



Annual Report 2021-2022



The Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organisation providing quality information on climate change to the Australian public.

The Climate Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, meet and work. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise the continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

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Thank you for your support

The Climate Council has been community-funded since day one. It's thanks to the incredible ongoing public support we receive that, almost nine years on, we're able to keep unpacking the science and solutions to the climate crisis – and maintaining pressure on decision-makers to respond at the increasing urgency and scale of action required.

Our ability to catalyse change across all levels of government, business and the media relies on our community of more than 535,000 people who back in our work by giving a tax-deductible donation, playing an active part in our campaigns, or taking the initiative to educate friends and networks using our reports, videos and guides to communicate climate science, impacts and solutions.

Globally, and here on home soil, the consequences of delayed climate action are playing out in real time. This year has been no exception. Australians are experiencing the impacts of more frequent and severe extreme weather, with climate change a key influencer in the 2022 flooding emergency that swept through parts of Queensland and New South Wales. The seriousness of the situation we're in has only been reinforced by the release of the latest reports from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasising the need to aim higher and go faster in cutting emissions.

Australia kept lagging on the world stage and, with your backing, we intervened. The Australian Government headed to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) as the worst performing of all developed countries in terms of climate action. That didn't stop the Climate Council community from stepping up and clapping back: our supporters actively shaped the conversation on international action here and abroad by chipping in to fund critical interventions like our ad in The Times, which reached more than 1.7 million people.

2022 delivered a federal climate election, with millions of climate concerned voters voting for climate-friendly candidates on polling day. Our community played an instrumental role in pressuring candidates to cite their climate credentials via initiatives like our Climate Risk Map, where more than 3000 people contacted their representatives to highlight risks posed by worsening extreme weather.

The new Federal Parliament presents an opportunity to influence and shape change, and reset Australia's position on the world stage. But no matter the government of the day, the Climate Council's role, independence, expertise and commitment to evidence remains critical. **Together, it is our task to shape the world we inhabit tomorrow through the actions we take today.**

Thank you, as always, for standing with us.

Images: Clockwise from top left: Dr Wesley Morgan joins ABC Pacific Beat radio during the Pacific Islands Forum. Participant Bob Hawes at the Hunter Clean Energy Training session. Greg Mullins AO AFSM is joined by Amanda McKenzie and Kerry O'Brien to discuss Greg's book 'Firestorm' during an online book club event. Climate Councillor Professor Will Steffen presents 'A Supercharged Climate' report to the media. Surfers for Climate event in Byron Bay. Climate Council all-staff planning session.



A message from the Chair

It is my pleasure to share with you the Climate Council's 2021-22 Annual Report.

This past year has been monumental in the push for climate action. In a year filled with far too many "once-in-a-lifetime" extreme weather events - including devastating flooding, record-breaking temperatures, heat waves and fires across the world - the urgency of climate action is paramount.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) catapulted the latest climate science into headlines across the world, and the central message was clear: climate change is here, we're already feeling the impacts, and it's going to take commitment and collaboration across the globe to drastically cut emissions and prevent further climate disasters.

Globally, new climate policies, legislation and litigation have paved the way for deeper emissions cuts. International climate negotiations at COP26 saw momentum for change build, with many countries strengthening their emissions reduction targets and pledging to end coal and reduce methane emissions. Meanwhile, Australia arrived as the worst performing developed nation on climate action, and failed to take any meaningful steps forward.

Thanks to the support of our community, the Climate Council was able to send a team to report live from Glasgow, shape the narrative on climate change as well as Australia's performance in media coverage that was broadcast around the world. Keeping expert voices on climate science and solutions front and centre in the national conversation on climate change is central to the Climate Council's work, and has been instrumental in shifting people's perceptions on climate change everywhere from the nation's living rooms, to its highest offices.

This shift was clearly reflected in the 2022 Federal Election, as millions of Australians backed candidates with strong policies and ushered in a new era for climate action. With a Federal Government that is more willing to listen to scientific experts and take steps towards a brighter, net-zero future, I, like many others, am hopeful about the future.

This hope must be the foundation for stronger action, not complacency.

The Climate Council is in a unique position to push for change as an independent voice for climate action. Federal Climate Change and Energy Minister, the Honourable Chris Bowen MP, met with Emergency Leaders for Climate Action soon after starting his role - a stark contrast to the Abbott Government whose first act was to abolish the Climate Commission (the predecessor to the Climate

Council). We have the attention of our nation's highest offices, so **now is the time to push harder than ever before to catalyse bold, meaningful and lasting change to Australia's response to the climate crisis.**

As I have reached the end of my term as Chair of the Board, this will be my last time presenting the Annual Report for the Climate Council. Reflecting on my tenure as Chair, and how much the Climate Council has accomplished over the nine years since it was launched, I feel immensely proud, and grateful to the Climate Council supporters, volunteers, staff, Councillors and my fellow directors who have made this impact possible.

In particular, I would like to thank CEO Amanda McKenzie and the executive team, who have steered the Climate Council as a catalyst for change, and brought their leadership skills, creativity and determination to devising the Climate Council's new strategy.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the community of supporters that makes the Climate Council's work possible. As a fiercely independent, community-powered organisation, it is your support that enables us to advocate for deep and lasting change. As I step back from my role as Chair of the Board, I look forward to seeing how you continue to forge a brighter, fairer future for Australia.



Sam Mostyn AO
Climate Council Chair

**Now is the time to
push harder than
ever before to catalyse
bold, meaningful and
lasting change to
Australia's response
to the climate crisis.**

A message from the CEO and Chief Councillor

It's with great pride that we present the Climate Council's Annual Report for 2021-22, with special thanks to the strategic guidance of our Board and Councillors, the dedication of our staff, and the incredible support of our 535,000-strong Climate Council community.

The Climate Council exists to catalyse change across businesses, the media, communities, and all levels of government. In the 12 months that this report reflects on, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) documented the devastating consequences of accelerated climate change in its Sixth Assessment report, labelling this a 'code red for humanity'. Global leaders came together for the 26th Conference of the Parties - arguably the most important climate conference since the Paris Agreement was signed. While on home soil, Australia's east coast experienced its worst flooding disaster on record, as other parts of the country remained scorchingly hot and bone-dry.



Image: The Climate Council released 12 reports in 2021-22.

Through it all, the Climate Council community has been a beating heart of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm.

Together, we have elevated climate to new heights in the national conversation, advocated effectively for strong policy change at a national level, and celebrated progress in our states, territories and local communities.

We have helped **more than 174 councils to implement emissions-busting initiatives** through our Cities Power Partnership (CPP), and have held leaders accountable to the public and their promise to protect communities, with Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA).

The Climate Council has generated more than 22,000 media items, with our expert Climate Councillors working hard to get climate stories and compelling, evidence-based information in front of millions of Australians. Our team has also supported thousands of everyday Australians – doctors, firefighters, vets, renters, fossil fuel workers – to find their voice and be heard via a further 20,000 media items.

We launched **12 hard-hitting reports** that unpacked everything from the benefits of energy-efficient homes, the economic costs of inaction, the influence of climate change on floods and the rising risks that extreme weather pose to our homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

All of this, and much more, has cultivated a profound shift in public understanding of the urgency of the climate crisis, and the scale and speed of solutions required to address it.

Nothing made our impact more evident than the 2022 Federal election. In May, Australians rejected more denial, delay and obstruction on climate policy, and elected a new Federal Government that appears more willing to listen to science, accept responsibility for the climate crisis and move swiftly to implement credible solutions.

The wave of momentum that we helped to build swung Australia undeniably towards a fair, fast energy transition and a brighter, cleaner future for all. **We've now entered a new era for climate action.** While the external landscape changes, our independence, commitment to evidence and, importantly, **our commitment to the community we represent, remains as strong as ever.**

A heartfelt thank you to the entire Climate Council community, for all your support this year.



With renewed hope and a laser-focus on securing strong climate action this decade.



Amanda McKenzie
CEO



Prof. Tim Flannery
Chief Councillor

2021-22

IMPACT SNAPSHOT



22,400+

MEDIA ITEMS

FEATURING THE
CLIMATE COUNCIL



RELEASED

12

**LANDMARK
PUBLICATIONS**



5

**FORMAL
SUBMISSIONS
TO INQUIRIES**

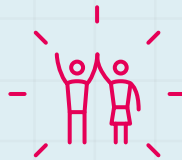


WITH AN EQUIVALENT

ADVERTISING SPACE

VALUE OF

\$68M



A COMMUNITY OF OVER

535,000

SUPPORTERS



20,000

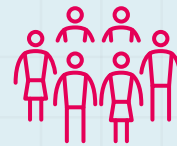
MEDIA ITEMS

**ELEVATING
TRUSTED VOICES
SUCH AS FARMERS
& FIREFIGHTERS**



174

**CITIES POWER
PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**



300+

**SPOKESPEOPLE
TRAINED**

Climate Council

Impact Summary

This past year will go down in history as one of the most transformative periods in Australia's fight against climate change. During this time, the Climate Council has continued to organise and amplify diverse voices to ensure climate change remains front and centre on the agenda as a hot political issue.

Our work has raised awareness of escalating climate risks and issues to 'mainstream' communities, and has built a strong public research and evidence platform for science-based climate action.

Eight years under a Liberal-National government was characterised by cuts to climate-related funding and effective programs, the rejection of advice from scientists as well as national and international expert bodies, and a catastrophic lack of credible climate policy. We have finally entered a new era. A climate denialist government has been replaced with one that accepts the reality of climate change as well as the need to act. While there is much more to do, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the central role Climate Council played in transforming Australia's landscape to create the moment of opportunity we are now in. We have done this in three important ways:

1. Keeping climate change high on the public agenda and driving a continuous drumbeat for action.

The Climate Council's work is transforming how the media covers climate change in Australia and across the world. Better news coverage is an essential climate solution. It's a catalyst that makes progress on every part of the climate problem more likely — from politics to business, activism to justice, lifestyle change to systems change. **Better mainstream news coverage means educating massive numbers of people about what's going on, how to fix it, and inspiring them to act.**

For example, during the 2022 flooding emergency that swept through southeast Queensland and New South Wales our work with journalists, spokespeople and the media helped reinforce the narrative that climate change underpins the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme-weather driven disasters such as this; putting pressure on the federal government for greater policy ambition. Our work amplified the federal government's inaction on climate as the background to the disaster – highlighting its negligence in failing to prepare for, and respond to, this emergency, and helping to shift the dial ahead of the election. We secured more than 1000 media hits and helped to cumulatively shift the discourse from no discussion around climate change at the onset of the disaster, to flooding being explicitly linked to climate as coverage progressed. In a press conference in Lismore during the floods, then Prime Minister Scott Morrison acknowledged that "We are dealing with a different climate to the one we were dealing with before... Australia is getting harder to live in because of these disasters". "Obviously, climate change is having an impact here in Australia."

We have also worked hard to communicate the role of climate change in driving extreme weather. After our consistent advocacy during and after the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements acknowledged the role of climate change in fuelling the fires, and creating worsening bushfire seasons into the future: *“As the events of the 2019-2020 bushfire season show, what was unprecedented is now our future.”* Our project, Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA), is closely tracking the federal government's response to the Royal Commission. ELCA will continue to advocate for the protection of Australians from the worsening impacts of climate change, and for helping communities to prepare and recover from such disasters. For more on our work with ELCA, please see page 27.

2 ■ Driving scalable, replicable emissions reductions projects and policies.

For four years, the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) has been supporting councils across Australia – from large regional centres, to the smallest rural shires – to reduce emissions and move their communities closer to a net-zero emissions future.

The greatest strength of this 147-member network has been councils' passion to collaborate and scale up proven solutions. For example, the Hunter Joint Organisation and its eleven member councils have joined the CPP to address the challenges of industrial transition, emissions reduction and regional climate impacts. CPP is supporting this group by providing tailored access to relevant case studies, expertise and training. For more on the CPP, please see page 31.

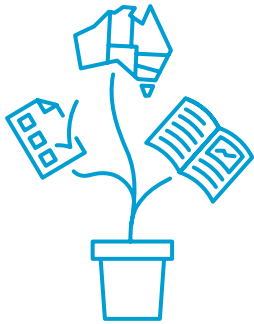
In July 2020, the Climate Council launched our *Clean Jobs Plan*; a pathway for an economic recovery that creates tens of thousands of jobs, while tackling climate change. We've been leading an ongoing campaign to build public support for these solutions and working behind the scenes with decision-makers in many states and territories to encourage their uptake of these policies. So far, 80 policy announcements have been made in line with our recommendations, including announcements by governments to invest in utility-scale renewable energy and renewable hydrogen. For more on the clean jobs campaign, please see page 12.

3 ■ Empowering constituencies to lead, act and advocate.

Over many years, we have supported individuals and organisations to become influential voices on climate change – including farmers, firefighters, mayors and health professionals. Through direct media, communications, research and advocacy support, we empower them to lead, act and advocate within their own communities. Increased resourcing made available in the past year has enabled us to step up this work. We've trained 200 people on effective communications, media and interview skills, and have helped to align and amplify climate communications across Australia. Read more about our work with trusted voices on page 29.

2021-2022

Program Review



GOAL 1:
**GROWING
THE GOOD**

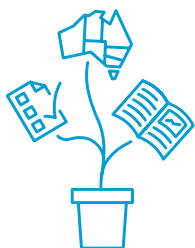


GOAL 2:
**STOPPING
THE BAD**



GOAL 3:
**TRANSFORMING
THE LANDSCAPE**

GOAL 1: GROWING THE GOOD



To catalyse action from state and local governments and business and industry that can be replicated, scaled and will build momentum for more; with actions that result in plummeting emissions during the 2020s prioritised.

KEY NARRATIVE SHIFT

Economic Opportunities Abound

The economic opportunities from acting on climate change include, but go far beyond, renewable energy alone. We are seeing many governments, businesses and community leaders across Australia talk up the economic opportunities of decarbonising other sectors like transport, and new minerals mining. As then NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance summed up, the electric vehicle industry is creating the “jobs of tomorrow”.

Climate change is an economic and security threat

Increasingly, climate change is being viewed as both an economic and security threat. Councillors like Nicki Hutley and Cheryl Durrant are key influencers, and increasingly MPs in state and federal politics are using the same frames publicly.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Elevating and supporting local voices (via the Climate Media Centre) from key industrial regions like the Hunter and Gladstone in the media via trips, events, reports and polling.
- Encouraging better policies via direct advocacy with 85 stakeholder meetings with decision makers in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.
- Elevating all the good news in state budgets, such as the Queensland Government’s new \$2 billion clean energy fund; Victoria’s spending on electric transport, bushfire recovery and habitat protection; and transport improvements in NSW - and federal ALP’s green energy pledge to skill up 10,000 workers for the renewables revolution, via traditional and social media.
- Promoting climate solutions that also address cost of living challenges, such as energy efficiency measures via reports like Tents to Castles, and highlighting the costs of inaction via reports like Neighbourhood Issue.

CLEAN JOBS CAMPAIGN

The Clean Jobs Campaign helped to secure 7-star homes under reforms to the National Construction Code (NCC) advocated for through our *Tents to Castles* report and community activation.

Summary

The Climate Council's Clean Jobs campaign was launched in 2020 in response to the opportunity for government COVID-19 stimulus. In the first year of the campaign, we published the *Clean Jobs Plan*, a whole-of-economy solution identifying 12 major policy opportunities to immediately kick-start economic growth.

In 2021-22, the Clean Jobs Campaign built on our success by honing in on two key areas: home energy efficiency, and how people get around every day. These areas were chosen because of their strong potential for rapid and direct emissions reductions, timeliness, and relevance to everyday Australians. We also identified that these areas were 'untapped' in the context of Australian climate advocacy, giving us the opportunity to shape the conversation and drive additional impact.

Home energy efficiency

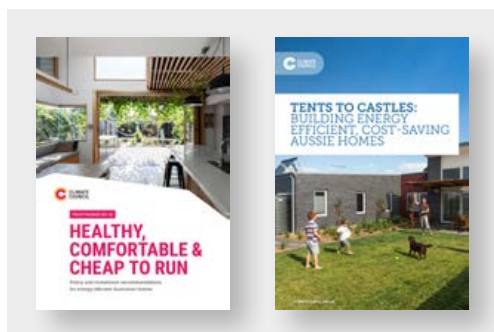
Australia introduced home energy efficiency standards a generation later than our international peers – and at a lower standard. This means

Australian homes are energy guzzlers compared to those built to higher minimum standards overseas, with a Tasmanian home built today using more than double the energy of a similar house built in Ireland.

To tackle this problem, we developed the *Healthy, Comfortable and Cheap to Run* policy package and community explainer which provided the foundation for our home energy efficiency campaigning. We briefed MPs across the states and territories on our package, socialising the importance of energy efficiency in Aussie homes. Our educational resources, including *Shoot for the Stars* and *Take the Heat Off*, boosted community awareness and shaped the national conversation.

In late 2021, it became apparent there would be an opportunity to increase the minimum energy efficiency standard for Australian homes from 6 stars to 7 stars via the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 update. This was the first opportunity to do so in 11 years. Our report, *Tents to Castles* provided critical data on what a 7-star minimum would mean for emissions reductions efforts, our economy, and Aussie families' hip pockets. Importantly, we also highlighted the enormous costs of *delaying* the update. We were part of a joint statement with 54 other organisations calling for the improvement. *Tents to Castles* achieved a strong response across print, broadcast and online media outlets.

Images, from left: The Clean Jobs Plan report. Energy Efficiency Policy Package. *Tents to Castles: Building Energy Efficient Cost-Saving Aussie Homes*.



When it came to socialising our key findings with decision-makers, a closed-webinar did the trick: staffers and public servants from across the country tuned in. The report also attracted positive responses from diverse stakeholders including the Property Council, the peak body for social and community housing in Australia, and political decision makers in Victoria and the ACT.

Through creative and educational social content, including tours of energy efficient homes, we activated our community to contact key decision makers ahead of their Building Ministers meeting booked for mid-2022. Almost 3,000 community members sent emails to relevant Ministers, demonstrating everyday Aussies were overwhelmingly supportive of the move to 7-star homes. In August 2022 our big campaigning push came to fruition when Building Ministers endorsed an updated National Construction Code mandating the 7-star minimum.

Transport

Personal transport is Australia's fastest growing source of emissions, and the second highest source (behind only electricity production). Cars cause more than 60% of Australia's transport pollution. To move around in ways that are better for our hip-pocket, health and climate, Australians need access to frequent, reliable and connected zero-emissions public transport services. We also need a safe network of footpaths and bike lanes that are separated from car traffic.

Recognising this as an untapped area for climate advocacy, this first year of our clean transport advocacy has been dedicated to research, policy development and relationship-building with decision makers and fellow clean transport campaigners. Our *Charging Ahead Policy Package* provided the foundations for our transport advocacy and outlined a range of transport investment options for states and territories to prioritise in their

Image: "Greater energy efficiency means fewer greenhouse gas emissions, which is essential for tackling climate change. But that's not where the benefits of making homes more comfortable to live in stops: we can also improve people's health and wellbeing, reduce electricity bills, strengthen our energy grid and create jobs."

Climate Councillor and report co-author, leading economist, Nicki Hutley.



budgets. From there, we focused on campaigning for three key transport policy asks:

- Allocate 50% of state/territory transport budget towards public transport and 20% for walking, bike-riding and rolling (active transport).
- Commit to purchase only zero emissions buses from 2024, and convert the state's fleet to clean, quiet and zero emission buses by 2030.
- Encourage electric bike uptake.

We shared our mini state-specific policy briefs with Treasurers across Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales as pre-budget submissions ahead of the 2022-23 state budgets. Throughout the year, we met with decision makers across Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT to socialise our policy package and gain insights about the operating environment. At the onset of the fuel crisis, we

circulated our policy recommendations among Transport and Energy Ministers again, with an added recommendation of Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates. Taken together, this work has positioned the Climate Council at the centre of a growing conversation about what it will take to get Australia to net zero, beyond the energy sector. We will continue to strengthen and build on this work in the year ahead, including by expanding our focus to encompass the new Australian Government and pursuit of key national transport policy reforms like the introduction of Fuel Efficiency Standards to get more cheaper, cleaner vehicles onto Australia's roads.

Images, clockwise from left: More than three in five Australians (64%) would be interested in trying an electric bike (with one quarter saying they would be 'extremely interested') if their state or local government offered residents the opportunity to hire one for free. Charging Ahead Policy Package. Deloitte Access Economics Report.



GOAL 2: STOPPING THE BAD



KEY NARRATIVE SHIFT

Gas is dangerous - for our health and planet

After decades of marketing by the gas industry that promotes its product as “natural” and “clean”, many Australians are increasingly becoming aware that gas is a fossil fuel that is harming our health and environment. As the head of Santos noted publicly: climate concern is “intensifying globally” and equity investors have “turned off the taps”.

Gas is to blame for our energy crisis

Despite the gas industry’s best efforts to frame itself as our country’s saviour throughout our energy crisis - gas is to blame for driving up power prices, and exposing us to the volatile international fossil fuel market.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In May launching *Kicking the Gas Habit: How Gas is Harming Our Health*, which attracted 960+ media hits including an exposé on Channel 9’s A Current Affair.
- Attracting 60,000 views to our Gas Exploration Map within the first few days, which identifies which parts of the country have been handed over to gas companies for exploration.
- In September, launching our report *Path to Zero: How NSW Can Kick the Gas Habit*, which attracted an opinion piece in The Australian and an exclusive story in news.com.au
- Responding to key moments in the media - such as the debate on the PEP11 offshore oil and gas project, and Kurri Kurri gas project funding - with local voices and experts via the Climate Media Centre.

GAS CAMPAIGN

Our Gas Exploration Map attracted 60,000 viewers to our website within the first few days and made visible just how much of Australia is under threat from exploration for new, polluting projects.

Summary

The Climate Council's gas campaign was launched in 2020 to fight back against the former Liberal Government's unhealthy obsession with the idea of an Australian 'gas fired recovery' from COVID. In the campaign's first year we published the foundational report *Kicking the Gas Habit: How Gas is Harming Our Health*, raising the alarm about the health impacts of gas and educating the community about the fact that it is a dangerous fossil fuel that contributes to climate change.

During 2021-22 the Climate Council has built on these strong foundations by stepping up our campaigning efforts to shift the narrative nationally that gas is polluting, bad for our health and has no role in a zero emissions future. We have also worked to undermine the case for new projects in NSW and WA through advocacy with media, community leaders and decision-makers, and fight back against misinformation from Australia's powerful gas lobby.

Explaining the problem

After decades hearing that 'natural' gas is a clean alternative to other fossil fuels, shifting the community's perceptions about gas requires a focused and sustained campaigning effort. Australians need to understand that gas is unsafe, unclean and has no place in our homes. Our campaigning efforts during 2021-22 focused on continuing to build this case in creative ways.

We secured media stories and got communities talking through a deceptively simple intervention: providing Age journalist Miki Perkins with a pollution

monitor to track the levels in her home run on gas appliances. The resulting article *I measured gas pollution in my kitchen and this is what I found* (yikes) sparked huge engagement online, and drove home in really practical, relatable terms the core points of our gas and health research. This intervention is a great example of what the Climate Council does so well: develop a strong base of original research to build from, to then shape community understanding in creative and engaging ways.

"During the Black Summer bushfire smoke crisis, the level of PM2.5 in Sydney fluctuated between 170 and 600 micrograms per cubic metre. In my kitchen, there were half-a-dozen spikes above the "extremely poor" threshold of 300, and one evening – when we had three burners going – the reading was as high as 860 micrograms per cubic metre. Of course, the nature of the pollution is different...But it's an interesting comparison."

– Miki Perkins

In addition to undermining the social licence for gas by emphasising its health and pollution risks, we've also worked to ramp up scrutiny on the gas industry and their plans to reap profits for big offshore companies at the expense of the Australian environment. Our Gas Exploration Map drew together information from each Australian state and territory to identify which parts of the country have been handed over to gas companies for exploration. The map attracted over 60,000 views to our website in just a few days, as people around Australia learned for the first time about gas projects that are mooted in and near their own communities. For too long the gas industry has had a free kick to work quietly behind the scenes in securing permission to frack and mine our country. When we bring their work into the spotlight, we arm communities with the information they need to fight back.

Providing solutions

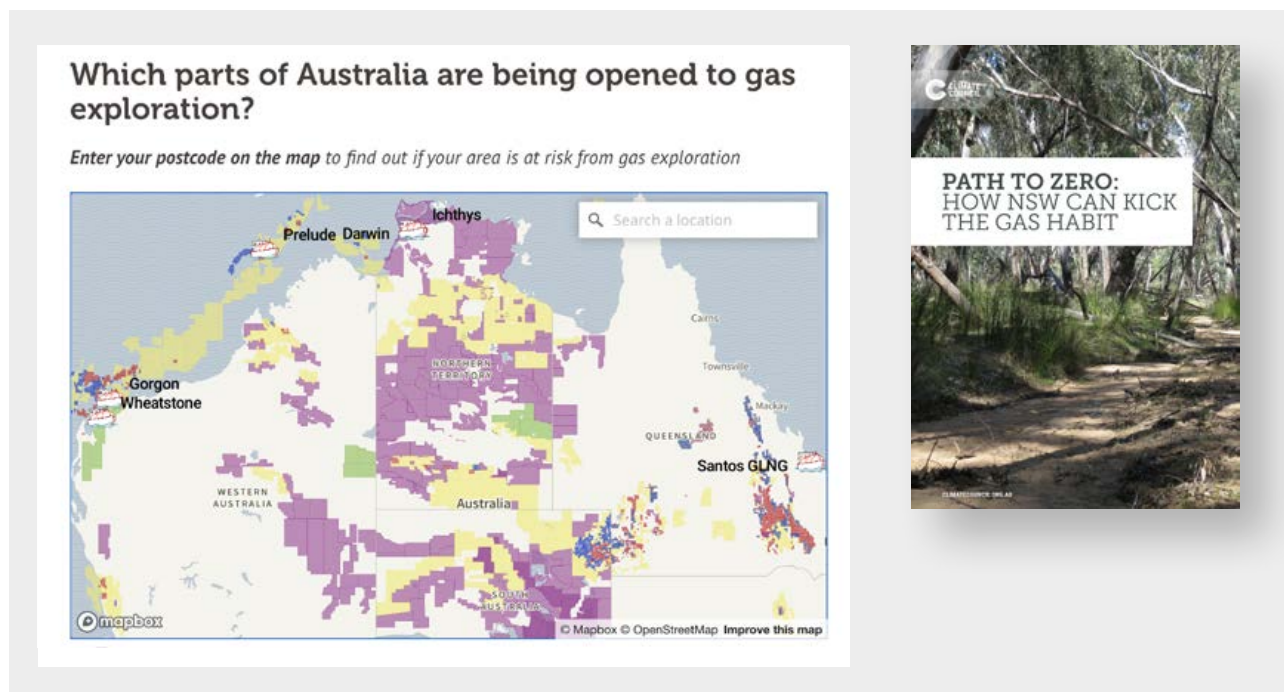
As we grow community awareness and understanding about the harms of gas, it is essential to demonstrate to governments and communities that getting off gas is possible and there are good alternatives available. This will help Australians see the pathway to making practical changes now that will be good for our health, good for household budgets and good for our climate.

In 2021-22 we focused on explaining how Australia's biggest jurisdiction - New South Wales - could end its reliance on gas for good. Our significant report *Path to Zero: How NSW can kick the gas habit* provided the original knowledge base for direct advocacy to government and engagement with communities about practical solutions that could cut annual gas demand in NSW by around 70 petajoules per year,

the same amount that the Narrabri Gas Project would produce. In the process, we demonstrated that there are good alternatives to proceeding with this harmful and polluting new gas project.

We also generated many proactive media opportunities about the hip pocket benefits for households of getting off gas and going all-electric at a time of rising power bills. This included promoting original analysis on energy efficiency and concessional financing opportunities to help Australian households with the upfront costs of switching off gas. The addition of Dr Madeleine Taylor as a new Councillor during the year significantly bolstered the Climate Council's expert capacity on gas and energy transition issues for the sector, allowing us to authoritatively explain why Australians will be better off without gas.

Images, from left: Gas exploration map. Path to Zero: How NSW can kick the gas habit report.



Shaping the political landscape

We helped make gas a significant issue during the 2022 Australian Federal Election, working in partnership with communities and other key groups across the climate movement. Whether through misunderstanding or malintent, the former Morrison Government was heavily invested in the idea of gas as a transition fuel away from coal and active in promoting bogus solutions like Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and blue hydrogen. We waged a proactive campaign through traditional and social media to fight mis- and disinformation promoted by the gas industry and the Morrison Government, which helped ensure government ministers were regularly challenged for expressing pro-gas views during the campaign. We also campaigned hard against specific projects which formed Federal Government election commitments - like the \$600

million Kurri Kurri gas plant in NSW - activating both expert and community opposition to this project.

The defeat of Scott Morrison and the election of a new Federal Government in May 2022 marks the end of one phase for the Gas Campaign, but the fight will go on to get gas out of Australian homes and prevent any new major gas projects going ahead. Going forward, the Climate Council will fold this campaign into a new Major Polluters program focused on ensuring that Australia's largest polluters do their fair share in cutting emissions in line with accelerating national action, and preventing the approval of any new fossil fuel projects which would blow Australia's shrinking carbon budget.

Image: Existing technologies, like small-scale and industrial heat pumps have a big role to play in replacing NSW gas consumption with zero emissions alternatives.



REACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Summary

No one can predict when breaking news will happen, yet the Climate Council strives to be there when it does. As the urgency of the climate crisis increases so, too, is the media focus and number of breaking news events we need to respond to.

Our team prides itself on being nimble, with our reactive capacity powered by a 'media machine' that kicks into action to react quickly – and effectively – to the latest climate news and major events. As soon as an unexpected event occurs, we're able to rapidly evaluate and respond in kind, making best use of our inhouse resources in research, digital communications, media and campaigns.

We pride ourselves on often being the first to respond to breaking news and having our brilliant staff and Councillors featured in the news. This has been a momentous period, with intense periods of activity leading up to big international moments like COP26, the Federal Election dubbed 'the climate election', countless fact-checking moments and responding in the aftermath of Australia's worst flooding disaster.

The Climate Council's three-person media team responded to and **produced a record 22,400 media reports within just 12 months**, with daily queries across a huge spectrum of climate-related issues. Covering climate has shifted from a niche round in many newsrooms to being part of most journalist rounds. In 2022, the Climate Council teamed up with

Images: Snapshots of Climate Council's reactive communications via social media.



the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, to provide expert advice to journalists nation-wide on accurately and responsibly reporting on the climate crisis.

On any given day we might be providing comment on Australia's transition to renewables, climate-fuelled disasters, geopolitics in the Pacific, checking facts for media, analysing and responding to climate policy announcements and state and federal budgets, Royal Commissions, reacting to new reports and data on the latest climate science, and so much more.

With the expertise of our growing Councillor team, our talented research and campaigns staff, one of Australia's longest serving climate CEOs Amanda McKenzie and a huge network of experts via the CMC and CPP, we are able to strategically respond to virtually anything Australia's voracious 24/7 newscycle throws at us.

The digital arm of the communications team also work hard to keep their finger on the pulse and react to key moments with speed, accuracy and pithy humour (where appropriate). Our reactive posts receive the highest levels of engagement across all platforms, as we're able to 'break the news' to our audiences and make the most of their initial reactions. This also means we can position the discussion within Climate Council messaging and framing. Our extreme weather work is a perfect example of this - see below for one of our best performing instagram posts of the year that went 'viral'.



Images: Features a viral Climate Council instagram post relating international climate catastrophies to the black summer bushfires in Australia.



2022 EAST COAST FLOODING DISASTER

In February 2022, intense, prolonged periods of rainfall caused widespread flooding throughout parts of Queensland, slowly moving down the coast to Lismore, NSW, which - on the last day of summer - experienced its worst flooding disaster on record. Initially the media coverage of the disaster didn't acknowledge the changing climate's influence in these disasters. With the backing of many in the affected communities, and with a science-based approach, the Climate Council media team sprang into action, with a position statement.

The digital team produced an emotional video with Lismore flood survivors driving home the point: this is climate change. Then Climate Media Centre (CMC) team member Emma Hannigan used her broadcast reporting skills to create a series of videos from 'on the ground' in northern NSW flood affected communities.

We issued a statement: *Morrison Must Acknowledge Climate Change In Flood Disaster* in the immediate aftermath. The following week, Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) launched a public statement and held a press conference to highlight Australia's lack of national preparedness for extreme weather events, which are being supercharged by accelerating climate change. Mr Morrison was questioned about this on the day of the press conference.

The flooding disaster also brought the Black Summer fires back into the spotlight, with references in many flood interviews on the same issues that arose during the fires: lack of preparedness, blame shifting, and climate denial.

This work was highly effective in steering the media narrative from one that barely mentioned climate change, to the central influence that climate change is playing.

"Climate change is not a footnote to the story, it is the story."

— Climate Council statement, March 2022.

"It doesn't take a scientist to realise this is climate change."

— Kymberlee Strow, Lismore Resident.



Image: Scientists have been warning for decades that climate change is influencing extreme weather like these floods, and leaving destruction in its wake. But our Federal Government hasn't heeded their warning calls.

Australians deserve better than this.

#AusPol: correcting lies and misinformation - and getting climate change squarely on the national media agenda

At several points during the year, the Climate Council reactive media machine kicked into action to correct the record on misinformation. Just a few of those moments include debunking climate myths perpetuated by Australia's former-Federal Government at COP26 in Glasgow, to unpacking the significance of the Glasgow Pact, to reacting to Labor, the Greens' and the Liberal-National parties' net zero and climate policies.

The digital team regularly issue creative and engaging explainers in response to climate disinformation in the public arena and correct unhelpful or inaccurate comments - often made by politicians or journalists - on Twitter and other platforms.

Massive coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef

As oceans around the world heat up at an alarming rate, the Great Barrier Reef once again suffered a widespread bleaching event, confirmed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2022, with 90% of the reef's corals affected. This most recent bleaching was particularly concerning as it occurred during a La Nina year, which is typically wetter and cooler.

Working collaboratively with the CMC and other groups, the Climate Council called for the release of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority's official report ahead of the election, which confirmed the fourth significant bleaching event on the Reef in seven years but whose public release had been delayed.

Our aim, as ever, is to highlight the devastating impact the world's warming oceans are having on Australia's marine ecosystems and the need for rapid emissions reduction throughout the 2020s.

Alongside significant and sustained pressure, Climate Councillor Professor Lesley Hughes wrote an important opinion piece in the Sydney Morning Herald about the Liberal-National Party's attempts to keep the Great Barrier Reef off UNESCO's endangered list.



Image: "This damning report from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority confirms our beloved Great Barrier Reef is in serious trouble," says Climate Council Director of Research, Dr Simon Bradshaw.

This is the fourth mass bleaching event on the Reef in the last seven years. Continued failure to tackle the climate crisis could mean the Reef suffers bleaching every year from 2044. This would mean the loss of the Reef and other shallow water reefs worldwide.

"The Reef's very survival, and all the jobs and industries that depend on it, requires a major step up on climate action now and during this next term of Government, starting with a credible plan to rapidly reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Not 30 years from now, this decade."

GOAL 3: TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE



KEY NARRATIVE SHIFT

From fires to floods: Australia's now a country of compounding climate disasters

Initially there was little to no media coverage or political commentary about the climate's role in the 2022 floods disaster but this quickly shifted to the climate's influence becoming a primary focus. There is broad acceptance around compounding climate disasters, the huge personal costs as well as the economic impacts to Australians with many newspaper editorials underscoring this throughout the flooding disasters. At the Lismore floods press conference, Prime Minister Scott Morrison admitted: *"We are dealing with a different climate to the one we are dealing with before. I think it is just an obvious fact in Australia [that it] is getting hard[er] to live in because of these disasters."*

There's a political cost in failing to act on climate change

It has long been accepted that Australians are deeply concerned about climate change (with repeated polls demonstrating this is a major concern among voters). However, until the federal election in May many political parties and MPs did not recognise this as a "vote winning" issue nationally. That has fundamentally changed, with the media concluding climate change was the "defining issue" of the 2022 federal election.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Councillor Greg Mullins and ELCA members hold a press conference in Brisbane on the floods, which led the day's news bulletins and resulted in blanket coverage (1200+ hits).
- Drawing the link between climate change and floods in our media statement and report A Supercharged Climate: Rain Bombs, Flash Flooding and Destruction which attracted 499+ stories.
- CMC support bushfire survivors (in their landmark court case win against the NSW Environment Protection Authority which resulted in 354 media hits) and flood survivors (with 1000+ media hits) to speak out throughout the disaster.
- Highlighting the danger of climate change to the Great Barrier Reef via our science experts, and tourism and community spokespeople supported by the Climate Media Centre - attracting media attention as far away as US cable news network CNN.

URGENCY CAMPAIGN

Summary

The Urgency Program highlights the impacts that climate change is having on Australian lives and livelihoods. We do this through a loud, constant drumbeat of communication. Throughout the year we demonstrated how Australian homes are more vulnerable to climate change than previously thought and upskilled the media and the wider climate movement on how climate change is supercharging extreme weather. We also connected local communities with their federal election candidates to communicate that they'll be voting for candidates with the strongest climate policies.

Driving home the risks

Across Australia one in 25 homes will face difficulty insuring their home in the coming years due to climate change. This was the startling new piece of evidence outlined in our *Uninsurable Nation: Australia's most climate vulnerable places* report. The report highlights how Australian homes and livelihoods are already being impacted by climate change. We launched an interactive *Climate Risk Map*, which communicates risk from riverine flooding, bushfire, surface water flooding, coastal inundation and extreme wind to each individual suburb, local government area or federal electorate. The map is searchable, including low, medium and high emissions scenarios along three different timelines, and was released at the same time of the report.

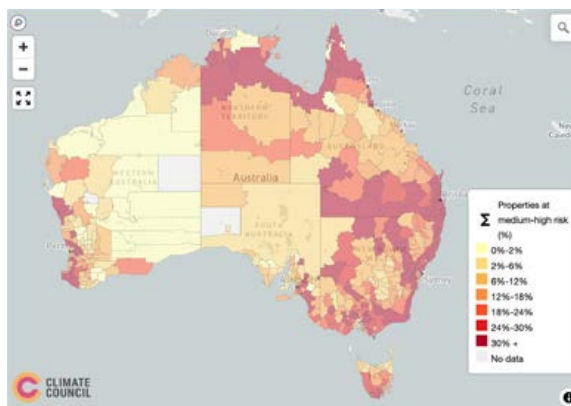
The *Climate Risk Map* communicated some confronting information, but we didn't want people to feel paralysed by this. We helped turn their concerns and frustration into positive advocacy by enabling users to email all of their federal election candidates with insights from the tool and a message informing the

candidates they'd only be receiving votes if their climate policies were up to scratch. The email tool connected thousands of people with their local candidates, and ensured climate action was top of mind for potential representatives.

These big pieces of work made the climate risks being faced by individuals more visible than they've ever been through widespread media coverage and online engagement.

Upskilling the media and movement

Research shows that communicating the impacts of climate change is more effective at persuading people that urgent action is needed when compared to talking about climate change more generally. With this in mind, our Extreme Weather Communication Guide informed journalists and the wider climate movement on how climate change is supercharging our weather. For example, heat waves kill more Australians each year than all other extreme weather events combined, but reporting often focuses on those who can escape the heat and not those most at risk. By educating journalists and the wider climate on how climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of heatwaves we shifted how heat waves were covered and increased the number of people wanting action - putting pressure on governments.





Amplifying the call through Emergency Leaders for Climate Action

The Urgency Program also supported the work of the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA), facilitating countless media moments, including reminding delegates at COP26 in Glasgow of Australia's Black Summer bushfires, highlighting the role of climate change in the devastating QLD/NSW Floods, and being asked to attend the first public meeting of the newly-appointed Minister for Climate Change and Energy, The Hon Chris Bowen MP. ELCA continues to grow and now has 39 members.

ELCA has continued its advocacy and accountability role, highlighting how climate change is supercharging extreme weather and pushing state and federal governments to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, commonly known as the Bushfire Royal Commission.

In November 2021, ELCA placed a full page advertisement in UK based newspaper, The Times, to coincide with Loss and Damage day at COP26. The objective was to remind delegates at COP26 about Australia's Black Summer Bushfires. On the day of publication we brought together a group of bushfire survivors from around the globe and took over the Australian Pavilion to hold a press conference, which was widely covered and generated international media coverage. The full page ad, combined with the press conference, had an impact on COP26 attendees, reminding them we're already seeing the impacts of climate change and demonstrating the need for urgent action.



In March 2022, ELCA also placed a full page advertisement in The Courier Times highlighting the role of climate change in the floods that devastated Queensland and New South Wales. According to the ABC, ELCA's press conference was 'the story of the day' and generated significant coverage. ELCA's strategic media work during this time increased the number of media reports that mentioned the role of climate change when covering the floods.

Throughout the year, ELCA led the charge for the Bushfire Royal Commission recommendations to be fully implemented through its work in the media and political engagement. Unfortunately, the Morrison Government ignored the group's expert advice and often rebuffed recommendations publicly. It was refreshing, then, after the 2022 federal election, that the newly appointed Minister for Climate Change & Energy The Hon Chris Bowen MP reached out to Greg Mullins AO, AFSM, and invited ELCA to be his first public meeting after being sworn in as minister. After the meeting ELCA members joined Chris Bowen MP for a press conference, where Greg Mullins AO, AFSM, fielded questions from journalists for 15 minutes. This bookends one period of ELCA's work, highlighting the inadequacies of the previous federal government and marks the beginning of a new political landscape in which ELCA is welcome 'inside the tent'. As Greg Mullins AO, AFSM aptly put it during the press conference *"The last government had closed doors and closed minds, this government is listening to science and has opened its doors"*.

"The last government had closed doors and closed minds, this government is listening to science and has opened its doors."

— Greg Mullins AO, AFSM.

Image: ELCA's Greg Mullins AO AFSM, Major General Peter Dunn AO and David Templeman with the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management and Senator the Hon. Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy.





INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND THE UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW (COP26)



United Nations
Climate Change



UN CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

2021 was a critical year for international cooperation on climate change, culminating at COP26 in Glasgow. By releasing a series of reports, briefing journalists, supporting our allies and partners, and sending a team to the major United Nations event itself, we aimed to hold the federal government to account for its poor performance, capitalise on international momentum, and set new goalposts for what leadership and action from Australia should look like.

Our journey began in August, with the release of the first instalment of the landmark Sixth Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The message from the IPCC was unequivocal: we require far more rapid emissions reductions *this decade* if we're to have a liveable future. The main focus of our campaigning leading up to COP26 was on encouraging Australia to join the rest of the world in stepping up its targets for 2030.

Next, we launched two major reports aimed at conservative audiences. First came *Rising to the Challenge*, led by Councillor Cheryl Durrant, which was combined with a highly successful security and climate event run by the Community and Fundraising Team. Then we launched *Markets are Moving* on the Australian risks and implications of carbon border adjustment mechanisms, led by Councillor Nicki Hutley, that contained new modelling from Victoria University.

Our press briefing for the *Paris to Glasgow* report was attended by 17 journalists from major national and international news outlets, resulting in almost 1,500 media hits across print, online and broadcast (including syndications). Highlights included Professor Tim Flannery's appearance on 7:30 and Professor Lesley Huges' appearance on ABC News breakfast (two of our expert Climate Councillors), as well as our Research Director Simon Bradhsaw appearing on CNBC.



Immediately ahead of COP26 we launched another major report, designed to set the tone and expectations for COP26. Titled *From Paris to Glasgow: A world on the move*, the report took stock of recent international developments and gave a blunt assessment of how Australia measured up against the rest of the world. It featured a foreword by Prime Minister of Fiji, Frank Bainimarama. We also orchestrated a pre-event briefing for journalists, based on the report.

Climate Council was active throughout COP26 itself, with a team of three in Glasgow backed by an all-of-organisation effort back in Australia. We spoke daily to the media, engaged with Australian officials, and helped elevate the voices of frontline communities, including Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action. Our efforts helped highlight the gross inadequacy of the then Morrison Government's international commitments and refocus Australians' attention on the urgent need for stronger action this decade. This, along with the many new and trusting relationships built with allied organisations, put us in a great position to capitalise on the outcomes from COP26 as we entered 2022 and an election year.

We rounded out our engagement with COP26 by publishing a final report - *Crunch Time*. Published in December, the report which took stock on the outcomes from COP26 and what they meant for Australia.



FEDERAL POLITICS

We delivered an integrated push to make climate change a central issue for the 2022 Australian Federal Election, injecting practical climate policy solutions into the Australian Federal Election conversation through our *Climate Policies for a Sensible Government* report.



Summary

After almost a decade of denial and delay on climate change under Australia's Coalition Government, we recognised that the country would need a change of government to realise real climate action. More than a year out from the election, we stepped up our work to ensure that climate change was a central issue in the Australian federal political conversation. We worked closely and collaboratively with organisations across the climate movement and communities around Australia to ensure that political candidates could not escape hard questions about their past record and future plans on climate action. And we drew on our extensive media networks and engaging local spokespeople to ensure that party and candidate commitments were heavily scrutinised through a climate lens, busting through political party spin and disinformation.

Holding the Australian Government accountable for a decade of inaction

We identified the 12 months leading up to Australia's Federal Election as a key window

to drive real change by ensuring the Liberal-National Coalition Government could not escape accountability for a near-decade of inaction. We set ourselves up to drive change in this moment by bringing together special internal teams focused on political engagement, supporter activation, public engagement in key electorates, and shaping the national story through media action. The Climate Council's flexibility and agility in continually moulding our organisation to seize opportunities in our environment is a key source of our enduring ability to deliver maximum impact.

We released a hard-hitting report *The Lost Years: Counting the costs of climate inaction in Australia*, which provided a detailed overview of the Federal Government's approach to climate change since the election of the Liberal-National Coalition in 2013. The report assessed the Federal Government's climate performance over the past eight years in detail and highlighted that there had been a complete and catastrophic failure to act on the climate crisis on their watch. We also consistently turned out a wide array of expert and community media commentators to point out the missed opportunities and mounting

Image: This comic by Jess Harwood Art was published as part of the Climate Council's pre-election campaign. Climate Council has assessed the Federal Government's climate performance over the past eight years in detail... and found that there's been a complete and catastrophic failure to act on the climate crisis.



costs of the Federal Government's failure to act. Our efforts ensured this was cemented as a central political narrative long before the Federal Election was officially called in April 2022.

Driving a drumbeat to the climate election

At the same time as we worked to frame the past nine years as a lost decade on climate action, we continued building the drumbeat for positive action by highlighting the urgency and offering up practical solutions for parties and candidates.

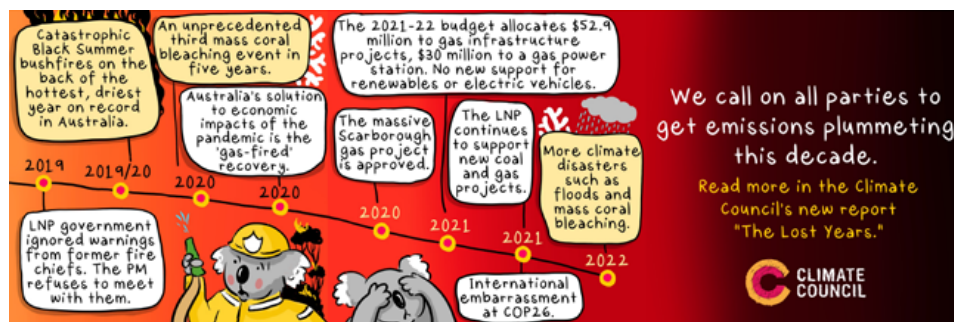
The devastating floods across Queensland and New South Wales in early 2022 were a clear sign of accelerating climate impacts, but the Australian Government was loath to admit as much. As well as releasing our flood report, we identified 10 key electorates for special focus leading up to - and during - the federal election campaign. We worked proactively in these communities to socialise information about climate risks and impacts, spark conversations about climate solutions and support candidates with issues briefs and research resources.

As a proudly independent organisation we did not seek to support any specific candidate or political party in these seats. Rather, we worked to increase the community's literacy and awareness about climate issues and ensure they were armed with the right resources to seek ambitious policy commitments from any candidate running for office. We also supported voters across Australia to tell facts from politically-motivated falsehoods with our online *Climate Crap Checker*. A light-hearted but highly impactful intervention, this became a popular online tool for

calling politicians out for spouting crap on climate, and was very widely shared through social media channels.

Nationally, the Climate Council set the bar for what good climate policy would look like through the release of our *Climate Policies for a Sensible Government* briefing paper. The briefing paper set out a comprehensive list of 52 pragmatic policies that the next Australian Government should adopt. We advocated for this to be 'a recipe, not a shopping list', arguing the next government would need to get on with a comprehensive action plan to see Australia catch up to the international pack. Every one of the policies were carefully selected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and supporting economic growth - particularly in regional Australia. This highlights the constructive and forward-looking role the Climate Council seeks to play in federal politics: pairing work to highlight the escalating risks of the climate crisis with the development of practical policy solutions.

The election of a new Federal Government and a Parliament containing more MPs committed to climate action was a moment of genuine relief for many Australians. The Climate Council is proud of the direct role we've played in making climate change an issue that determines election outcomes. The next challenge will be to ensure that all the promises and goodwill from the election campaign translate into action, because Australia and the world are running out of time. We will be strong and fearless in holding the new government to account for delivering their commitments in the best and most ambitious form. We will keep building the next wave of momentum for climate action, to ensure Australia leaves its decade of denial and delay behind, and makes up for the time that has been lost.



CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

HIGHLIGHTS

- 27 new councils joined Cities Power Partnership (CPP), and now 52% of all councils in Victoria are members.
- In 2021, 83% of councils reported one or more benefits of participating in the CPP. The most common benefit reported was increased opportunities to collaborate with other councils on climate and energy initiatives. With increased collaboration opportunities, 11 more councils said that they started a project with another CPP member, compared to in 2019.



Connecting meaningfully with partners

The Cities Power Partnership (CPP) has continued to strengthen relationships with strategic partners, including national and state local government associations, city networks and universities working in the local government sector.

The CPP plays an active role in the Better Futures Australia (BFA) local government working group, which supports the development of key advocacy asks to the federal government. As part of this working group, the program also contributes significantly to joint research projects.

In June 2022, four CPP team members attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra with an exhibition stall and attendance throughout the conference program. The four-day conference was an important opportunity for the CPP to build on relationships with long-lasting, new and prospective members, as well as making important connections with potential corporate partners.

Two CPP team members participated in training to develop a corporate partnership program for CPP. The intention is to work alongside corporate partners (following a rigorous selection process) who share our vision of giving every council and their community the tools, connections and momentum they need to take strong action on climate change.



Image, top: Cities Power Partnership team members exhibiting at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2022.

Bottom: Australian Local Government Association President Cr Linda Scott speaking at the launch of the Local Leaders spokesperson program - an initiative from the Cities Power Partnership.



Elevating local voices and their stories

Amplifying climate success stories continues to be a key focus of the Cities Power Partnership. The highly successful annual CPP Climate Awards was hosted virtually in November 2021, with Australian writer and comedian Craig Reucassel hosting, and director of the climate documentary *2040* Damon Gameau as guest judge. Over 50 award entries were received from around the country, ranging from the smallest local government area in Australia (Borough of Queenscliffe, Victoria) to the largest (Brisbane City Council, Queensland). For the first time, there was a Community Choice Award which was decided by more than 1,000 engaged members of the Climate Council community (donors, social media followers, etc) who voted for their favourite council climate project.

A new initiative from the Cities Power Partnership - the *Local Leaders* program - supports council-elected officials to act as trusted local voices in the media, so they are empowered to discuss how climate change is impacting their community and why stronger action is needed. *Local Leaders* was officially launched at a breakfast event in Canberra and was attended by 40 elected officials. The event featured guest speakers Minister Kristy McBain and ALGA President Cr Linda Scott. Now, more than 60 mayors and councillors have joined *Local Leaders*; with numbers growing each week.



Images: The CPP Climate Awards Night held virtually featuring MC Craig Reucassel and Amanda Cahill.

Uniting council change-makers to take action

Connecting councils and facilitating knowledge sharing and collaboration remains a key focus for the Cities Power Partnership. In October 2021, we launched the *Council Connect* platform which is Australia's only national collaboration platform for local governments. *Council Connect* - hosted on Microsoft Teams - primarily enables forum-style discussions between councils, for example, by sharing notes on how they have electrified their aquatic centres. Since its launch, 342 registered users have been invited to participate with 96 actively participating so far. The primary audience is sustainability officers, who are using the platform to share ideas and gain advice from other Australian councils on their climate initiatives. An electric vehicle fleet working group was established organically on the platform by members, who now use *Council Connect* to hold discussions, host meetings and store meeting notes. We anticipate the establishment of more working groups over the coming months.



To further encourage knowledge sharing between councils, the CPP facilitates fortnightly 'Afternoon Tea Q&A' sessions in addition to monthly webinars. These Q&A sessions are 30 minute webinars where council officers have the opportunity to learn about other council's climate projects. CPP monthly webinars receive 70 attendees on average and Afternoon Tea Q&A's receive an average of 45 attendees per session. The consistent, positive feedback from these online events is that council officers appreciate the opportunity to learn from the successes and challenges of other council's climate initiatives.

New members of the CPP were given access to a trial pilot program - the Cities Activities Database (CAD) - which is a database of climate activities from 800+ cities worldwide. The database enables users to find information such as emissions reduction potential and probability of success, that can be applied to councils potential projects. The CAD pilot program worked with 15 councils to investigate how they could use the database to inform their climate initiatives, as well as identifying key pathways for how this information could be used in the future.

A joint report by the Climate Council and Cities Power Partnership - *Neighbourhood Issue: Climate Risks and Costs to Councils* - was published in September, and unpacks the climate change impacts, challenges and risks Australian councils face as well as the pathways to overcome them.



CLIMATE MEDIA CENTRE

What is the Climate Media Centre?

The Climate Media Centre (CMC) is the go-to specialist communications team for everyday Australians with a climate or energy story to tell, just like firefighters, farmers and families facing rising costs of living pressures. We work with a range of non-profit organisations and businesses and provide strategic advice and training in a number of areas, from fact-based messages that cut through on extreme weather events, to executing large-scale media campaigns on the energy crisis. As former journalists, we also work closely with the media to connect them with a range of diverse, trusted voices across the country.



Image: Australian Cricket Captain Pat Cummins at the Cricket for Climate launch, The Sydney Morning Herald.

Notable examples of our recent work include the following:

- **Regional Australians see the benefits of decarbonisation.** In early 2022, CMC commissioned a poll, which showed that six in ten NSW and Queensland voters believe the states' future economic prosperity lies in clean industries. Since then, we've worked closely with a range of local spokespeople and organisations in areas including the Hunter and Gladstone - both regions with a proud, rich history in mining, and with strong future opportunities for clean industries - to elevate their stories and wants for the future. Through media and communications, strategic advice and media support we're seeing the economic and employment benefits of decarbonisation - and what regional Australians want and need to get there - covered more in regional and national media.
- **A land of bleaching and flooding plains.** The CMC supported a diverse range of voices, from flood survivors to insurance, health and recovery experts, to tell their story during and after the **devastating floods in NSW and Queensland**. Just like Lismore resident Sally Flannery, who coordinated the grassroots rescue of more than 1,000 community members in the absence of timely support from government authorities. We also continue to support a number of Reef scientists, tourism operators and campaigners to best protect the **Great Barrier Reef**, which continues to be the canary in the coalmine and a key battleground for climate action.
- **Opposing fossil fuel expansion.** CMC continues to work with a number of voices, including Traditional Owners, energy experts, and grassroots groups, to oppose the expansion of fossil fuels. For example, we worked with surfers to oppose a controversial NSW off-shore gas project known as Pep-11, which was later rejected by then-Prime Minister Scott Morrison.



The Next Economy's CEO Amanda Cahill talks to Sky News, in response to the group's report that showed coal communities' demands for net zero on 7 May 2022 she said:

"There has been a big shift in the conversation. Maybe 12 months ago people didn't want to talk about it (decarbonisation)... but now people are having the conversation and want to get on with the work we need to do... people want to move past the politics... they are seeing big changes on the ground, trading partners up their emissions reduction targets, early closures of coal plants, thermal mines get approved but not actually funded... so they are saying they want to manage the risk but they also want to take advantage of all the economic opportunities that are out there, and they want government policy certainty to actually help them get there."

The national climate change debate is shifting. A massive transformation is underway in the Australian media, with more and more media outlets and journalists reporting on climate change and energy as here and now, and what solutions we need to address the biggest challenge of our time. For example, late last year 23 of our spokespeople, from AFL players to bushfire survivors to community energy champions, featured across national News Corp titles as part of their Mission Zero initiative to 'put Australia on a path to net zero'.

Climate Council Community

OUR SUPPORTERS

Champions & Members

Our special thanks goes to our incredible community of Founding Friends, Champions and Members who power our work with their generosity.

- › **More than 14,000 people** came together to give the Climate Council our initial injection of funding. Without our Founding Friends, the Climate Council would never have gotten off the ground.
- › **More than 170 people** commit to donating \$1,000 or more each year. Without our Champions, the Climate Council's strategic interventions would lack scale and ambition.
- › **More than 6,000 people** made a regular weekly or monthly donation in the past financial year. Without our Members, we would not be able to maintain the media drumbeat demanding urgent climate action.

We thank each and every one of you for standing with us to help Australia get emissions plummeting this decade.

We couldn't do it without you.

Planned Giving

A gift in your Will to the Climate Council enables your support of climate action to live on for many years to come, and can create a better future for the people, places and communities you care about. We would like to acknowledge and thank our supporters who have already joined our Legacy Circle, creating a lasting legacy of a healthier, fairer and sustainable future for generations to come.

Partnerships

The Climate Council thanks the number of corporate supporters who share our vision for urgent climate action and the transition to a clean energy future. In particular, we would like to thank our partners who have powered some high impact interventions this financial year. We look forward to seeing what we can keep achieving together:

- › 1% for the Planet
- › Ben & Jerry's
- › BMG Rights Management
- › Curated with Conscience
- › Future Super
- › Greenstone Drinks
- › Optiver
- › Pangolin
- › Pottery for the Planet
- › Quip
- › RACQ
- › Spell Designs
- › Wah-Wah

Supporter Fundraising

There are so many ways to support climate action and mobilising your personal network is one of them. We'd like to thank all the Climate Council supporters who fundraised on our behalf by taking on challenges, hosting events or participated in fundraising trips. **Collectively, our supporters raised more than \$80,000 on our behalf.**

Thank you to all our supporters for the time and effort you have put into making your events and fundraising such a fabulous success.

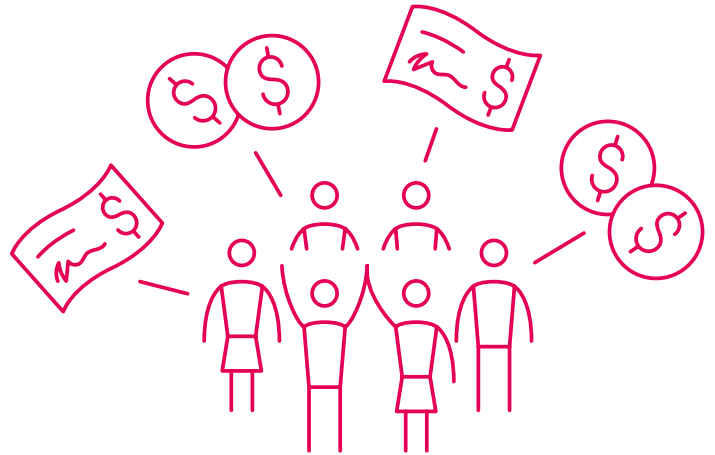


Image: The Climate Council staff thank all of our supporters.



MAJOR DONORS

Thank you to our Major Donors for your support over the last financial year. Your contributions enable us to aim high, go fast and scale our impact across Australia. The following generous supporters have contributed at least \$10,000.

- › ACME Foundation
- › Aitken Family
- › Andy & Jill Griffiths
- › Beverley Jackson Foundation
- › Bluesand Foundation
- › Capricorn Foundation
- › Caroline Le Couteur
- › Charities Aid Foundation
- › Clem Davis
- › Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.
- › Community Impact Foundation
- › Diversicon Environmental Foundation
- › Eastern Water Dragon
- › Graeme Woods Foundation
- › Growcorp Foundation
- › Herschell Family
- › Holmes Family Foundation
- › Ian Landon-Smith
- › Jocelyn Luck
- › John and Liz Baker
- › Karen Bradley, Entice Travel Canberra
- › Keo Charitable Foundation
- › Koshland Innovation Foundation
- › Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- › Manivannan Gopalakrishnan and Roy Bishop
- › Michael Pain and Lisa Giles
- › Morris Family Foundation
- › Muldoon Family
- › Natasha and Dirk Ziff
- › Peter Hayes
- › PK Gold Family Foundation
- › POD Foundation
- › Robert Hicks Foundation
- › The Aethra Project
- › The Leo and Mina Fink Fund
- › The Sunrise Project
- › Trine Barter
- › Trusay Pty Ltd
- › Vibrant Oceans Initiative, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies
- › Vicki Olsson
- › Vincent Chiodo Foundation
- › Wiggs Foundation
- › Woods5 Foundation

If you are interested in making a generous contribution of \$10,000 or more towards the Climate Council's critical work, please contact Micah Demmert, Philanthropy Director, on micah.demmert@climatecouncil.org.au or 0407 060 108.

COMMUNITY ACTION

The Climate Council community plays an instrumental role in amplifying our impact, by boosting the profile of our work and turning up the heat on decision-makers at critical moments. We've hand-picked our top three community actions from the past year that have contributed to propelling Australia towards a cleaner, safer, brighter future.

National Construction Code Review

With the National Construction Code under review for the first time in 11 years, we mobilised our community to get behind the push for better standards, with almost 3,000 supporters emailing their relevant Minister a copy of our report and urging them to commit to lifting the minimum energy efficiency standards for new homes. In a win for climate action and a better future for Australia, it was announced in August 2022 that all States and Territories have agreed to increase the minimum energy efficiency standard of new homes to 7 stars. Each State and Territory now needs to implement this code by October 2023, we'll be tracking their progress closely and encouraging them to implement it sooner.

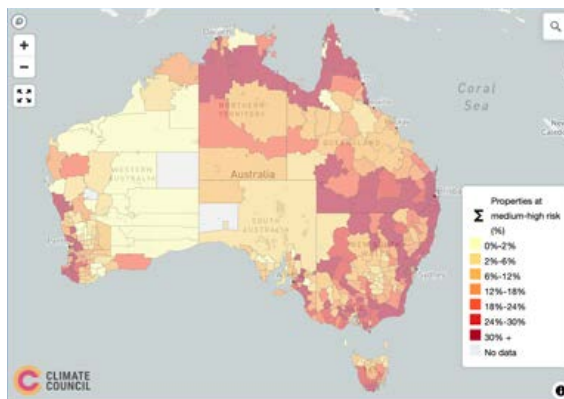
Cities Power Partnership Local Leaders' Joint Statement

In response to the devastating flooding across QLD and NSW in February and March 2022, we coordinated a joint statement from 31 Mayors, Councillors and Local Government networks, calling for urgent disaster recovery funding, more ambitious emissions reduction targets and a coordinated, national response to climate-fuelled extreme weather.

We asked our community to stand alongside these Local Leaders, and more than 2,700 Climate Council supporters backed our call for the Federal Government to do more for communities affected by these disasters.

Climate Risk Map of Australia

Australian homes are highly vulnerable to climate impacts, with this initiative showing one in every 25 homes will be effectively uninsurable by 2030. Our Climate Risk Map of Australia shows the risk of climate-fuelled extreme weather events to properties all around the country, enabling the public, decision-makers and the media to see how critical it is that emissions plummet this decade. We called on our community for their support, and more than 3,000 people sent the map to their federal candidates, demonstrating crucial support for stronger climate policies in the lead up to the election.



More than 3,000 people sent the map to their federal candidates.



TASSIE TREK FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In April 2022, Climate Council Research Director (Strategy & Engagement) Dr Martin Rice and a team of engaged supporters ventured to the Tasmanian wilderness to take on a trekking challenge and raise critical funds for the Climate Councils urgency campaign.

Throughout the challenge, participants shared their personal experiences with climate change and hopes for Australia's clean energy future. Martin facilitated a

question and answer session while also contributing insights into the Climate Council's strategic plan to help Australia get emissions plummeting this decade.

It was an empowering experience for everyone involved. We would like to thank all the incredible participants who took up the challenge with hope and enthusiasm, and for creating such a memorable experience, all while **raising more than \$40,000 for urgent climate action this decade.**



"The Tarkine is Australia's largest temperate rainforest. A living and breathing ecosystem of outstanding natural beauty under threat from human pressures. An ideal place to sharpen the senses for strong, bold climate action with a group of passionate Climate Council supporters."

— Dr Martin Rice



2021 - 2022

Finances



The Climate Council employs robust financial and donor management systems overseen by the Finance and Risk Subcommittee of the Climate Council Board. The Committee is chaired by Treasurer Matt Honey, and includes a number of senior team members. We maintain strong financial and compliance controls as well as prudent budgetary and cash management review processes on a monthly basis. These measures are intended to ensure the financial sustainability of the Climate Council while maximising our impact in accordance with our Strategic Plan.

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 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012. We comply with the ACNC requirements in relation to disclosure of our company and financial information on an annual basis, including publication of our Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements on the ACNC website. We also comply with reporting requirements of the Register of Environmental Organisations and state fundraising licence regulators.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income

In the 2021-22 financial year the Climate Council received income totalling \$8,292,165. Income received was used to support the Climate Council's core research and communications activities, as well as critical projects including Emergency Leaders for Climate Action and the Cities Power Partnership in the same period. It will also be allocated to Climate Council activities in the next two financial years.

Expenditure

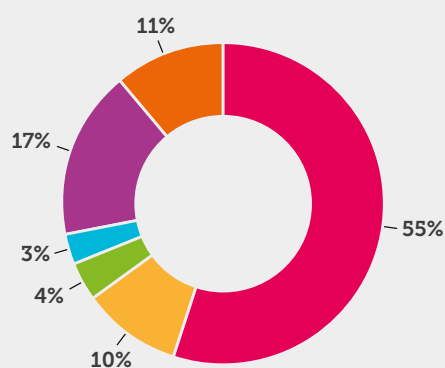
Climate Council expenditure in the 2021-22 financial year was \$6,699,510. This was in the following areas:

- › **Transforming the landscape on climate change** (55%) - includes expenses associated with our communications and advocacy work such as the development, writing and distribution of research reports and policy papers. Costs also include media engagement and programs that educate the community or specialised target groups, in addition to distribution of our information via online, digital and social media platforms. In 2021-22, expenses included 50% of the one-off cost of the transition to a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to facilitate improved communication with our stakeholders and the community.

- › **Cities Power Partnership Program** (10%)
- expenses incurred to give local government the tools, the connections and the momentum to capitalise on the global shift to a clean economy. These include expenses associated with the operation of the Cities Power Partnership as Australia's largest network of local councils working actively toward a clean energy future.
- › **Emergency Leaders for Climate Action Program** (4%) - expenses associated with the media and digital interventions and stakeholder briefings.
- › **Direct Community Engagement** (3%) - expenses incurred to communicate with a broad range of audiences including the delivery of speeches and engagements by our CEO, research team and Councillors. In 2022, engagements included a Climate and Security Webinar featuring the US Embassy's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Douglas E. Sonnek and *IPCC Special Briefing: what you need to know from the latest IPCC Report* featuring Professor Brendan Mackey, Coordinating Lead Author of the Australasian chapter from

the IPCC WGII 6th Assessment Report and Lead Author for the WGII Summary For Policy Makers, Yessie Mosby, Traditional Owner and Organiser 350 Australia, and Dr Kate Charlesworth, public health physician and Councillor, Climate Council of Australia. The later webinar had 1,020 live audience members and was seen on demand by a further 2,800 viewers.

- › **Fundraising** (17%) - expenses associated with fundraising campaigns and donor and community management systems. In 2021-22, expenses included 50% of the one-off cost of the transition to a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to facilitate improved supporter communications and management.
- › **Finance and Administration** (11%)
- includes costs associated with the efficient operation of the Climate Council in a manner that adheres to relevant laws and regulations (e.g. operational management, accounting, audit, compliance, human resources, insurance, workers compensation and legal).



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

PRO BONO GOODS AND SERVICES

We aim to reduce our costs by accepting pro bono and discounted goods and services. This year we have received pro bono (or discounted cost) goods and services for legal services, as well as not for profit charity discounts for IT services and hardware.



Image: Bungala Solar Farm in SA featuring representatives from Cities Power Partnership member councils.

Volunteers

In the 2021-22 financial year, volunteers contributed to the Climate Council in a number of important ways.

- › Research and communications volunteers supported the development of the Uninsurable Nation report
- › Cities Power Partnership volunteers undertook research and interviews to gain a deeper understanding of local council decision making on climate policy
- › Digital communications volunteers created content for our social media platforms, prepared web articles, supported media launches and assisted with social media monitoring and moderating

Please see our appreciation pages for a full list of volunteers who have contributed to the Climate Council over the past 12 months.



Our Team

Board Members & Councillors

BOARD AND COUNCILLORS

Samantha Mostyn AO

Director and Chair



Samantha is a businesswoman and sustainability advisor with a long history of executive and governance roles. Samantha is Chair of Citibank Australia, the Australian National Research Organisation

for Women's Safety, Foundation for Young Australians, Ausfilm and Alberts. She is president of Chief Executive Women (CEW). She also serves on the boards of Mirvac Group, Transurban Group, Tonic Media, Sydney Swans, GO Foundation and the Centre for Policy Development. Samantha has been a Director of the Climate Council for a number of years and was appointed as the Chair in November 2020.

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, Director of ClimateWorks Australia and a Member of the Advisory Council: Crawford School of Economics and Governance at ANU. Samantha was a Member of the Women's 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.

Matthew Honey

Director



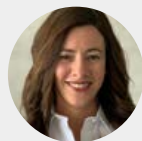
Matt is Partner at Ernst & Young. He provides a range of assurance services to a variety of clients in the resources, utilities and technology sectors. He is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered

Accountants in Australia and New Zealand and a Registered Company Auditor.

Matt has more than 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.

Kirsty Gold

Director



Kirsty is an investor, project accelerator and philanthropist focused on climate solutions in Australia. She is Co-founder of Assembly Climate Capital, which brings together people and capital to accelerate companies,

teams and ideas for significant climate impact. Kirsty is a Director of her Family Office Foundation. She previously worked in business within Qantas' management team and as a chartered accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Kirsty is involved in various community climate projects and initiatives focused on climate engagement and solutions in Australia.

Simon Corbell

Director



Simon is the CEO and Chair of the Clean Energy Investor Group, representing institutional investors with wind and solar assets worth \$9 billion across the national electricity market. He also advises the clean energy and accelerator business, Energy Estate.

Simon has more than two decades of senior experience in public policy leadership, governance and implementation. Between 2017 and 2019 he was the Victorian Renewable Energy Advocate, advising the Victorian state government on renewable energy policy and projects, including the Victorian renewable energy auction scheme.

From 1997 to 2016, Simon was a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, serving as Deputy Chief of the Australian Capital Territory and in a wide range of ministerial portfolios including climate change, energy, water and the environment. In 2019, he received the Clean Energy Council's recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Industry by an Individual for his advocacy of sub national government renewable energy auction schemes.

Professor Lesley Hughes

Director & Councillor



Professor Lesley Hughes is a Distinguished Professor of Biology and former Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Integrity & Development) and Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at

Macquarie University. 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 4th and 5th Assessment Report. She is a founding Councillor with the Climate Council of Australia, a former Director for WWF Australia, and a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. She has recently been appointed as a member of the Climate Change Authority.

Leigh Petschel

Director - Appointed October 2022



Leigh Petschel is the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President at Monash University where he oversees the financial management, business strategy, funding and investments of the

domestic and international operations of the University.

Leigh's experience combines leadership and strategic thinking in cross-cultural settings, capital strategy and advancement of external relations with investment communities and partnerships with industry and government. He has held executive roles in a range of large organisations and brings a global perspective to the Climate Council Board, having worked in the US, Canada and the UK. Prior to joining Monash University, Leigh was a General Manager and Vice President with Transurban in Australia and North America, leading finance, operations, innovation and new market expansion.

Natalie Walker, MAICD LLB BA (Psych)

Director - Appointed October 2022



Natalie Walker is a Kuku Yalanji woman from the Daintree Rainforest who lives and works on Gadigal land in Sydney.

Professionally, Natalie has over 20-years experience across various leadership and non-executive roles in the human services and Indigenous economic development sectors. Natalie has tackled every role with her social purpose spirit – always being driven by the desire to make the world a better, fairer, more equitable place.

She is the founder of Inside Policy which advises governments on social and economic policy with the aim of changing the world one policy at a time. Prior to founding Inside Policy, Natalie had various roles including inaugural CEO of Supply Nation, CEO of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and management consultant within KPMG's government advisory group.

Natalie sits on various boards including the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Goodstart Early Learning and Life Without Barriers. Natalie is also the Social Commissioner for the NSW Government's Greater Cities Commission.

Natalie is a member of Women for Progress – a group of leading Australian women seeking positive, substantive policy change to improve the lives of all women in Australia. In 2018, Natalie was appointed by the Prime Minister as Australia's representative to the Business Women Leaders Taskforce of the G20. In 2012, Natalie was named as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence.

Professor Tim Flannery
Chief Councillor



Professor Tim Flannery is one of Australia's leading writers on climate change. An internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist, Professor Flannery was named Australian of the Year in 2007.

Professor Flannery 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.

A well-known presenter on ABC Radio, NPR and the BBC for more than a decade, he has also written and presented several series on the Documentary Channel including *The Future Eaters* (1998), *Wild Australasia* (2003), *Islands in the Sky* (1992) and *Bushfire* (1997). His books include *Here on Earth* (2010), *The Weather Makers* (2005) *Sunlight and Seaweed* (2017) and *The Climate Cure - Solving the Climate Emergency in the era of COVID-19* (2020).

Professor Hilary Bambrick
Councillor



Hilary is an environmental epidemiologist and bioanthropologist researching the health impacts of global heating, especially on more vulnerable populations, and has expertise in the development, implementation and evaluation of adaptation strategies.

She is Professor and Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University in Canberra. She has consulted for WHO and UNDP on risk assessments and climate adaptation strategies for health, and she led the health impacts assessment for Australia's national climate change review (*The Garnaut Review*, 2008). She is a lead author on the joint *Medical Journal of Australia - Lancet 'Countdown on Health and Climate Change'* series.

Hilary has worked on risk and vulnerability assessments, national health systems resilience and community-based adaptation projects, including in the remote Pacific, Asia, and in the Ethiopian Rift Valley. Areas of interest and expertise include extreme weather, vector-borne disease, food safety and security, the built environment, and health systems.

Professor Will Steffen
Councillor



Will Steffen is a climate change expert and Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University, Canberra. 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 change. His research interests span a broad range within the fields of climate change and Earth System science, with an emphasis on sustainability, and the incorporation of human processes in Earth System modelling and analysis. In addition, Steffen has been active on the climate change science-policy interface for three decades and has played a leading role in the development of Earth System science internationally.

He is the author of numerous publications on climate science, including contributing as an author and reviewer to five IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) assessments and special reports between 2000 and 2018.

Greg Bourne
Councillor



Greg Bourne has worked at the nexus of climate change, energy business and policy for more than 30 years.

While working 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.

A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, he was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to the environment and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Western Australia for services to international business.

Andrew Stock
Councillor



Andrew Stock brings more than 40 years experience in senior management and executive roles in energy businesses spanning traditional energy supply, emerging energy technologies and

renewables. As Executive General Manager at Origin Energy, he was responsible for multi \$billion major developments in power generation, oil and gas, and renewables. He is a past founding board member of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, and retired director of several ASX listed and unlisted energy companies.

He chairs the Advisory Board at Melbourne University Energy Institute, and is an Enterprise Professor at the 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.

With an honours Chemical Engineering Degree from the University of Adelaide, he has completed postgraduate courses at IMD, Switzerland, and the University of Western Australia. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, Fellow of the Institute of Energy, and a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Dr Kate Charlesworth
Councillor



Dr Kate Charlesworth (MBBS (Hons), MPH, FAFPHM, PhD) is a public health physician in Sydney. After working as a hospital doctor in Perth and Sydney, Kate completed much of her training in public

health medicine in the UK. She was a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and then worked in the National Health Service (NHS)'s national sustainability unit, which is now recognised as the leading healthcare decarbonisation program in the world. Kate has also completed a PhD in low-carbon healthcare, and has 15 peer-reviewed papers. Her current role is as a medical specialist in environmentally sustainable healthcare across New South Wales public health systems– the first such role in Australia.

Dr Joëlle Gergis
Councillor



Dr Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning climate scientist and writer. She is an internationally recognised expert in Australian and Southern Hemisphere climate variability and change who has authored over 100 scientific

publications. Her research focuses on providing a long-term historical context for assessing recently observed climate variability and extremes.

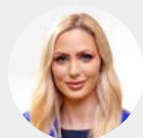
Between 2018 and 2021, Joëlle served as a lead author on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report – a global, state-of-the art review of climate change science.

Joëlle spends a lot of time translating science for the public. Her general audience writing has appeared in The Guardian, The Monthly, The Saturday Paper, Griffith Review, The Conversation and Harper's Bazaar.

Joëlle was the recipient of the 2019 AMOS Science Outreach Award, a national science communication prize awarded by the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (AMOS), Australia's peak professional body for climate science.

She is author of *Sunburnt Country: The future and history of climate change in Australia* and *Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope*.

Dr Madeline Taylor
Councillor



Dr Madeline Taylor is a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University, Deputy Director of the Centre for Energy and Natural Resources Innovation and Transformation (CENRIT) at Macquarie University and Honorary

Associate at the Sydney Environment Institute.

Madeline specialises in issues at the intersection of energy and natural resources law within the energy transition, as well as property and commercial law. Her research advances the novel examination of transitioning energy regulation and energy policy from comparative and socio-legal perspectives, including the strategic governance of energy and the fragmentation of ownership rights between the state, energy developers, and landholders. Her current research focuses on the law concerning renewable energy development and energy justice.

Greg Mullins AO, AFSM
Councillor



Greg Mullins is an internationally recognised expert in responding to major bushfires and natural disasters, with more than 50 years' experience as a firefighter. He retired as Commissioner of Fire & Rescue

New South Wales in January 2017 after nearly 14 years in the role. On retirement, he immediately rejoined the rural fire brigade where he started as a volunteer in 1972, and fought fires throughout New South Wales during Black Summer.

During his 39 year career with Fire & Rescue New South Wales, he served as President, Vice President and Board Chair of the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities' Council, Deputy Chair and Acting Chair of the New South Wales State Emergency Management Committee, Australian Director of the International Fire Chiefs Association of Asia, New South Wales representative on the Australian Emergency Management Committee, Australian representative on the UN's International Search & Rescue Advisory Committee, and as a member of the New South Wales Bushfire Coordinating Committee. He is currently Chair of the New South Wales Ambulance Service Advisory Board and a member of the Nature Conservation Council's Bushfire Advisory Committee.

Greg worked with bushfire fighting authorities in the USA, Canada, France and Spain during a Churchill Fellowship in 1995, studied at the USA National Fire Academy in 2001-02, and has a Masters Degree in Management. In 2019, he formed Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA), a group of former fire and emergency service chiefs from every state and territory concerned about the impacts of extreme weather driven by climate change.

Cheryl Durrant
Councillor



Cheryl has more than 30 years' experience in the national security sector, including specialist Army intelligence and Defence capability and preparedness roles. Cheryl led the Department's Global Change and Energy

Sustainability Initiative from 2013-2016 and established the position of the Australian Defence Force's Climate and Security Advisor in 2016. She was the lead author for Defence's submission to the Senate Inquiry on the implications of Climate change for Australia's national security.

As the Defence partner to Emergency Management Australia she supported the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and the co-design of the Profiling Australia's Vulnerability Report. Under Cheryl's leadership Defence completed a major review of Defence Mobilisation in 2019 – the first such review since Vietnam.

Cheryl is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales, an executive member of the Australian Security Leaders Climate Group, and a member of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change. She serves on the Boards of Climate Subak-Australia and Resonate Together -UK.

Cheryl holds a BA (History and English) and MA (Hons) in History from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She also holds a Grad Dip in Applied Linguistics (Indonesian) from the ADF School of Languages and a Grad Dip in Management (Defence) from the University of Canberra. She is an Alumni of the Cambridge University Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Cheryl graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1991, where she was awarded the prize for Strategic Studies, Military History and Military Science and Technology.

Martijn Wilder
Councillor



Martijn is Founder and CEO of Pollination, a global climate change investment and advisory firm. He is recognised as a global leader in climate law and investment and has advised governments and companies

on innovative climate finance investments including the World's First REDD+ Green Bond.

Martijn was Head of Baker & McKenzie's global climate law and finance practice for twenty years and played a key role with Australia's clean energy finance institutions. He was previously Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), a former Founding Director of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), and he helped to establish and later Chair the Federal Government's Low Carbon Australia finance body. He is currently Chair of the Governing Board of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) based in Vienna, President of WWF-Australia, Chair of the Victorian Government's independent expert panel on Victoria's 2035 Climate Change target, Adjunct Professor of International Climate Change Law at Australian National University, and a Senior Adviser to Serendipity Capital. He is also a Member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. Until November 2020, Martijn was also a Director of the Climate Council.

Martijn was a Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholar and was awarded an Australian Honour (AM) for his contribution to climate change law and the environment. In 2018, Martijn was awarded the Financial Times Asia Pacific Legal Innovator of the Year.

Nicki Hutley
Councillor



Nicki Hutley is a highly experienced economist, with expertise in macro- and micro-economic forecasting and analysis gained over three decades of practice in financial and investment markets and in

economic consulting.

She has been involved in the economic analysis of climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation since the 2008 Climate Change Review was undertaken by Ross Garnaut. She has extensive experience modelling the impacts of the CPRS, RET and Feed-in Tariff Schemes. Her work has evolved in more recent years to a focus on the costs and benefits of climate change issues including cyclone and flood mitigation, carbon capture and storage, residential and commercial energy efficiency, corporate financial risk, and regional economic transition risks.

Nicki is now an independent economist, a consultant to Social Outcomes, and an expert faculty member (economics) at SingularityU Australia. She is a longstanding council member of the Economics Society of Australia (New South Wales), and a Board member for One Million Women and the Financy Women's Index.

Professor David Karoly
Councillor - Appointed September 2022



Professor David Karoly is an honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne, having retired from CSIRO early in 2022. He is an internationally recognised expert on climate change science and climate variability.

David was Leader of the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub in the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program, based in CSIRO, during 2018 to June 2021. During 2012-2017, he was a member of the Climate Change Authority, which provides advice to the Australian government on responding to climate change.

David has been involved in the Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2001, 2007, 2014 and 2021 in several different roles. He was awarded the 2015 Royal Society of Victoria Medal for Scientific Excellence in Earth Sciences and elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2019.

From 2007 to February 2018, David Karoly was Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Melbourne and in the A.R.C. Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science. From 2003 to 2007, he held the Williams Chair in the School of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma.

Climate Council Staff

Amanda McKenzie
CEO



Amanda is one of the best known public commentators on the climate crisis in Australia. Previously, Amanda co-founded the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and has served on renewable

energy expert panels for the Queensland and Northern Territory Governments. Amanda was the founding Chair of the Centre for Australian Progress and is a former Board Director at Plan International Australia and the Whitlam Institute. She holds an Honours degree in Law from Monash University and an Arts Degree from Melbourne University. Amanda has won numerous awards including being recognised as one of Westpac's 100 Women of Influence and a finalist in Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year Awards.

Dinah Arndt
Acting CEO (July - October 2021)



Dinah Arndt is a reformed journalist with many years' experience in the Australian media industry. Since joining the not-for-profit sector she has learnt on that experience in managing the

day-to-day media, communications and advocacy affairs of both large and small enterprises. In 2015, she joined the Climate Council to set up the Climate Media Centre, which localises and personalises climate change impacts and solutions for Australians. She now specialises in best-practice climate communications, including message research.

Emma Pollard
Acting CEO (July - October 2021)



In her substantive role, Emma is the Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary at the Climate Council. In this position she is responsible for financial and risk management, governance

and compliance, information technology, and people and culture. She is passionate about applying her skills and experience to support the growth and strategic development of for-purpose organisations, with over 13 years experience working in the not-for-profit sector. Prior to joining the Climate Council Emma spent 9 years at Taronga Conservation Society Australia where she held various roles, amongst them Governance Manager and Manager Tertiary Education and Business Development. During her time at Taronga, Emma was also responsible for the development and operation of the Taronga Institute of Science and Learning and the establishment of the Taronga / University of Sydney Education Alliance. Emma is a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), has undergraduate degrees in law and finance and postgraduate qualifications in environmental law and tertiary education management. She is also a Board member and Company Secretary at the Jane Goodall Institute Australia.

CLIMATE COUNCIL STAFF

Staff as of 30 June 2022:

Alex Söderlund
Digital Content Producer

Dr Annika Dean
Senior Researcher

Annemarie Johnson
Senior Communications Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Brianna Hudson
Senior Communications Advisor

Brigitte Johnson
Philanthropy Coordinator

Dr Carl Tidemann
Senior Researcher
- Climate Solutions

Cassie Bremner
Head of Community
and Fundraising

Chris White
Climate Projects Officer

Darcy Pimblett
Program Development and
Partnership Manager

David Hanrahan
Systems and IT Support Officer

Dinah Arndt
Head of Strategic
Communications

Dylan Quinnett
Senior Media Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Elizabeth Gleeson
Program Collaboration
Coordinator

Elizabeth Fallance
Donor Liason Officer

Ellyce Crabb
Business Manager,
Climate Media Centre

Emily Dickson
Campaigns Assistant

Emily Watkins
Senior Media Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Emma Hannigan
Queensland Media Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Gemma Osborn
Operations Manager

Genevieve Stewart
Fundraising Campaigns Manager

Hannah Clayton
Senior Communications Advisor

Heather Bruer
Planned Giving Coordinator

Isabella Lamshed
Digital Content Producer

Jacqueline Street
Senior Media Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Jennifer Wilson
Events and Office Coordinator

Jolee Wakefield
Director, Climate Media Centre

Kate O'Callaghan
Senior Media Advisor
(Queensland), Climate Media
Centre

Lydia Jupp
Media Officer

Madeleine Nyst
Business Manager to CEO

Dr Martin Rice
Research Director
(Strategy and Engagement)

Meg Grayson
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Micah Demmert
Philanthropy Director

Michaela Stone
Digital Marketing Manager

Morgan Koegel
Senior Campaigner

Nathan Hart
Campaigner

Dr Portia Odell
Director, Cities Power Partnership

Quimby Mills
Content and Communications
Assistant

Rebecca Gredley
Senior Media Advisor,
Climate Media Centre

Rebekah Smith
Fundraising Program Coordinator

Sako Hampartzoumian
Salesforce administrator

Sarah Wakeley
Digital Marketing Officer

Dr Simon Bradshaw
Research Director (Projects)

Tahlia Ludow
Digital content and website officer

Tim Baxter
Senior Researcher
- Climate Solutions

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Appreciation



AUTHORS, CONTRIBUTORS & REVIEWERS

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Tents to Castles: Building Energy Efficient Cost-saving Aussie Homes

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The Lost Years: Counting the Costs of Climate Inaction in Australia

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From Paris to Glasgow: A World on the Move

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Path to Zero: How NSW can Kick the Gas Habit

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OFFSETTING

Where possible, the Climate Council promotes the use of digital platforms to engage with our community. This includes the use of online meeting and event tools for internal and external activities. When in-person attendance at meetings and events is required, the Climate Council utilises staff living locally to projects, events and speaking opportunities to reduce travel requirements wherever possible. With travel via commercial flights necessary to deliver some crucial elements of our strategy, we also engaged GreenFleet to offset 64.17tonnes of carbon emissions produced from 228,510.75KMs of air travel during the 2021-22 financial year.



The Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organisation providing quality information on climate change to the Australian public.


The Climate Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, meet and work. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise the continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

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