was to

engage and listen to WA member councils. A recurring barrier often faced by these councils is the lack of accessibility to the resources available to councils in eastern Australia. These events provided the opportunity to discuss localised impacts and solutions specific to WA and areas for collaboration between councils.

## **IMPACT**

Supporting councils to implement climate action projects, host engagement opportunities and provide platforms for knowledge sharing are having positive long term impacts from increasing support for climate action from the grassroots to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2018-19 the Cities Power Partnership and member councils were mentioned 2420 times in the media, particularly in regional media outlets which we target to ensure the achievement of our members are recognised by their communities to build support.

The CPP team frequently receives feedback from members on the resources and knowledge sharing opportunities the program provides. This is particularly important for smaller, under resourced councils who would not have access to high tech tools such as an emissions and cost saving tracker, online platforms such as webinars and a live forum to seek advice as well as a library with hundreds of articles and case studies - all free of charge. This ensures that all councils, no matter what their size or location, can be included in the climate action conversation.

The Cities Power Partnership looks forward to continuing to grow the program around Australia, encouraging knowledge sharing across regional and state boundaries and seeing collaboration and replication of home grown, successful climate solutions initiatives.

Images: Cities Power Partnership Members at Bungala Solar Farm Port Augusta.

Mayor R. Rex Parris delivers the keynote address at the 2018 National summit.



## Climate Council Project Review

# Emergency Leaders for Climate Action

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'Climate change, driven by the burning of coal, oil and gas, is worsening extreme weather events, including hot days, heatwaves, heavy rainfall, coastal flooding and catastrophic bushfire weather. Australia has just experienced a summer of record-breaking heat, prolonged heatwaves and devastating fires and floods. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind: climate change is dangerous and it's affecting all of us now'.

The text above, is the opening paragraph of a hard-hitting joint statement released in April 2019 by a group of 23 former Fire and Emergency Services Chiefs. This group, which is being coordinated by the Climate Council, will be a key media intervention in reaching new audiences with our messaging.

The statement highlighted just how ill-prepared Australia is to manage extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency and intensity. More resources are urgently needed to protect lives, property and infrastructure. The statement has considered call to action asking for Federal, State and Territory Governments to invest in resources to protect Australians.

This ongoing project will draw together prominent Australian Emergency Services Leaders in a project that will have significant impact.

## OUTCOMES

The Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) launched to extensive media coverage in April 2019. Our ELCA members were fantastic spokespeople and were interviewed across print, online, broadcast and mainstream media outlets. Highlights were a Today Show interview, ABC News Breakfast, Sky News with Stacey Lee and David Speers, SBS and widely syndicated pieces by news.com.au and AAP. Overall media coverage of the launch reached an audience of 712,000 worth over \$556,000 in equivalent advertising value.

As a result of wide coverage in the morning media across major TV and radio stations both Scott Morrison and Bill Shorten were questioned about the initiative and their commitment to supporting emergency services as climate impacts worsen in doorstep interviews.

The joint statement also appeared as a full page ad in The Age. ELCA's joint statement as well as profiles of their members can be found on their website [emergencyleadersforclimateaction.org.au](http://emergencyleadersforclimateaction.org.au)

## IMPACT

The Climate Council's mission to shift the public discourse to enable sufficient action on climate change depends on having a variety of trusted voices communicating the impacts and solutions to the climate crisis. ELCA plays an important role in this strategy as credible voices that Australians trust. From their decades of experience fighting Australian fires, they can speak confidently about the changes they've seen from year round bushfire seasons, the impact of prolonged drought on conditions and fires in unexpected regions such as the rainforests of Queensland.

Moving forward, ELCA have developed three key objectives which will guide our work:

1. To establish emergency leaders as a highly influential voice in the national climate conversation.
2. To directly influence decision makers to implement effective climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.
3. To provide current fire and emergency service organisations and personnel with relevant climate change information to assist them in preparing for worsening bushfire seasons, which are being influenced by climate change.



Images: ELCA members Neil Bibby, Greg Mullins and Mike Brown on the Today Show.

ELCA Members and Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie at the ELCA media launch.

## Climate Council Project Review

# Costs of Climate Change

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Climate change is a major threat to Australia's financial stability, and poses substantial systemic economic risks. Extreme weather events like droughts, heatwaves, cyclones and floods have serious implications for human health, infrastructure, ecosystems and the productivity of our economy. Yet, we have no comprehensive assessment of what these impacts could cost.

In response, the Climate Council has established an ongoing project to collate and quantify the costs of climate change. This project draws together world-class experts to develop a bottom-up framework to assess a greater diversity of climate change impacts in Australia.

While Federal Government is lagging on climate action, economic arguments resonate strongly with both major parties. Thus, framing the imperative to act in economic terms, and in relation to the impact on government budgets, will increase cut through to policy-makers and provide a strong and positive case for bipartisan action. This project will highlight the cost of inaction on climate change and put forward a convincing rationale for governments to take the necessary mitigation steps required to avoid these costs.

## OUTCOMES

The Climate Council convened a workshop in February 2019 bringing together experts across finance, law, economic modelling, public policy, disaster management, and climate science to discuss the potential scale and scope of the issue.

Through a collaborative effort, detailed modelling was produced, based on the Federal Government's current approach to climate change, finds that the economic damage to Australia's property and agricultural sectors will be very significant.

In May, the Climate Council released its landmark report *Compound Costs: How climate change is damaging Australia's economy*. This report analyses the impacts of climate change on insurance costs and property value as well as the implications of rising temperatures on our agricultural sector. Modelling reveals that the property market can expect to lose \$571 billion in value by 2030 due to climate change and extreme weather.



**Image:** Houses in Collaroy and Narrabeen NSW were battered by powerful storms in 2016 Image Credit: 'After the big storm, houses at Collaroy Beach front' by kataraxix. Shutterstock.

## IMPACT

Media coverage of the Compound Costs report was widespread which was a great achievement considering the highly competitive nature of the news cycle in a federal election period. Over 270 media items across broadcast, print and online outlets reached 8.7 million people with an equivalent advertising value of \$1.5 million.

In addition, the report has instigated a series of new research projects in this area:

- › The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) wrote a follow-up issues paper, drawing upon the Compound Costs report, which illustrates how the benefits of acting on climate change far outweigh the costs.
- › Some of the report's co-authors are also taking the following actions:
  - Writing up the methods in a follow-up paper and this will be submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal.
  - Writing a follow-up paper to highlight the importance in accounting for distributional differences at multiple scales (international, national, and sub-national) in economic modelling on the costs of climate change.
  - Developing a funding proposal to further integrate the bottom-up analysis approach and top-down economic modelling drawn upon in the Compound Costs report, in order to build a platform capable of answering a number of additional questions. These include the costs of climate change on regional economies, and potentially also government budgets.

## Climate Council Project Review

# Climate Media Centre

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The Climate Media Centre's (CMC) is another key project of the Climate Council and it's remit is to communicate the threats and impacts that climate change poses to Australians, as well as the solutions available, via the mainstream media. The stories we tell ourselves and each other inform our view of the world, educate us on what matters and ultimately influence hearts and minds.

To effectively communicate on climate change through the media we must personalise and localise the story. To achieve this, the CMC identifies, trains and supports everyday Australians affected by climate change in all sorts of ways. This includes farmers who are coping with rapid changes on the land, firefighters dealing with longer, hotter and more dangerous bushfire conditions every year, health workers on the frontline of what the World Health Organisation has described as a "climate health emergency", and parents. We also highlight and amplify the solutions to the greatest problem facing our country today by working with renewable energy entrepreneurs, electric vehicle enthusiasts and community energy groups.

We assisted a number of grassroots organisations and start ups in growing their profile and influence by clearly communicating their messages on Climate Change impacts and solutions. Thanks to our media nous, advice, training and ongoing support, such spokespeople have become household names and sought-after media commentators.

## OUTCOMES

The CMC's core objectives this year have been to:

- › Maintain an army of trusted, engaged and effective voices on climate impacts and solutions

The CMC works with a core group of 100 spokespeople, but over the years has trained hundreds of additional Australians in how to work with the media and be effective when providing interviews. With staff located across three states, we have held face-to-face training sessions with groups including:

1. Bushfire survivors ahead of a press conference in Canberra the following day
2. Councillors and Mayors attending the 2018 Cities Power Partnership National Summit on how to localise and communicate climate change
3. Transport sector workers, particularly in the electric vehicle industry
4. Regional Queenslanders in day long sessions in Mackay and Townsville
5. Sporting industry leaders, athletes and health staff on how climate change impacts on sport in Australia
6. Members of Farmers for Climate Action; a national network of farmers who want action on climate change so they can farm forever.



- › Increase the quality and effectiveness of climate change communications

Throughout the past year the CMC team has provided strategic advice for its spokespeople as well as to the broader climate and environment movement. For example, before the Council of Australian Governments meeting in August when they discussed the proposed National Energy Guarantee, and after the federal election which delivered an outcome that no one had predicted.

The CMC team also write and produce communications guides on particular topic areas, as well as factsheets for journalists. It is critically important that the media industry is armed with the knowledge and insights they require to ask the right questions, cut through spin and misinformation and provide quality news reporting on climate and energy issues.

- › Look for new and innovative ways to improve and expand the CMC's work

In 2018-19 this has included:

1. Data driven pitching; analysis for which was provided by a volunteer.
2. Online training videos. For the first time, we recorded a video series on how to host a media event which runs through a checklist organisations and media staff should work through in order to host a successful event.
3. Webinar training in order to make our sessions accessible no matter where people live.
4. A dedicated media advisor based in Queensland.

## IMPACT

In 2018-19 the Climate Media Centre exceeded its media target of 6000 media items annually by 50%. This includes mentions, opinion pieces and stories about our spokespeople across print, online and broadcast media. We target a diverse range of media outlets from regional newspapers through to popular magazines like *The Australian Women's Weekly* and specialist television programmes like Channel 10's *The Project*.

A significant achievement of the CMC is its success in building the media capability of a handful of organisations that are now able to sustain media coverage themselves thanks to the skills and additional capacity they acquired through CMC training. The team will continue to identify and support smaller, grassroots organisations and start-ups to achieve similar results.

Moving forward, the team is looking to expand its regional reach across the country.



Images: Climate Media Centre Workshop.

A Climate Media Centre Spokesperson on Matter of Fact.

# Climate Council Community

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As an independent climate science research and communications organisation, the Climate Council relies on the wonderful support of our passionate community who power and inform all that we do.

Our community of supporters enable us to be fierce in the public domain, congratulating successes and calling out failures as we see them. It remains as important as ever to ensure that climate science and facts are front and centre in the national conversation on climate action.

In the past year, our supporters have powered our work in a variety of ways, including sharing our reports, hosting fundraising movie nights, donating the profits of their art, starting conversations in their community about the need to act on climate change and participating in insight trips to find out more about the climate crisis and the actions we can all take in our own networks.

These actions enable the Climate Council to reach even more Australians. Together we are starting important conversations in our lounge rooms, our offices and in our communities. Thank you for spreading your passion and knowledge.

Feedback from our community of supporters on why they support the Climate Council.

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"I'm affected directly from the impacts of climate change, I'm part of the Climate Council to voice our concern together for deliberate actions and see **tangible solutions.**"

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"Because when they cut you out, you didn't give up. You are **credible**, and god, where would be without you."

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"I'm fourteen, everyone says we're the last chance generation and it's scary. But I know we can **change** things with organisations like Climate Council out there."

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"I love the work you do – you are **the voice of the scientists** and researchers who are not associated with any vested interests, but are just providing us with the facts and trying to help us work out solutions."

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"The Climate Council provides **the facts** about climate change, based on the best scientific practice. Unambiguous and beholden to no government.

## Climate Council 5th Birthday

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In September 2018, the Climate Council celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday with supporters at panel discussion events in Melbourne and Sydney. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on five years of independent climate science and action with our Councillors and supporters who have been with us from the very start. Over 450 people attended the two events.

The discussion ranged from reminiscing on the Climate Council's creation in what was Australia's largest crowd fundraiser, to the devastating impacts of climate change we are already experiencing, to stories of hope from local communities leading the charge with the technological solutions we have available. The knowledge and questions raised by the audience reflected how engaged and informed our supporters are. Thank you so much for being a part of our journey and for your unwavering support of independent climate science research and communications.



# Heron Island Insight Trip

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Image: Climate Council supporters learn more about how they can help safeguard the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

In September 2018, 27 dedicated Climate Council supporters participated in the Heron Island Insight Trip to learn more about the impacts and solutions to climate change. The participants engaged in presentations from climate science experts such as Professor Tim Flannery and Associate Professor Sophie Dove to gain a comprehensive understanding of the impact climate change is having, including the coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef.

The group then participated in workshops to understand the solutions available to safeguard our future and brainstorm the tangible actions they can take within their own spheres of influence to enact change. This trip builds on the success of the 2017 Insight Trip and we have seen some great projects enacted by participants from starting an initiative that allows Australian music artists to invest in renewable energy to using art as a platform to discuss the climate crisis.

## South Australia Renewables Roadtrip

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Image: Climate Council supporters at Bungala Solar Farm in South Australia.

**In May 2019, a group of the Climate Council Champions and supporters joined our Cities Power Partnership team in South Australia to witness first hand the renewables revolution.**

Together, the group toured renewable energy sites in Port Augusta including Bungala Solar Farm, Snowtown Wind Farm and the Tesla Battery. It was interesting and inspiring to hear how a coal-dependent community transitioned to become Australia's renewable capital. The trip provided the opportunity to meet and hear presentations from Climate

Councillors Professor Lesley Hughes and Professor Andrew Stock and engage with the Cities Power Partnership members to understand how they are tackling climate change in their local communities. Feedback from participants was positive, highlighting that many felt uplifted and learnt a lot from the experience with one supporter saying "as an antidote to all the disillusion, disappointment and frustration that accompanies the fight to combat climate change, I can think of nothing better than to visit those who are doing something and accomplishing so much".

# Community Giving and Philanthropy

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**The Climate Council continues to rely on the community to fund our operations, with over 62% of our funding coming from our community based founding friends, Champions and other supporters. The remainder of our funding comes from philanthropy and grants from foundations.**

We continue to be grateful to all our donors and in particular to our regular donors who commit to funding our organisation via mainly weekly and monthly donations. We have over 4,800 regular donors who donated in the last financial year.

We'd also like to thank our passionate Climate Council Champions whose donations of \$1,000 or more each year is vital to powering our ongoing research and communications.

The Climate Council continues to have approved deductible gift recipient status and donations made to our gift fund over \$2 are tax deductible.

With the ongoing support of our community and philanthropic donors together we continue to provide relevant and up to date authoritative information on Climate Change.

Our financial management utilises robust financial and donor management systems overseen by the Finance Committee of the Board and our staff team. Our financial management is supported by a strategic plan and we maintain strong financial and compliance controls as well as prudent budgetary and cash management review processes on a monthly basis.

The financial information in this annual report has been extracted from the Annual Financial Report which has been audited by Thomas Davis & Co, Chartered Accountants. The auditor provided an unqualified audit report. Our accounts are general purpose financial statements that are prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - reduced Disclosure Requirements of the AASB and the ACNC Act 2012.

We comply with the ACNC requirements in relation to disclosure of our company and financial information on an annual basis. The audited accounts and company information are available to the public on the ACNC website.

We also comply with reporting requirements of the Register of Environmental Organisations and state based fundraising licence regulators.

# Finances



**Images:** Climate Council staff were invited to Brunswick South West Primary School to thank them for their fundraising efforts; Head of Research Dr Martin Rice gave an address at the opening of Tamara Dean's Endangered exhibition at Martin Browne Contemporary.

## INCOME

In the 2018/19 financial year we received income totalling \$3,815,387.

The 2018/19 financial year saw the Climate Council's number of core regular (weekly and monthly) donors grow to over 4,800 people and the average regular donation is \$28.

## SUPPORTER FUNDRAISING

We continue to be inspired by the many Climate Council supporters who reach out to us, wanting to do more for raising awareness and funds for climate action. We would like to extend our thanks to each of our community members who have raised their hands, set themselves a challenge and fundraised for the Climate Council. Over the past year we have had supporters take part in fun runs and marathons, forego wedding gifts in lieu of donations and kids holding bake sale stalls. We would like to especially acknowledge artist Tamara Dean and the Martin Browne Contemporary who each contributed 5% of their individual sales commissions from works made on the Heron Island Insight Trip. Thank you Tamara and Martin Browne Contemporary for hosting the special fundraising exhibition event and for your passion for climate action.



# SUPPORTER FUNDRAISERS



AUSTRALIAN BRAND

## LAZYBONES

HOSTED AN ONLINE FLASH SALE &

**DONATED 10% OF SALES**

**TO THE CLIMATE COUNCIL**



MOLLY, EMMA & SALLY

**MADE A \$100 DONATION**

FOR THEIR SISTER REBECCA'S

**BIRTHDAY**



BRITTON HELD

**A SCREENING OF**

**2040 & DONATED**

A PORTION OF THE TICKET SALES



DOMINIC RAN IN THE

## CITY2SURF

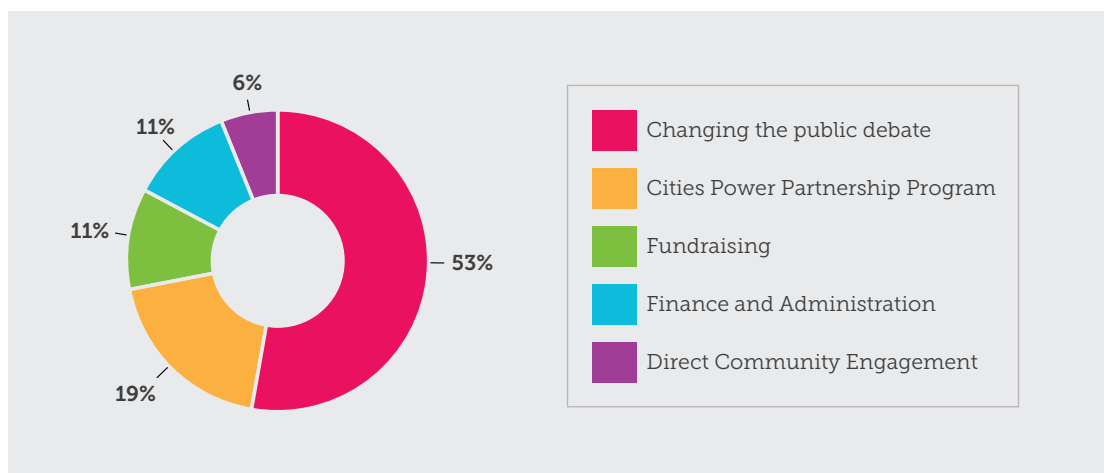
**& RAISED**

**OVER \$110**

## EXPENDITURE

Climate Council expenditure in 2018/19 financial year was \$3,811,762. This was in the following areas:

- › Changing the public debate (53%) – includes expenses associated with our communications work including research, writing and delivery of world leading expert reports as well as media distribution and programs that educate the community or specialised target groups, in addition to distribution of our information via online, digital and social media platforms.
- › Cities Power Partnership Program (19%) - expenses associated with supporting councils to work together on climate solutions and communicating how local governments and communities across Australia are transforming and making a switch to a clean energy future. We are highlighting the role they are playing in reducing national emissions, via initiatives and projects focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.
- › Direct Community Engagement (6%) - expenses associated with communicating with a broad range of engaged audiences including the delivery of speeches to over 9,000 people by our CEO, research team and the Councillors.
- › Fundraising (11%) - expenses associated with fundraising campaigns and donor and community management systems.
- › Finance and Administration (11%) - most of these costs relate to running the Climate Council legally, compliantly and efficiently. This includes operational management, accounting, audit, compliance, insurance and legal costs.



Note: Salary and wage costs are allocated to the appropriate area of expense.

# Pro Bono Goods & Services

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We aim to reduce our costs (in particular our salary and general council activity costs) as much as possible by accepting pro bono and discounted goods and services.

This year we have received pro bono (or discounted cost) good and services for legal, graphic design, conference attendance, venue facilities, consulting fees, administration resources, creative resources as well as not for profit charity discounts for IT services, hardware and travel costs.

## VOLUNTEERS

In the 2018/19 financial year we estimate that volunteers contributed over \$573,500 worth of their time!

Please see our appreciation pages acknowledging all our pro bono supporters and volunteers.

# Supporters

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We would like to thank Baker & McKenzie for providing pro-bono legal advice to the Climate Council. Your support is absolutely invaluable.

Thank you to Spade & Arrow and Made Visual, Community Shapers, GoodChat, Ernst & Young, AKQA, Lewin Advisory, CTAS Finance & Tax, Centre for Australian Progress, Perform HR, Crina Belevi, Scott Sanders, Lara Ihnatowicz, Claire Snyder, Black Ant Films and Ecocern, for their support of the Climate Council.

We'd also like to acknowledge our members and governors who use their expertise, influence and networks to promote and support the Climate Council's work.

## Our Team

# Councillors & Board Members

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**Professor Tim Flannery**  
Chief Councillor



Tim is one of the world's most prominent environmentalists and a leading writer on climate change. In 2007 he was named 'Australian of the Year'. Tim has held various academic

positions including Professor at the University of Adelaide, director of the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum and Visiting Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. His latest book is *'Europe. A Natural History'*.

**Gerry Hueston**  
Councillor and Chair of Board



Gerry is a prominent businessman who retired in 2011 as President of BP Australasia, after a career with BP spanning 34 years in a variety of management and senior executive

roles in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and the United Kingdom. He is a former board member of the Business Council of Australia, former Chair of the Australian Institute of Petroleum, and a former Commissioner with the Australian Climate Commission. Gerry is currently the Chair of Plan International Australia and a Director of the International Board of Plan International.

**Professor Lesley Hughes**  
Councillor



Lesley is an ecologist in the Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University and an expert on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. Her research

has mainly focused on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. She is a former federal Climate Commissioner and former Lead Author in the IPCC's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report. She is also a Director for WWF Australia, a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and the Director of the Biodiversity Node for the NSW Adaptation Hub.

**Professor Will Steffen**  
Councillor



Will is a world-renowned climate science expert and researcher at the Australian National University. He was on the panel of experts supporting the Multi- Party Climate Change

Committee, has served as the Science Adviser to the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and was chair of the Antarctic Science Advisory Committee. From 1998 to 2004, Professor Steffen served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere- Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change. His research interests span a broad range within the fields of climate change and Earth System science, with an emphasis on sustainability, climate change and the Earth System.

**Professor Andrew Stock**  
Councillor



Andrew brings over 40 years experience in senior management and executive roles in energy businesses, spanning traditional energy suppliers, emerging energy technologies and renewables. He is a past Director of numerous energy companies, a Board Member of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, and Chair of resources and energy Institute Advisory Boards at the University of Adelaide and University of Melbourne. He was the founding National President of the Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy (now Clean Energy Council) and has served on CSIRO's Energy & Transport Sector Advisory Committee as well as other research and energy advisory committees to the South Australian Government.

**Greg Bourne**  
Councillor



Greg has worked at the nexus of climate change, energy business and policy for over 30 years. With BP he lived and worked in the UK, Middle East, USA, Canada, Ireland, Brazil, China, Venezuela and Australia. For two years he was Special Adviser on Energy and Transport to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He returned to Australia in 1999 as Regional President, BP Australasia and worked with business and governments on the Climate Change agenda. Greg was CEO WWF Australia for six years and later a non-executive director of Carnegie Wave Energy. He is the former Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

**Professor Karen Hussey**  
Councillor



Karen is the inaugural director of the Centre for Policy Futures at the University of Queensland. Trained as a political scientist and economist, Karen is a leading Australian researcher in the field of public policy and governance, and her work has spanned a range of sectors and issues, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, water resource management, critical infrastructure, non-tariff barriers and international trade, and the regulatory settings needed to successfully introduce new technologies. She has led the development of innovative intellectual and policy approaches to sustainability and risk, combining traditional disciplinary expertise with a close understanding of the particular attributes of policy problems.

**Professor Hilary Bambrick**  
Councillor



Hilary is Head of the School of Public Health and Social Work at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She is an environmental epidemiologist and bioanthropologist researching health impacts and adaptation, especially in more vulnerable communities across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa. Hilary is regularly invited to consult for government (Federal, State and international) and non-government organisations on climate change impacts and adaptation. In 2011 she received a NSW Young Tall Poppy Award for outstanding achievements in scientific research and communication.

**Dr Joëlle Gergi**  
Councillor



Dr Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning climate scientist and writer from The Australian National University. She is an internationally recognised expert in Australian and Southern

Hemisphere climate variability and change based in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes. Her research focuses on providing a long-term historical context for assessing recently observed climate variability and extremes.

In 2013 Dr Gergis was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) fellowship, and her team won the 2014 Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research – informally known as the ‘Oscars of Australian Science’. In 2015 Joëlle was awarded the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research in the Faculty of Science at the University of Melbourne. In February 2018, she was selected to serve as a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report – a global, state-of-the art review of climate change science.

Her book, *Sunburnt Country: The future and history of climate change in Australia*, is now available through Melbourne University Publishing.

**Greg Mullins**  
Councillor



Greg is an internationally recognised expert in responding to major bushfires and natural disasters and has a keen interest in the linkages between climate change, extreme

weather events, and bushfires. He coordinated responses to many major natural disasters over more than two decades and retired in January 2017 as Commissioner after a 39 year career with Fire & Rescue NSW. Prior to retirement he was President of the national council for fire and emergency services (AFAC), and Director of the International Fire Chiefs Association of Asia. He is currently Chair of the NSW Ambulance Service Advisory Board, a member of the Nature Conservation Council’s Bushfire Advisory Committee, and a volunteer firefighter with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

As acting Chair of the NSW State Emergency Management Committee in 2005-6 he re-established a Climate Change Working Group focused on adaptation and was a member of the NSW Government’s Climate Change Council from 2007-16. He has worked with fire departments worldwide and represented Australian emergency services at many international forums.

**Martijn Wilder**  
Director



Martijn is a Co-founder and Managing Partner of Pollination. He was formerly head of the Australian and Global Climate Law & Finance practice at Baker McKenzie. Martijn is Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), President of WWF (Australia) and Director of the Climate Council. He is Chair of the NSW Climate Change Council, Governing board member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership. Martijn is also an Honorary Professor of Law at the Australian National University. He is also a former Director of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), In 2012, Martijn was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition for "service to environmental law, particularly in the area of climate change through contributions to the development of law, global regulation, public policy and the promotion of public debate, and to the community". Martijn was awarded the Overall Winner - Legal Innovator of the Year by FT Innovative Lawyers Awards Asia-Pacific 2018, Lawyer of the Year for Climate Change by the Australian Financial Review in 2018.

**Samantha Mostyn**  
Director



Samantha is Chair of Citibank Australia and the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. She is also a Director of Mirvac Group, Transurban Group, Sydney Swans and ClimateWorks Australia. Samantha is a member of the Business and Sustainable Development Commission.

Samantha was previously Chair of Carriageworks, Deputy Chair of the Diversity Council of Australia, Director of Virgin Australia, Director of the Australian Council of the Arts and a Member of the Advisory Council: Crawford School of Economics and Governance at ANU. She has previously held executive roles at IAG, Optus and Cable and Wireless plc. Samantha was a Member of the Womens Advisory Panel for the Australian Chief of Defence, served on the Human Right Commission Review of the Treatment of Women in the ADF, was a Member of the National Mental Health Commission and is a former AFL Commissioner.

**Robert Purves**  
Director



Robert is both a businessman and environmentalist, who, having had an active business career in public companies, now spends much of his time on environmental issues. He is currently a Director Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientist, while being involved in several other non-for-profit organisations. He is the immediate past President of WWF-Australia and a former board member of WWF-International.

In 2004 Robert established the Purves Environmental Fund, which funds numerous environmental initiatives. In 2008 Robert was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to conservation and the environment, and awarded an Honorary Fellow from the University of Sydney. Robert was also awarded the Australian Geographic Society's Lifetime of Conservation Award in 2015. Robert lives in Sydney and has farms in Southern Tablelands of NSW.

**Matthew Honey**  
Director



Matt is Partner at Ernst & Young. He provides a range of assurance services to a variety of clients in the resources, utilities and technology sectors. He is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand and a Registered Company Auditor. Matt has over 20 years of experience providing financial reporting, governance, risk management, transactional and climate change related advice to his diverse client base both in Australian and internationally. Matt is also a Director of the Group of 100, Australia's peak body for Chief Financial Officers.

## Our Team

# Staff

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**Amanda McKenzie**  
CEO



As well as being the CEO of the Climate Council, Amanda is on the Board of the Centre for Australian Progress and Plan International Australia. In 2014, Amanda was recognised as one of Westpac's 100 Women of Influence. Previously, Amanda founded the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Amanda currently provides advice on the Northern Territory Government Renewable Energy Expert Panel and has previously been a panelist on the Queensland Government Renewable Energy Expert Panel.

**Dr Martin Rice**  
Acting CEO



Martin is Acting CEO and for the past four years has been Head of Research for the Climate Council. Previously he was the Coordinator of the Earth System Science Partnership in Paris, a global interdisciplinary program with projects on the carbon cycle, global water system, human health and food systems. Prior to this, he was a Program Manager for the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research in Kobe, Japan, an intergovernmental network promoting policy-oriented research and capacity-building activities. Martin's PhD research was on integrated Earth System Science: research practice and science communication

**Katrina Porteus**  
Acting CEO



Katrina is the joint Acting CEO since January 2018 and has been the Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary for over 4 years for the Climate Council. Katrina has held previous senior general management, operations and project management roles including running the operations of a global business coaching firm for over 10 years as well as senior roles in organisations in Australia and the UK including AT Kearney, Macquarie Bank and Rothschild. Katrina has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney and postgraduate qualifications in Applied Finance. Katrina is also a founding facilitator of the Professional Environmental Women's Association (PEWA) NSW chapter.



# The Climate Council

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## CLIMATE COUNCIL STAFF

Staff as of 30 June 2019

**Amanda McKenzie**  
CEO

**Katrina Porteus**  
Chief Operating Officer  
(2014-present), Acting CEO  
(2018-2019)

**Dr Martin Rice**  
Head of Research (2014-present),  
Acting CEO (2018-2019)

**Dr Annika Dean**  
Senior Researcher

**Louis Brailsford**  
Researcher

**Dinah Arndt**  
Climate Media Centre Co Director

**Jolee Wakefield**  
Climate Media Centre Co Director

**Amanda Woodard**  
Senior Media Advisor

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Media Advisor

**Kate Davies**  
Senior Media Advisor

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Media Advisor

**Alexia Boland**  
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**Lisa Upton**  
Senior Communications Advisor

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Media Advisor

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Communications Graduate

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**Violette Snow**  
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**Meg Grayson**  
Donor Liaison Officer

## CONTRACTORS & VOLUNTEERS

We would also like to thank the following staff, contractors and volunteers who worked for the Climate Council during the year:

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- > Claire Turner
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- > Sarah Dixon
- > Lily Spencer
- > Bronwyn Hogan
- > Mara Quinn
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- > Tom Davis
- > Claire Laws
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- > Huw Jones
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- > Jennifer Neil Smith

# Appreciation

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The incredible work that the Climate Council has undertaken would not have been possible without the support that we have received from our incredible community of Founding Friends. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing support and dedication to the Climate Council.

The Council's work only gets such wide distribution because our Facebook friends, our supporters and other organisations share that information. Those daily shares are changing the conversation.

Without your support, the Climate Council simply wouldn't exist. Together we have made a significant and important impact in Australia. Thank you sincerely for chipping in what you can.

## FOUNDING FRIENDS, CHAMPIONS & COMMUNITY GIVERS

Our special thanks goes to our incredible community of Founding Friends, Champions and Community Givers. Together we have built the Climate Council into a highly impactful organisation. Thank you for making all of this possible!

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Climate Council is grateful for a number of corporate partners who share our vision for climate action and a transition to a clean energy future. We would especially like to thank our 1% for the Planet partners and look forward to inspiring climate action together.



- > Spell and the Gypsy Collective
- > ActInvest
- > EvoCoast
- > Uscha

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An important group of philanthropists and foundations have contributed to amplifying the contributions of the Climate Council community. Thank you.

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- > Bluesand Foundation
- > Community Impact Foundation
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- > Pace Foundation
- > Purryburry Trust
- > The NR Peace and Justice Fund
- > The Reichstein Foundation
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- > Vincent Chiodo Foundation

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All Climate Council reports are assessed by a panel of expert reviewers. Their technical knowledge, understanding and industry experience greatly enhance the credibility and accuracy of our work. We extend our thanks for their assistance.

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# Thank you for supporting the Climate Council.


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