



Annual Report 2022-2023



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 Owners of the lands on which we live, meet and work. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise the continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

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Thank you for your support

Since day one, the Climate Council has been 100% independent, and community founded. Our impact is only made possible by the ongoing support, commitment and passion of our community. As we approach our 10th anniversary, it's amazing to reflect on all that we have achieved together.

From the very first donation that helped launch the Climate Council, to the hundreds of thousands of people who continue to support our work today - via financial contributions, adding their voices to our campaigns, sharing our work far and wide, and having climate conversations with friends and family - our community makes it possible to carry out our work changing Australian hearts and minds on climate change. Thank you for everything you do!

Having spent almost 10 years developing the public and political will for change, the federal 'climate election' felt like reaching the top of the mountain - but our challenge is far from over.

Now, we're tackling a second mountain: securing the genuine emissions reductions needed at the scale and pace that the science demands. With a Federal Government more willing to engage with the experts, the Climate Council is now a catalyst for national action, a source of ideas, and voice of truth - pushing for policies to rapidly cut emissions and roll out solutions.

Being community funded gives us our independence. This means no matter who is in power, we can hold them accountable to the latest science, and keep climate change high on the political agenda.

We have played a hand in some big policy wins in the past year, including much-needed reform to the Safeguard Mechanism, which regulates the emissions of Australia's 215 biggest polluting facilities. However, the Albanese Government continues to approve coal and gas projects, and is far from enabling the scale and pace of emissions reduction we need to secure a safe and liveable climate. Meanwhile the window for action narrows, and our work together has never been more urgent.

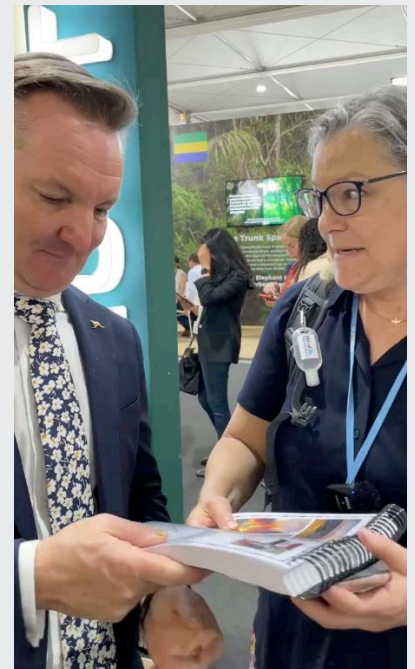
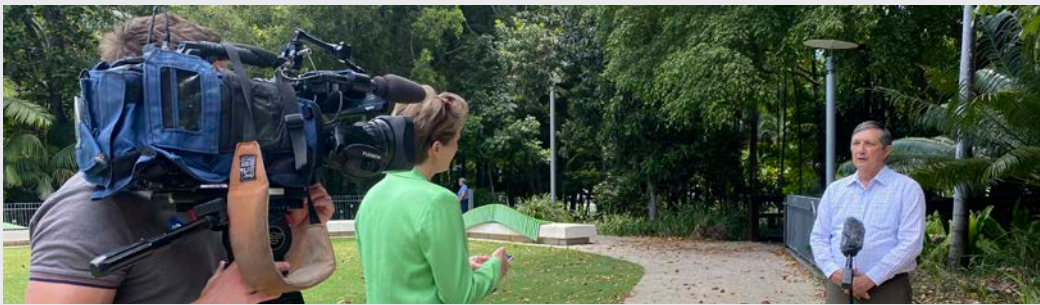
We are already living in an era of catastrophic unnatural disasters, evident around the world as well as here at home. We must continue to channel the anger, frustration and anguish we feel about the impacts already being experienced into determination: to protect the people, places, communities and ecosystems we treasure, which can still be saved, from worsening climate harm.

This is a make-or-break decade for climate action and it's going to take all of us to unlock the action Australia and the world needs to see. With your support, we will continue to hit back against the big polluters trying to delay and derail action, ramp up the pressure on decision-makers at all levels to take urgent action to reduce emissions, and keep climate change front and centre in the media and on the national agenda with our hard-hitting, independent climate information and solutions.

Our community gives us hope. You are the power behind our relentless pursuit for climate action. Thank you!



Images: Clockwise from top left: CEO Amanda McKenzie on the cover of the Sunday Times. Dr Simon Bradshaw and Isabella Larnshed with Former Vice President of the United States Al Gore at COP27. Climate Councillor Nicki Hutley delivering community postcards to Hon Chris Bowen MP at COP27. Fundraising trek participants on the Larapinta trail. Dr Jennifer Rayner delivers an open letter to the Federal Government. Fundraising trek participants in New Zealand. ELCA member and Former Commissioner of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Lee Johnson during a media interview. Dr Simon Bradshaw interviewed for Studio 10.



A message from the Chair

I am delighted to present the Australian Climate Council's 2023 Annual Report - my inaugural report as Chair. I am especially thrilled to share the remarkable progress we've achieved as the Climate Council approaches 10 years of progressing climate action.

Globally, the climate crisis has intensified, underscoring the urgent need for emissions reductions. We have seen harrowing weather extremes across the world, and more records broken as the year progressed. But there is hope: with more nations and economic sectors bolstering their climate commitments. This renewed determination must absolutely propel a united global effort towards even more ambitious action.

Globally and in Australia, demand for climate solutions has reached unprecedented heights. When a new Federal Government came to power in 2022 with a clear mandate to fast-track climate action, the Climate Council refined its strategy in this new political context to identify how we could push for stronger climate action, while continuing to empower our community.

Together, we have exerted pressure on decision-makers and new political players to amplify climate ambition and action. Through expert reports, targeted advocacy and digital campaigns, shaping the

national conversation on climate through a range of communications and collaborating with a diverse array of organisations across the country, we have ensured that climate solutions remain at the forefront of both government and business agendas. This has played a pivotal role in helping to drive tangible policy changes.

As Australia's own community-funded climate organisation, the Climate Council has significantly shaped the narrative on our issue via more than 37,000 media stories that amplify our messages. Via the Climate Media Centre project, we have also empowered more than 150 new spokespeople to speak about climate impacts and action through media platforms. We have also spearheaded campaigns designed to clean up our transport system, electrify our households and stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry.

Our dedicated Councillors and researchers authored 19 influential reports on climate impacts and the benefits of rapid decarbonisation. These reports garnered significant attention and reached millions of Australians, solidifying our reputation as a trusted source of climate information.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our exceptional staff for their dedication and talent in propelling this progress. My gratitude also goes to my fellow Board members, our Councillors, and

especially to our CEO, Amanda McKenzie, for her outstanding leadership during this landmark year.

Above all, I am thankful for our community, whose generosity and steadfast commitment has empowered our vital work over almost 10 years. The Climate Council's ability to advocate fiercely for climate action as an independent organisation would not be possible without you.

Looking forward, we will continue to push for ambitious policies that protect us from the worst impacts of climate change. With collective effort, we can build a safe and prosperous future for all Australians, and serve as a global beacon of climate leadership.

Onwards, together.



Carol Schwartz AO
Climate Council Chair

We have seen harrowing weather extremes across the world, and more records broken as the year progressed. But there is hope: with more nations and economic sectors bolstering their climate commitments.

A message

from the CEO and Chief Councillor

It's with great pride that we present the Climate Council's Annual Report for 2022-23, with special thanks to the strategic guidance of our Board and Councillors, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our community.

As we reach the incredible milestone of 10 years of the Climate Council, we enter a period of deep reflection on how far climate action has progressed over the past decade, as well as how far we must push in order to realise the deep emission reductions required this decade.

Looking back to when we first started, we had a huge fight on our hands. Then Prime Minister Tony Abbott had just axed the Climate Commission as the first act of his government and was out in the media wrongly claiming that bushfires and climate change couldn't be linked.

Our independence, supported by thousands of community backers, was crucial as we took on the Prime Minister, hostile media and commentators, to make climate science real for Australians. 10 years later, we have fundamentally changed the operating environment for Australia's decision makers. The media reporting, public opinion and the diversity of voices speaking out on climate change has all been transformed due to the Climate Council's work. We've launched:

- › **The Climate Media Centre (CMC)** to train and support thousands of diverse voices to speak out on climate change - from farmers, to coal workers, to bushfire survivors and more.
- › **Cities Power Partnership (CPP)** to empower local government to drive climate action; and
- › **Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA)** made up of former fire and emergency chiefs pushing for greater climate action and disaster preparedness.



Image: Climate Council released 19 reports in 2022-23.

We've published 164 important reports, featured climate change in the media more than 250,000 times and we've grown the Climate Council community to more than half a million people! While change has been too slow, we are a world away from where we started.

Each year is always bigger than the one before it, and this year was no different.

Across our key goals; to grow the good, stop the bad and transform the landscape, our teams have been working hard to keep up the momentum for critical action. Throughout this report, you can read about how the switch to clean energy is already underway, and the race to the top on renewables and efficient all-electric households is gaining momentum. In terms of clean transport, we've worked hard to explain that we need to fundamentally transform the way you and I get around and have been pushing to unlock affordable electric vehicles for more Australians. We've also launched a number of influential campaigns to make sure all Australians are aware that gas is dirty, unsafe and doesn't belong in our homes. After the climate election of 2022 a lot has shifted in the media landscape, with climate change now clearly viewed as being in Australia's national interest.

We have appreciated working with hundreds of organisations on our shared goals. The climate movement, in its broadest sense, is working better and stronger together as we tackle this mammoth challenge.

As we look forward, there is no question that we must get our emissions on a steep downward trajectory with an actionable plan

to reduce emissions by 75 percent (below 2005 levels) by 2030, and reach net zero by 2035. This is tough, but doable. It requires an all-in effort that builds upon progress to date. Fortunately we have the technology, and the economics are favourable. What we need is more bravery, effort and leadership.

This year we lost a beloved member of the Climate Council family – Professor Will Steffen. Will helped found the Council in 2013 and has played a remarkable role globally in climate science and communications. We miss Will deeply.

His steadfast dedication to climate action and intense optimism for the future continues to inspire and drive us. If Will were here, he would encourage us to be braver and bolder as we feel the climate crisis all around us.

We also want to acknowledge our donors, without whom none of the impact we have had this year, or in the last decade, would have been possible.

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



Amanda McKenzie
CEO



Prof. Tim Flannery
Chief Councillor

1947-2023

Will Steffen

This year we lost one of our original Councillors, a giant of the climate science world, and a beloved member of the Climate Council family – Professor Will Steffen.

It is impossible to overstate Will's contribution to the Climate Council and to the world's response to climate change. Will was both an extraordinary scientist and a gifted communicator. He saw the big picture – bringing together diverse fields including ecology, biology, oceanography and climate science to build a holistic understanding of how our planet works. Always ahead of the curve and with a remarkable way with words, Will helped us all get to grips with the reality of our climate crisis, and how to help build a better world.

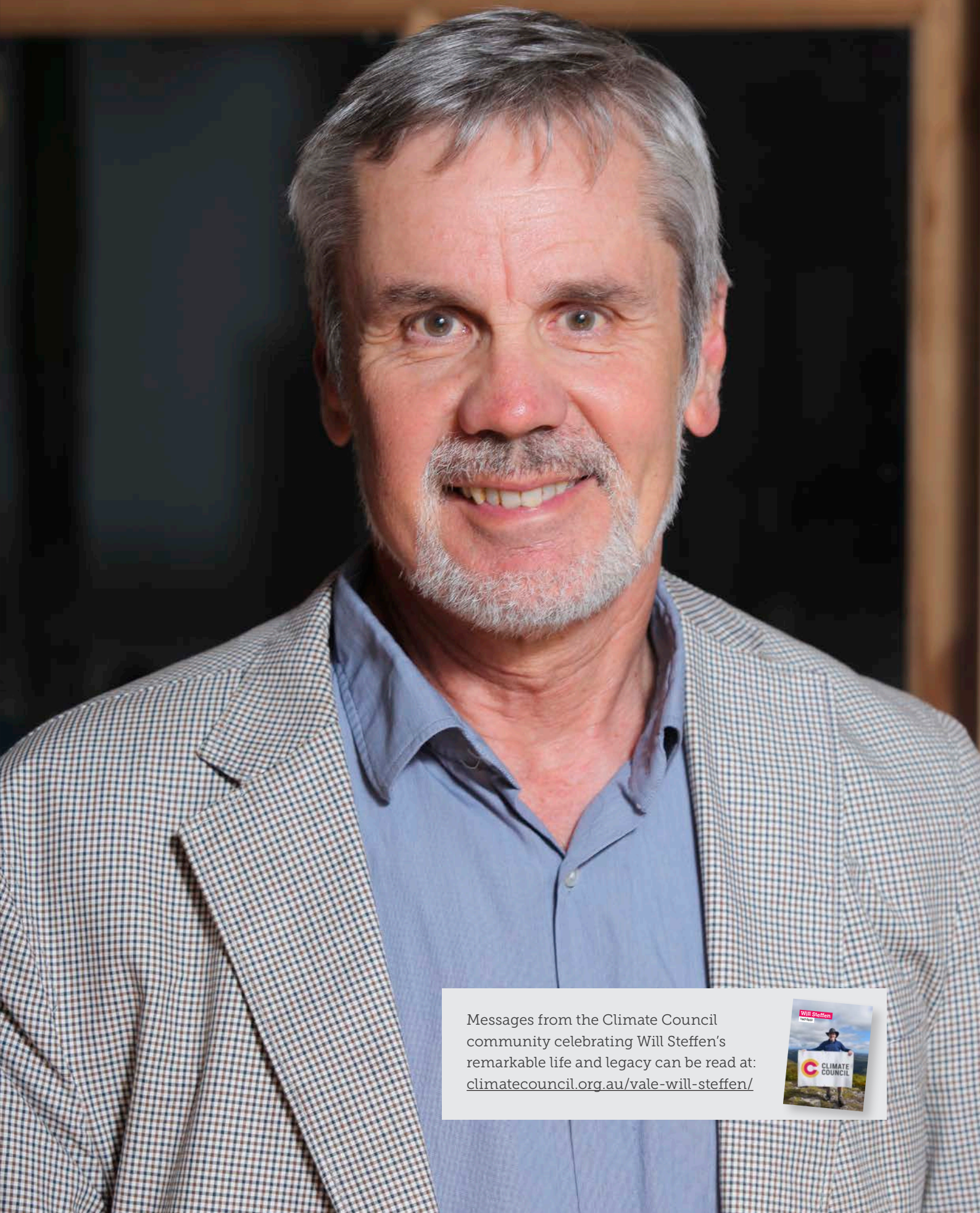
Will's unrelenting positivity kept us going through some of the most challenging times. He was a kind and generous mentor to many in and outside of the Climate Council. Always focused on lifting others up, he made us all feel more empowered, confident and hopeful, no matter how immense the challenge of climate change may seem.

Will's courage and stamina knew no bounds. He spoke truth to power, right up until the end of his life, getting behind young people, women, and First Nations communities in the fight for a better, kinder, brighter future.

Will may be gone, but his knowledge and insights will forever be at the heart of what we do. He remains a guiding light to all of us at the Climate Council, and to countless others. His groundbreaking contributions to climate science and communications will be shaping the world for many years to come. His was a life lived to the fullest, and for the betterment of all.

Vale Will.





Messages from the Climate Council community celebrating Will Steffen's remarkable life and legacy can be read at: climatecouncil.org.au/vale-will-steffen/



2022-23

IMPACT SNAPSHOT



22,800+

MEDIA ITEMS

FEATURING THE
CLIMATE COUNCIL



RELEASED

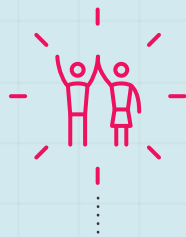
19

**LANDMARK
PUBLICATIONS**



12

**FORMAL
SUBMISSIONS
TO INQUIRIES**



A COMMUNITY OF OVER

550,000

SUPPORTERS



15,000+

MEDIA ITEMS

ELEVATING
TRUSTED VOICES



185

**CITIES POWER
PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**



150+

**SPOKESPEOPLE
TRAINED**

Climate Council

Impact Summary

The 2022 Federal “climate election” represented a major shift in Australian politics. The Climate Council’s work - organising and amplifying diverse voices to ensure climate change was pushed up the national agenda, mainstreaming awareness of escalating climate risks, and holding the government to account and mythbusting - was critical in seeing a climate positive Parliament elected.

After the election we pivoted rapidly to build stronger Federal advocacy and policy capacity and develop a politically nuanced strategy for progressively accelerating climate action over this decade. This augmented our existing strengths as a trusted, independent research institution; an amazing communication machine with huge audience reach; and our existing strong relationships with a broad range of stakeholders and all levels of government.

Today, while the Parliament is more supportive of climate action, our policy, advocacy and public communications work is critical to ensure that a) the Federal ALP’s commitments are implemented in their strongest form; and b) to build political will for further, stronger action in the future. With each positive step forward we need to help build momentum for the next phase of action.

OUR 2021-2025 STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS 3 GOALS:



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 2020’s prioritised.



Stopping the bad:

Prevent the expansion of gas in Australia and enable a transition away from domestic fossil fuel use.



Transforming the landscape:

Permanently transform the parameters of climate action so that a critical mass of political, business, industry and community leaders want to implement positive solutions to the climate crisis during the 2020s, and avoid being associated with the fossil fuel industry.

OUR WORK THIS YEAR HAS FOCUSED ON:

- › Keeping climate change high on the public agenda and driving a continuous drumbeat for action.
- › Being active in the big policy fights of this Parliamentary term.
- › Identifying the next set of policy changes and socialising these with key audiences.

THE DRUMBEAT

We have provided a diverse, powerful drumbeat of communications work to elevate climate change on the national agenda and challenge the reputation of fossil fuels.

Unfortunately extreme weather conditions have been a feature of the last 12 months internationally and in Australia. Our spokespeople have effectively contextualised these worsening events to ensure the public understands that climate change, driven by coal, oil and gas pollution is the driver. This includes our scientists, climate change experts, emergency leaders, and a diverse range of spokespeople supported by the Climate Media Centre (CMC).

We have also highlighted the consequences for Australians mental health, with a major campaign with Beyond Blue, telling some of the stories of community members with direct experience of climate trauma. The coverage from our summer work was excellent with over 7,000 media items for the quarter and Climate Council accounting for 43% of the sector's share of voice (not including CMC).



Image: Climate Council staff collaborated with the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) to organise media events alongside the 2022 Pacific Islands Forum in Fiji.

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA), a Climate Council project that brings together 39 former fire and emergency chiefs, has continued to be very effective advocates over the last year through the catastrophic floods, northern hemisphere fires and early fire season. ELCA has been warning policy makers about the risks for the next two summers, making high profile calls for greater climate action.

We have worked hard to challenge the social licence of gas, for instance, highlighting the health effects of gas in homes with Asthma Australia and our partnership with Sarah Wilson for the I Quit Gas campaign. This multi-year work is starting to bear fruit with a number of jurisdictions restricting gas in homes. We also released a *Fossil Fuel Free Sponsorship Code* calling on all sporting, music and other events to scrap dirty sponsorship, and led campaigns against greenwashing. The CMC has also provided significant support to legal challenges to new fossil fuel projects. Together, these campaigns, and the work of many other groups like us, are fundamentally challenging the right of fossil fuel companies to operate and open new projects.

Climate Council has also been a driving force in building public support for renewable energy, batteries, electric vehicles and other solutions. Our reports on industrial decarbonisation have consistently showcased the availability, affordability, and benefits of these technologies.

The change in Federal government offers Australia the opportunity to redefine its climate credentials on the global stage. At the same time, Australia's security priorities are firmly focused on the Pacific. Our international work has been aimed at linking Australia's security interests and our climate action, as well as elevating powerful Pacific Voices here and overseas to increase

pressure for action. In addition to our local reports and communications work, we sent delegations to the UN Climate Talks (COP27) and the Pacific Islands Forum to report back to domestic media. The Climate Media Centre has also begun identifying and training Pacific spokespeople to put pressure on Australia and other nations, including during the likely Australian/Pacific COP31.

Climate Council continues to be the leading voice on climate change generating over 22,000 media items with our expert and highly sought after spokespeople. The Climate Media Centre has trained and supported hundreds of organisations and individuals to allow us to reach diverse and important audiences nationwide. In turn these groups have built their profile, allowing them to be better fundraisers and advocates. The CMC also generated a stunning 15,000 media items providing huge support to the whole climate movement.

THE BIG POLITICAL FIGHTS OF THIS PARLIAMENTARY TERM

The Climate Council has firmly established itself as a constructive and honest advocate to the Federal Parliament. Celebrating progress, while loudly advocating for more. We are a source of practical, quality policy ideas and have developed positive working relationships across the Parliament. We have been a leading voice on the big policy debates of the last year, bringing our powerful communications machine to build community support and our policy and political expertise to find pathways to achieving outcomes. We are able to hold our goals firmly in our mind and identify what steps are achievable now that can then be scaled and accelerated. We are really grateful to be working with excellent advocacy partners to achieve the following highlights:

1. **Laws regulating fossil fuels:**

- › **Safeguard mechanism:** We worked on a detailed, high profile campaign to secure a strong Safeguard Mechanism to start regulating Australia's biggest fossil fuel projects. This policy will make it more challenging to finance new fossil fuel projects.
 - › **Environmental Laws:** We are campaigning for Australia's Environmental Laws to include climate change, ensuring that fossil fuel projects can be rejected on climate grounds.
- ### 2. **Cleaner transport:** Australia has some of the most polluting vehicles in the world. Building a case for strong Fuel Efficiency Standards is crucial for reform. Our advocacy secured an initial win in mid-2023 with a commitment from the Federal Government to design and implement a fuel efficiency standard for Australia. We are now working to secure strong standards.

- ### 3. **Smarter, cleaner energy:** Thanks to strong lobbying efforts from the Climate Council and partners, the Federal Government announced a \$1.6 billion investment in electrification and energy efficiency measures for homes and small businesses in the 2023-24 Commonwealth Budget.

Climate Council also continues to work at state and local levels. The Cities Power Partnership now represents 180 local governments and focused this year on enhancing local government alliances and partnerships, plus building local government electric vehicle fleets.

NEXT WAVE OF ACTION

As we're a few years into the 2020s, we know it is critical to map out the pathway for Australia to achieve 75% emissions reduction this decade and net zero by 2035. Currently our national climate targets and policies are out of step with science. Our Next Wave project outlines a clear (but challenging) technical and policy pathway to Australia achieving this level of emissions reductions. We aim to put this to all sides of politics well before the next Federal election as the next wave of policies for Australia.

10 YEARS

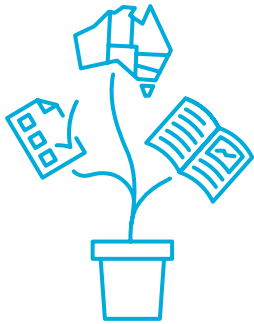
Whilst this report references work completed in the 2022 - 2023 financial year, it is published at the time of our 10th Birthday. It's been 10 years since the Climate Commission was abolished and the Council rose like a phoenix from its ashes. The Climate Council community should be extremely proud of what we have achieved since then. We have built one of the most significant and effective climate organisations in Australia, fundamentally changed public opinion and the national climate conversation, and contributed to major policy changes across all levels of government. We look forward to celebrating our birthday with you soon!



Image: CMC spokesperson Anneliese Alexander and family prepare to go live on the Today Show to talk about their EV road trip.

2022-2023

Program Review



GOAL 1:
**GROWING
THE GOOD**

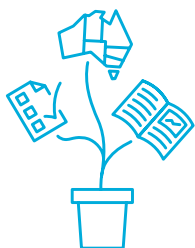


GOAL 2:
**STOPPING
THE BAD**



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 2020's prioritised.

KEY NARRATIVE SHIFTS

Action on climate change is action on cost of living

This year saw Australian households face unprecedented cost of living pressure - including eye-watering energy price spikes primarily due to the war in Ukraine and Australia's failing and unreliable coal-fired power stations. Opponents of climate action have long sought to frame the shift to renewables as being costly to households when the opposite is true. Climate Council has worked hard to build a narrative with a clear and positive message that *action on climate change is action on cost of living*. So people understand that switching to clean, renewable electricity and using energy more efficiently saves people money at the same time as cutting emissions. We amplified this message consistently through reports like *Switch and Save: how gas is costing households*, and *Smarter Energy Use: how to cut energy bills and climate harm*; elevating authentic local voices through the Climate Media Centre; as well as one of our best performing digital campaigns this year featuring Jamie Durie and the message that: "Renewable energy is Australia's permanent bill buster." This helped build a clear and established narrative across the Australian media and community that climate action can alleviate the rising costs of living for households.

The planned switch to our clean energy system is underway

In April 2023 the Liddell Power Station in New South Wales closed after 52 years in operation. This closure marked the first in what will become a series of coal-fired power station closures that accelerates over the coming decade as renewable resources like solar and wind increase. Ahead of the closure, Climate Council worked to assuage concern about ongoing energy reliability through media backgrounding, decision maker briefings and public messaging explaining how renewable energy will keep things powering ahead. This built on broader narrative work designed to help Australians understand that renewable energy isn't a future prospect - it is already helping power our lives with clean wind and solar energy making up almost 37 percent of our grid's capacity in 2022-23. The orderly process to close Liddell without negative impacts has provided a real-world example of how this can be done well. Climate Council will continue driving and embedding this positive narrative shift as other coal-fired power stations close, like Eraring Power Station which is due to close in 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Securing an energy system based on renewable energy has been an ongoing focus for the Climate Council, and one of our longest-running campaigns. This year saw the emergence of a race to the top on renewables, with Australia's three biggest states all making significant new announcements on phasing out coal-fired power.
- Following strong campaigning by the Climate Council and partners, all state and territory governments agreed to upgrade Australia's building standards to mandate 7-star homes - making new-build homes cleaner and more efficient to run, as well as being more comfortable to live in.
- We drove a prominent national conversation throughout the year about the ways a car-dependent system run on fossil fuels is harming our health, hip pockets and the environment. This has helped secure an important national policy commitment to introduce fuel efficiency standards, while also increasing the focus of governments and the community on shifting the way we get around so we rely more on active options and public transport.

ENERGY TRANSFORMATION ADVOCACY PROGRAM

During the year our Energy Transformation program made the case publicly and through direct advocacy for an energy system that is fully powered by clean, renewable electricity. Through this program, we have worked to convince Australians that a 100 percent renewable grid is possible and desirable, and accelerated action on the practical steps required to get us there.

Race to the top on renewables

A clean, renewable energy system will underpin every other part of Australia's work to cut emissions. So we made this a focus of our work immediately following the 2022 federal election, to give the new government ideas and evidence for going big on energy transformation. We launched the *Power Up: 10 Climate Gamechangers* report highlighting the best ways the new government could build on its prior commitments and go further this term. In a great sign of our capacity to shape the conversation in this new political environment, four of our ten ideas from this report have already been adopted by the Federal Government and are underway. We must continue to push for the full package to be adopted - particularly the shift to a 100 percent renewable electricity grid, which can also meet new demand as we electrify homes, transport and industry.

Australia's states and territories are crucial to the energy transition because they are responsible for much of the infrastructure that will underpin it. They have also forged ahead of the federal government over the past decade in setting positive targets for renewable energy and emissions reduction. Climate Council and the Climate Media Centre have maintained active campaigns across Australia for several years to promote the benefits of going further and faster on rolling out renewables, with Queensland being a particular focus and priority. This work paid dividends in 2022-23 with Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales all announcing major new targets for ending coal-fired power generation and rolling

out clean wind and solar to replace it. Together with the orderly scheduled closure of the huge coal-fired Liddell Power Station, we've reached an important turning point in the transformation of our energy system. Our priority now is to hold governments accountable for turning these promises into a reality, and pushing them to accelerate delivery to cut emissions more deeply this decade.

Efficient, all-electric households gain momentum

With both climate impacts and the cost-of-living crunch biting hard this year, we have poured significant time and energy into raising awareness of the benefits of efficient, all-electric homes for cutting emissions and household bills. Leveraging the findings of our extensive research into the bill savings and emissions cuts households around Australia can achieve by going all-electric and improving energy efficiency, we launched our online 'Bill Savings Simulator' to help people pick the upgrades that suited them. The Simulator secured widespread media coverage in the midst of high community concern about the costs of living, and has continued to be a useful tool for partners and communities throughout the year. In keeping with Climate Council's focus on making our materials accessible and engaging a broad community audience, we translated summaries of our electrification reports and materials into a range of different languages and partnered with groups like Asian Australians for Climate Action to share these with diverse communities.

As part of these reports and campaigns, we advocated for governments to provide more support to households to enable them to go all-electric. They're starting to listen: this year's Federal Budget included a \$1.3 billion package for home electrification, while Tasmania has launched a zero-interest loan scheme this year and Queensland is now offering new energy efficiency incentives. There is a lot more to do to fully electrify every one of Australia's 10.9 million homes and see them all use energy in the most efficient ways, but the progress this year shows momentum is growing on this important aspect of climate action.

Real planning underway for traditional fossil fuel regions

The opportunities and challenges of Australia's energy transformation will be experienced differently by communities around the country. Areas where jobs and economic activity has previously been driven by the fossil fuel industry - like Gladstone, Townsville and Mackay in Queensland, the Hunter Valley in New South Wales and Collie in Western Australia - can all have a brighter future, but we must plan ahead now to make sure that happens.

Throughout the year we worked at the community level and nationally to promote the clean energy and green industry opportunities that lie ahead for these communities, through reports like *Australia's clean engine room: Central Queensland's industrial future*, *Australia's clean industry future: Making things here in a net zero world* and *Power Up*. We have drawn on local networks to train and support trusted spokespeople via the Climate Media Centre, and shared their stories with media and decision-makers. This includes staff from organisations like The Next Economy, RE-Alliance, LaTrobe Valley Community Power Hub, and Beyond Zero Emissions. We have also used digital channels to shine a spotlight on the growing number of clean energy and green industry projects taking off in these regions, and showcased the contribution of local leaders and workers. Together, this work is building a narrative of opportunity and future prosperity that addresses the concerns people have about what all this change will mean for them.

In May 2023, this work took an important leap forward with the Federal Government's establishment of a national Net Zero Authority with the remit to ensure workers, industries and communities in today's fossil fuel dependent regions can seize the opportunities of Australia's - and the world's - move to net zero. The establishment of a national body to coordinate this change has been a key Climate Council recommendation and a shared call from the broader climate and union movements. We now have the opportunity to work with the Federal Government to shape the Authority's work, and ensure it focuses on confirming the earliest

possible closure dates for Australia's ageing and unreliable fleet of coal-fired power generations so communities can prepare for what's next.

There is a long way to go to deliver the clean energy system Australia needs, so we can end our reliance on polluting coal and gas for good. The next few years are the most critical time to accelerate the shift to a 100 percent renewable grid, because this will enable and unlock the broader decarbonisation of other high-emitting sectors like transport and industry. Climate Council will keep building on the momentum that is underway to ensure commitments made this year are delivered and we can move even further and faster.

We have worked to convince Australians that a 100 percent renewable grid is possible and desirable.

Images: Clockwise from top left: Our online 'Bill Savings Simulator' shows how Australian households can cut emissions as well as bills. One of our best performing digital campaigns this year featuring Jamie Durie. 'Power Up: 10 Climate Gamechangers' report.



CLEAN TRANSPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Our Clean Transport program seeks to change the conversation about how Australians move around, so we prioritise moving people - not cars. During the year, we started a new conversation with decision-makers and the community about how we can enable more people to choose active and public transport for more trips, more often. This kind of “mode shift” - from private cars to active and shared transport - is the main way to drive down transport emissions at the scale and pace needed this decade. In parallel, we have continued to focus on the opportunities and benefits of electric vehicles for those who still need a personal car, and the importance of policies that make them more accessible.

Putting people movement at the centre of the transport story

With carbon pollution from Australia’s energy system now on a welcome and necessary decline, transport is an essential piece of the puzzle in rapidly cutting emissions this decade. Climate Council has significantly ramped up our work in this area, launching a foundational piece of research in early 2023 to shift the conversation firmly towards movement of people (rather than cars) as a key solution.

The report *Shifting gear: the path to cleaner transport* featured an Australian-first analysis on the huge shift towards active and public transport that’s needed to cut transport emissions by 75 percent by 2030. This report highlighted that by the end of this decade, we should be aiming to more than halve the number of car trips that Australians make. The report also explored how this can be achieved with significant investment in electrified public transport and well-connected infrastructure for active options like walking and cycling to enable 3.5 times more trips to be made on public transport, and 3 times more trips to be made using active options.

We have used this research as the foundation for broad and diverse advocacy throughout the year with partners in the transport and environment

sectors, the media and all levels of government. We are calling for governments to deliver high-quality services and infrastructure, which will make it possible and enjoyable for more Australians to leave the car at home, and reorient how cities and transport systems are designed. This is the kind of transformative change we need to rapidly cut harmful carbon pollution, but it will also deliver many other benefits including cleaner air, safer streets and more liveable cities. Through proactive media and digital communications, we have spread the word about shifting the way we get around (known as “mode shift”) and promoted the benefits of doing so to build appetite for the right kinds of investment by governments. This is a relatively new conversation in Australia, which is among the most car-dependent cultures in the world. We will continue to lead the way in the years ahead because mode shift is the only real solution that can cut transport emissions as rapidly and deeply as we need, this decade.

Affordable, available Electric Vehicles (EVs) for more Australians

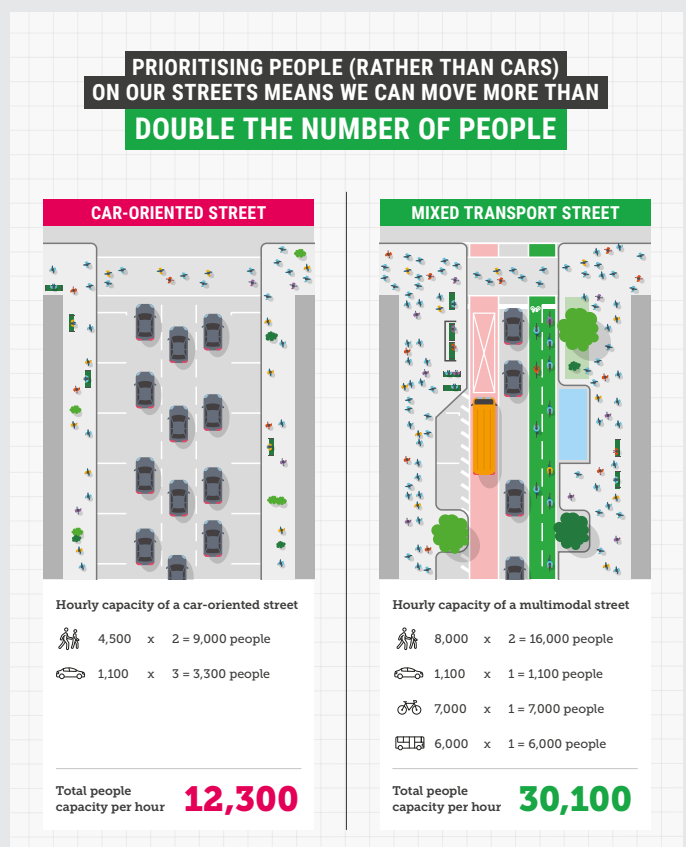
While mode shift is the main way of driving down personal transport emissions, electric vehicles will have an important role to play for people who still need a personal car, and for the longer trips Australians need to make. The past 12 months have seen a rapid increase both in the level of desire for electric vehicles across the community as well as the number being sold around the country. But there remain practical obstacles to many Australians swapping out their dirty petrol and diesel cars for a zero emissions alternative - particularly when it comes to price and availability.

To unlock access to more affordable electric vehicles, Climate Council has pursued a high-profile public and direct advocacy campaign this year for the introduction of fuel efficiency standards. These standards already cover 85 percent of the global car market, and are an essential policy lever for incentivising auto manufacturers to send more of their cleanest and cheapest-to-run cars to Australia. This

campaign has mixed strategic research and policy modelling with digital and media tools to simplify this policy for the community and decision-makers, and make it more appealing. Our advocacy secured an initial win in mid-2023 with a commitment from the federal government to design and implement a fuel efficiency standard for Australia. Following this, our focus shifted to securing the best possible standards, by taking a public fight up to vested interests in the car industry while engaging with federal policymakers on the details. The campaign for strong fuel efficiency standards will continue through the year ahead, but has already demonstrated how Climate Council's combined communications nous and policy insights can help spark positive policy reform.

Through the year, the Climate Council has played a leading role in expanding Australia's conversation about priority solutions to drive down national emissions by putting transport firmly in the spotlight. We will need to keep the pedal to the metal on transport advocacy through the years ahead, to deliver strong fuel efficiency standards and keep steering mode shift to the centre of the conversation.

Images: From left to right: 'Shifting Gear: the path to cleaner transport' report. Our streets should be designed to move people first and foremost, not cars. Mixed transport streets with plenty of convenient, accessible and quality public transport and active transport infrastructure (for walking, bike riding, rolling) can move double the amount of people; while also reducing emissions and creating healthier, more affordable and more liveable communities for all.



GOAL 2: STOPPING THE BAD



Prevent the expansion of gas in Australia and enable a transition away from domestic fossil fuel use.

KEY NARRATIVE SHIFTS

Gas corporations are profiteering at the expense of everyday Australians

Tackling the social licence that multinational gas companies have with the community which allows them to freely operate in Australia is a key step towards ending the extraction and use of this harmful fossil fuel. With gas corporations racking up record profits over the year by profiteering off the back of the war in Ukraine and other global market shocks, we worked to help Australians understand how their corporate greed was driving power bills at home higher. Through digital explainer materials, media commentary from our expert Councillors and researchers, videos and more, we pinned the gas corporations down for price gouging and profiteering, and raised awareness of the direct impact this has on Australian household budgets. This message is hitting home, with polling demonstrating there's a growing awareness of the role that gas prices play in energy costs and receptiveness to the message that these corporations are unfairly gouging.

Gas is dirty, unsafe and doesn't belong in our homes

The evidence is clear that gas is a polluting fossil fuel which contributes to harmful climate change, as well as having negative health effects. Cooking with gas is estimated to be responsible for up to 12% of the burden of childhood asthma in Australia, and children living with gas cooking in the home face a comparable risk of asthma to a child living with household cigarette smoke. During the year, Climate Council has continued to socialise these important facts, as part of a broader push to get gas out of our homes. We formed innovative partnerships with influencers and voices which can reach everyday Australians with this message, resulting in positive feedback from many people who professed to hearing it for the first time. Our work has sparked a strong push-back from the gas industry, including direct rebuttal from industry bodies like the Australian Pipelines and Gas Association - always a sure sign our messages are cutting through!

HIGHLIGHTS

- We partnered with health and wellbeing influencer Sarah Wilson to deliver the digital-first *I Quit Gas* campaign, which leveraged Sarah's enormous online following and her *I Quit Sugar* movement. This introduced our messages about the harms of gas to entirely new audiences, including through hard-to-get media placements on morning and lifestyle television programs.
- Our campaigning for governments to phase out gas in homes is starting to bear fruit, with Victoria - the largest user of domestic gas of any jurisdiction in Australia - committing to end gas connections to newly-built homes. With a number of local governments looking to follow suit there's growing momentum to get rid of expensive and polluting gas.
- We played a leading role in the successful national campaign for strong reform to Australia's Safeguard Mechanism so Australia's biggest industrial emitters (including coal, oil and gas facilities) start pulling their weight in cutting emissions. We worked closely with parties and independent members across the Federal Parliament to secure a strong outcome, which will push big emitters to invest in cleaner energy sources and new technologies to drive down their emissions. There is still a lot more to do on driving the transformation of Australia's industrial sector and ending new coal and gas approvals, but the outcome of the Safeguard Mechanism reform is an important first step, which has paved the way for stronger action.

MAJOR POLLUTERS ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Through Climate Council's Major Polluters program, we are taking the fight up to Australia's fossil fuel giants and working towards a rapid end to the use of coal, oil and gas - starting with ending the approval of new fossil fuel projects. In the past 12 months, we have also begun building the evidence base and advocating for strong policies, which can transform Australia's biggest industrial emitters. This recognises that domestic manufacturing and industries like steel and cement have a long-term future, but will need to rapidly decarbonise to play their part in Australia's transformation to a zero emissions economy.

Getting off gas goes mainstream

There are more than five million Australian homes connected to gas for their cooking, heating or hot water. This is a major contributor to household greenhouse gas emissions, and also puts more pressure on family budgets at a time of high and rising global gas prices. Through the year, Climate Council has mounted a diverse campaign across a wide range of channels and all levels of government to encourage more Australians to switch to clean, efficient electric alternatives.

Recognising that many Australians are not aware of the climate risks and health harms associated with gas, we have partnered with a range of influential and trusted voices to take this message to the broadest possible audience. This included partnering with the high-profile online influencer Sarah Wilson, and by tapping into her sizable following, our content was viewed over 360,000 times. Many of the viewers were new audiences who were hearing about the harms of gas for the first time. We have also engaged with ethnically and culturally diverse communities through the Climate Media Centre's support for the Global Cooksafe Coalition's Australian campaign - including gaining coverage of celebrity wok and Asian-cuisine chefs who are pro-induction cooking - which has achieved hundreds of media mentions

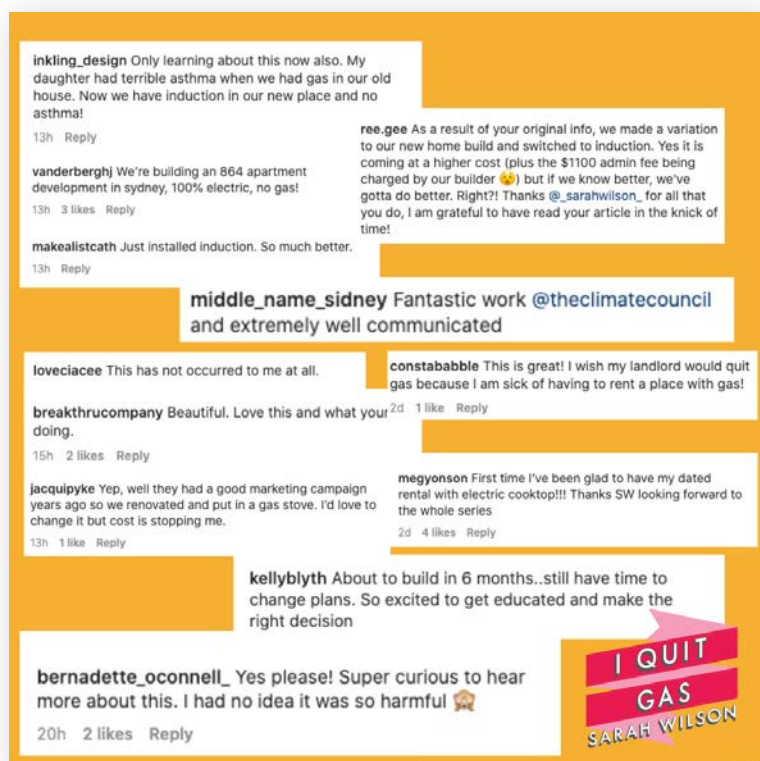
reaching millions of Australians demonstrating the negative health effects of gas in the home as well as in the environment more broadly.

We combined these high-profile media and digital campaigns with direct advocacy to all levels of government for a managed phase-out of gas in homes. This included working with local governments through the Cities Power Partnership, as well as state and federal governments, to call for an end to gas connections to new homes and the phased replacement of existing appliances with efficient electric alternatives. This campaign has helped enable several major policy wins around the country - including Victoria's commitment to require all-electric new home builds from 2024. This is a great example of how Climate Council's communications, advocacy and policy efforts work in tandem to build a surround sound chorus of support for good policies that can drive down emissions.

Ensuring our biggest emitters start pulling their weight

Australia's 200 biggest industrial emitters produce nearly 30 percent of the nation's emissions. For the past decade, those big manufacturers and fossil fuel facilities have not been required to do anything to cut their emissions and play their part in our national decarbonisation effort. The Albanese Government came to office with a commitment to reform the Safeguard Mechanism, but with huge vested corporate interests at play, Climate Council recognised a strong campaign would be needed to make any reforms strong and effective.

Together with national climate movement partners, we set the bar early for this policy debate with a focus on ensuring the Safeguard Mechanism reforms delivered genuine emissions reduction and accelerated the transition away from coal, oil and gas. These key issues were taken up across the federal Parliament's upper and lower house crossbenchers, and became the key areas for debate as these MPs and Senators pursued improvements to the government's reforms.



We delivered a series of high profile tactics to turn up the heat, including developing influential policy modelling on the impact of new fossil fuel projects, which Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen was grilled about on ABC's 7:30 program at the height of the debate. We also mobilised our Climate Council community and the broader climate movement to push the government to do more, with a creative campaign shining a spotlight on *The Dirty Dozen* - Australia's biggest industrial polluters.

This integrated advocacy effort helped deliver significant improvements to the Safeguard Mechanism, particularly the

Image: the Climate Council community reacts to our 'I Quit Gas' campaign with influencer Sarah Wilson.

establishment of a hard carbon budget for industrial emissions, and new levels of scrutiny on the use of carbon offsets versus genuine emissions reduction by big emitters. This highlights Climate Council's capacity to use science-based insights to shape real-world policy conversations and drive outcomes that strengthen our climate laws.

Removing the social licence for fossil fuels

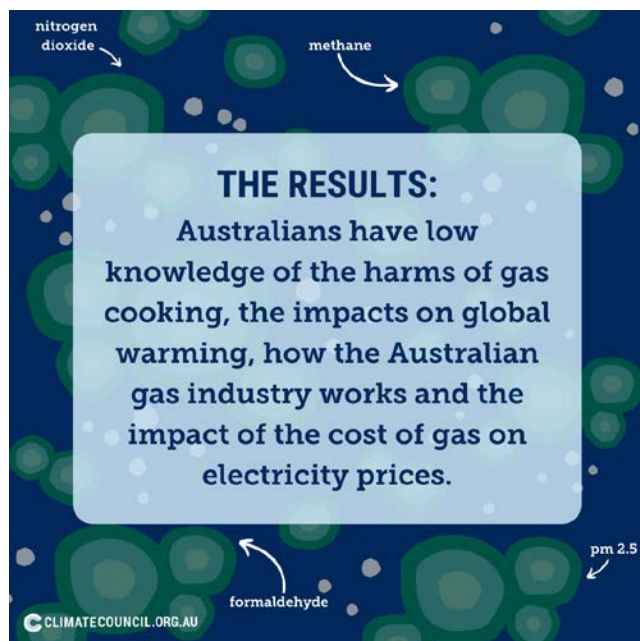
Removing the social licence for coal, oil and gas across the Australian community is an essential step in securing the permanent phase out of these polluting fossil fuels. That's why during the year, Climate Council has paired our policy advocacy with ongoing public awareness campaigning about the harms of fossil fuels and the blatant attempt by fossil fuel corporations to purchase social licence through sponsorship and other forms of greenwashing.

This work has taken a range of forms in 2022-23, including pursuing a complaint to the Australian

Competition and Consumer Commission about the fake net zero claims of fossil fuel corporations; creating and promoting digital resources that set the record straight about their dangerous contribution to climate change; and calling for an end to fossil fuel sponsorship of sports teams, and arts and public events through our *Calling Time: Fossil Fuel Free Sponsorship Code*. We have also helped organisations like Emergency Leaders for Climate Action and groups supported by the Climate Media Centre like Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action to develop more assertive narratives directly linking climate harm to the ongoing burning of fossil fuels.

This will be an ongoing fight as fossil fuel corporations have deep pockets and a huge influence over politics and industry. But with the devastating climate impacts of coal, oil and gas becoming more and more apparent by the day, we are helping turn the tide in public opinion about these harmful products and the need to phase them out for good.

Images: From left to right: Prior to the launch of the 'I Quit Gas' campaign, a Climate Council poll revealed Australians have little to no understanding of the harms associated with gas cooking, nor the impact these gases have on our climate. Sarah Wilson measures pollution levels in her home after cooking with gas. Our 'Fossil Fuel Free Sponsorship Code' provides advice and resources for decision-makers as well as athletes, artists and musicians.



REACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

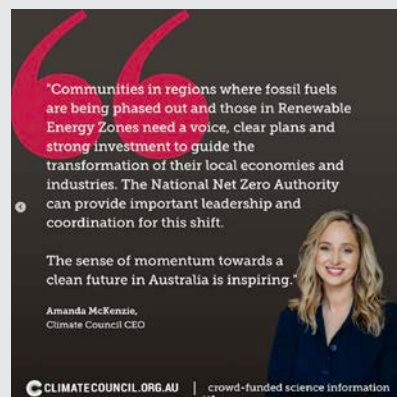
It is hard to predict when breaking climate news will happen, yet the Climate Council strives to be there when it does. As the urgency of the climate crisis increases so, too, is the media focus and number of breaking news events we need to respond to.

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.

We are proud to report that in the past year, the Climate Council dominated Australia's climate and environment organisations when it comes to traditional media and audience reach. With the strength of our leading climate experts, we placed 22,844 media reports across Australia over the past 12 months.

In every quarter, the Climate Council was assessed against seven peers as having the highest audience reach (between 29%-32% share of voice) and media volume (between 40-43% of the share of climate stories).

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



Much of this success is due to our team's professionalism, news sense and reactive nature. As soon as an unexpected event occurs, we're able to rapidly evaluate and respond, making best use of our in-house 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.

On any given day we can be providing comment on Australia's switch to renewables, highlighting the impact of climate-fuelled disasters, explaining geopolitics in the Pacific, checking facts for media, analysing and responding to climate policy announcements in state or federal budgets, countering false information about fossil fuels and rising energy prices, pressuring governments to aim higher and go faster, reacting to new reports on the latest climate science, and so much more.

With the expertise of our growing group of Councillors, our talented research and campaigns staff, one of Australia's longest serving climate CEOs Amanda McKenzie and a huge network of local experts via the Climate Media Centre and Cities Power Partnership, 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 works hard to keep their finger on the pulse and react to key moments with speed, accuracy and just the right amount of humour. Our reactive posts receive the highest levels of engagement of any of our content 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 using helpful messaging and framing.

We are proud to report that in the past year, the Climate Council dominated Australia's climate and environment organisations when it comes to traditional media and audience reach.

Image: Chevron Australia, Woodside Energy, Anglo American, Santos, BHP, Glencore Coal, Inpex, Shell Australia, ConocoPhillips, South32, Esso Australia and Centennial Coal have earned themselves a place on Climate Council's Dirty Dozen list of Australia's filthiest fossil fuel polluters.



GOAL 3: TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE



Permanently transform the parameters of climate action so that a critical mass of political, business, industry and community leaders want to implement positive solutions to the climate crisis during the 2020s, and avoid being associated with the fossil fuel industry.

KEY NARRATIVE SHIFT

Acting on climate change is in Australia's national interest

Traditionally, climate change is treated as a separate issue from Australia's national security. Through a series of reports, the Climate Council has clearly explained how our national security is threatened by climate change and better protected through climate action. For example, our report *A Fight for Survival: Tackling the climate crisis is key to security in the Blue Pacific* was timed for release prior to the Pacific Islands Forum. In addition to leaders in attendance from across the region, this forum was also covered by a large number of Australian journalists who spoke with experts from the Climate Council. Today, climate change is regularly connected to national and energy security issues in the public discourse. It is also embedded within the federal government's security and national policies.

Escalating climate impacts threaten our well-being

We know that the frequency and severity of climate disasters is worsening, and this is having a physical impact on people and places within Australia. But what about our mental health? To develop a deeper understanding of

the mental health impacts of extreme weather, the Climate Council ran a national poll, in partnership with Beyond Blue, as well as a qualitative survey of community members. This led to two major media launches, which kick-started an important national conversation on how communities are being harmed and the further support that they need.

As Beyond Blue's Lead Clinical Advisor Professor Grant Blashki summed up, the climate crisis is: *"not just about physical threats – it is very much about the mental health impacts and also the emotional wellbeing of communities."*



HIGHLIGHTS

- Kickstarting a national conversation about climate trauma, in partnership with Beyond Blue. We published new polling that revealed the extent of the problem, with more than 500 people also sharing their direct experiences. This galvanised advocacy for better mental health services and community support, and resulted in wide-spread media coverage of the issue (1750+ media hits).
- Linking the unnatural disasters we're experiencing to the burning of fossil fuels which is worsening climate change. There was blanket coverage across Queensland of our Great Deluge report, which explained how climate change is influencing extreme rainfall and flood risk. Plus national coverage of our Powder Keg report, which was released in partnership with Emergency Leaders for Climate Action and explained how grassfires follow floods (2250+ media hits in total for both).
- Helping Australian Parents for Climate Action (AP4PC) grow from an idea at a kitchen table in Brisbane, to a national organisation with tens of thousands of members. The Climate Media Centre has provided media and communications advice and support since AP4PC's inception, helping to generate media coverage and train and support their members to speak publicly. A highlight was securing a television live-cross on Channel 9's Today program with a member who spoke about using their e-car to tow a caravan for a summer holiday.
- Three staff embarked on a trip to the United States thanks to support from the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Australia, visiting four cities. During this trip, they conducted interviews with ten city sustainability practitioners and engaged with relevant non-profit organisations such as [Climate Mayors](#), [NRDC](#), [RMI](#), and [NREL](#).

Images: Climate Council staff meet with the California Strategic Growth Council and the Rocky Mountain Institute to discuss embedding equity in climate solutions and research at the forefront of climate data and decarbonising buildings and transport.



FEDERAL POLITICS

Following the election of the Albanese Government in May 2022, the Climate Council has significantly re-oriented our strategy to pursue federal policy reform. Whilst we continue to work across state and local government, there is an important window of opportunity to drive change with a federal government that is more open to action on climate change than its recent predecessors.

Working across Australia's most progressive Parliament ever, we have been a catalyst and source of ideas for all political parties and Members of Parliament (MPs). In particular, we've developed strong and positive working relationships with the crossbench independent members who were elected on a platform of strong climate action. We have also been an honest voice to the Albanese Government - acknowledging and celebrating positive progress while continuing to loudly advocate for stronger and faster action that aligns with what the science tells us is needed now.

We have been a leading voice in the year's big federal policy debates around important climate issues, like regulating emissions from Australia's biggest industrial polluters; rapidly scaling up the availability and affordability of electric vehicles; channelling new investment into renewable energy storage and green industry; and the federal government's ongoing and irresponsible approvals of fossil fuel projects. In these conversations, we've brought to bear the combined weight of our communications expertise and deep policy knowledge to help generate community appetite for strong and genuine solutions, then converted this into positive policy outcomes through direct advocacy and engagement with the decision-makers who count.

Across the federal political, policy and media community, there is now a clear consensus that climate change is happening, and that this represents both a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of Australians and a once-in-a-generation economic opportunity for our nation. Climate Council has contributed to driving this shift

for just under a decade of focused effort to build the drumbeat for action, and we are now seeing politicians, media and other policy leaders regularly using frames, language and arguments we have helped to build and widely socialise.

This has been a welcome change of atmosphere, but there is no room for complacency. There continues to be an undercurrent of conservative political and media voices pushing false solutions like nuclear power, positioning gas as a 'transition fuel' and scaremongering about the economic or community impacts of strong climate action. Throughout the year, we have sought to counter and neutralise the reach of these voices. We have done this particularly through the development of high quality information resources in a range of engaging formats, and by being very active in the public conversation with a wide range of trusted and authoritative messengers - from our expert Councillors and Climate Council staff, to workers in the regions, farmers and vets, families who have made the switch to renewable energy or clean transport, and more (via the Climate Media Centre). We have also significantly boosted time and capacity spent directly engaging with federal Parliamentarians from all political parties, to make sure they are well informed and armed with the right information to counter false solutions or misinformation.

This approach has seen Climate Council firmly establish itself as a trusted arbiter on federal climate policy for MPs, media and the community in this new political environment; and as a source of quality science-based evidence and policy inputs to help drive action forward. This focused work through the first year of the new federal government has laid strong foundations for us to accelerate advocacy for expanded, stronger climate action throughout this term and into the next federal election campaign.

CATALYST

Our Catalyst program is all about transforming the landscape for decision-makers so they can deliver the speed and scale of climate action required. We need to keep climate change at the top of the political agenda, and make it clear that our community wants greater action delivered more swiftly.

Climate change is deeply felt, and personal

While the physical harm from climate impacts are well understood, the affects on our mental health and well-being are not. The Climate Council carried out a national poll, in partnership with Beyond Blue, in order to better understand the mental health impacts of compounding and escalating climate disasters. We also put a community call out for people to fill in a survey and share their personal experiences. We were blown away by the response, with more than 500 people taking part.

Our national poll of 2,000 Australians revealed:

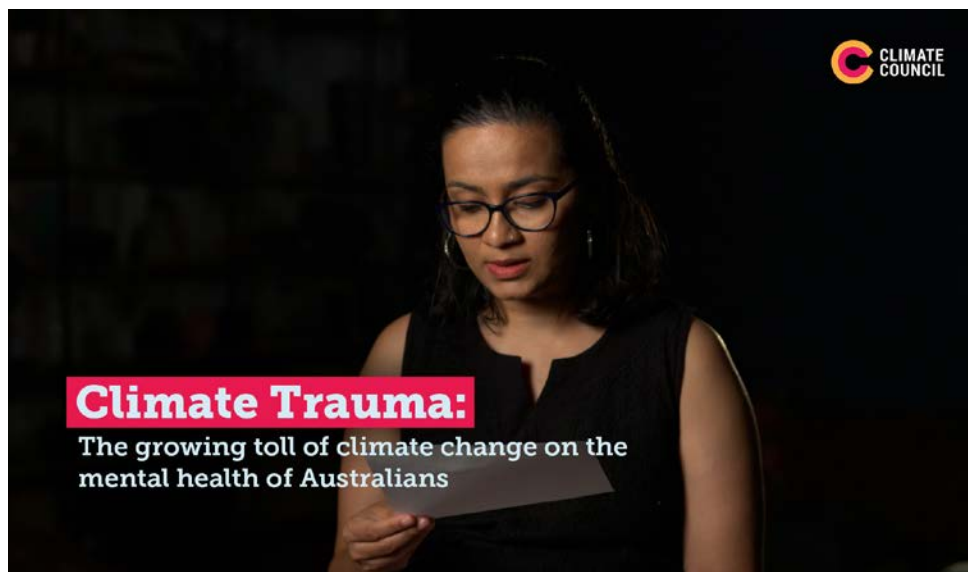
- Most people (80%) had directly experienced some form of disaster at least once since 2019, with people living in rural/regional areas more likely to have done so.

- Around half (51%) of those who had experienced climate-fuelled disasters since 2019 said their mental health had been somewhat impacted, with one in five describing a “major or moderate impact.”
- One in two (51%) of those surveyed were worried about climate change and extreme weather events in Australia.
- One in five people (21%) reported having no house insurance. Among those with insurance, nearly two-thirds (64%) reported that their premiums had increased in the past two years.

Many experts and health bodies, such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Psychological Society, are advocating for more mental health support off the back of our research and report.

The stories that our community shared delved into the most common types of impacts that people experienced. We thank everyone who took the time to share their stories, shape the conversation and define the further support that’s desperately needed. Mental health resources that are available are listed on our website.

Image: Over 500 Australians shared their personal experiences of escalating climate disasters and the impacts on their mental health.



Reframing what's in Australia's national interests

Our international work is aimed at reframing Australia's economic interests in a world moving to net zero, and linking climate action with Australia's foreign policy and security priorities.

Ahead of the July 2022 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) where leaders met in Suva, we released a new report: *A Fight for Survival: Tackling the climate crisis is key to security in the Blue Pacific*. This explained that deep emissions cuts this decade is key to Australia's relations with island nations, and included a foreword authored by eight members of the Pacific Elders Voice, including four former presidents or Prime Ministers. Climate Council staff members travelled to Fiji for the forum, where they coordinated a press conference with Pacific church groups and civil society groups, and secured extensive media coverage with 100+ media hits secured each day of the event (and 1180 media hits in total).

We also collaborated with the PerthUSAsia Centre for a report on *Re-energising the Indo-Pacific: Australia's Clean Energy Opportunity*. Released ahead of a national energy forum in Sydney, this report considered Australia's economic opportunities as the clean energy transformation gathers pace in the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia re-joins the climate worldstage

Climate Council has helped build on a wave of climate momentum across the globe. A change in the Federal Government came with a change in approach to climate international policy and our position.

Climate Council staff and Councillor Nicki Hutley attended the 27th Conference of the Parties event in Egypt to draw attention to the role that Australia can be playing on the world stage - as a renewable superpower versus being a fossil fuel heavyweight. More than 1700 members of our community sent messages urging the Federal Government to do more, which were hand-delivered by our staff directly to Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen at the event.

Highlighting how quickly the world is decarbonising, and what Australia stands to gain by acting more quickly, is key to helping build on the wave of momentum for greater climate action.

Image: During the 2022 Pacific Islands Forum, Climate Council called on the Australian government to show Pacific countries that they're serious about climate action.



From flooding rains, to grassfires

We continued to create a drumbeat of coverage that drives home the urgency of the climate crisis through the lens of extreme weather.

Our two largest interventions were:

1. Our November report: *The Great Deluge: Australia's new era of unnatural disasters*. This explained that climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, was a major factor in the major floods of 2022 that devastated communities across New South Wales and Queensland.
2. Our February report: *Powder Keg: Australia primed to burn*. This highlighted how, when very wet periods in Australia are inevitably followed by hotter and drier conditions, increased vegetation combined with worsening climate change raises the risk of grassfires.

Both reports underscored the risks that climate change poses for Australians, and backs in calls for scaled up and swifter climate action. They were each launched in partnership with Climate Council project Emergency Leaders for Climate Action, and combined, they attracted more than 2250+ media hits including national radio, commercial television and headlines in many of our major newspapers across the country.

As a result, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was put on the spot at a press conference - being asked whether or not she would commit to more aggressive emissions cuts. She said she was open to the possibility. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen also took note of the report, echoing the report's title in his speech, accompanying the first ever Climate Change Statement to the Australian Parliament, saying:

"Our beautiful land has always been subject to devastating natural disasters, but those disasters are becoming ... increasingly unnatural."

Many of the media items directly linked climate impacts to the solutions that governments are considering. We plan to continue to reinforce the need for greater action.

Images: 'Powder Keg: Australia primed to burn' report. 'The Great Deluge: Australia's new era of unnatural disasters' report.



CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Upskilling and empowering senior decision makers within councils

During this year, the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) focused on enhancing the skills and engagement of council-elected representatives, who play a critical role in accelerating climate action within councils.

For the third consecutive year, CPP participated at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) General Assembly in Canberra, which is an important opportunity for the team to strengthen relationships with current and prospective council members. During ALGA, CPP organised a Climate Leaders breakfast, which 43 councillors and executives attended from around the country. This event featured an interactive workshop, where council representatives explored key barriers and opportunities regarding climate action in their communities. Insights from this highly informative discussion will guide the program design of the upcoming CPP Climate Summit for Local Government.

Strengthening strategic alliances

Partnerships with strategic organisations such as ALGA continue to strengthen. Over this period, CPP made meaningful contributions to various policy initiatives, including a comprehensive policy overview of the Commonwealth Renewable Target, along with its associated implications and recommendations for local governments. The team also provided policy advice and 18 local government case studies to support ALGA's contribution to the National Communication on Climate Change (NatComm), which is a document submitted to the United Nations that outlines Australia's position and obligations under its framework convention on climate change. All 18 case studies provided by the CPP were featured verbatim in the NatComm8, published in January 2023. The CPP has also engaged in consultations with the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water, regarding the new \$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund, to ensure it is designed to be accessible by all councils. This fund will help councils across the country implement critical energy efficiency upgrades to council-owned facilities including aquatic centres, street lights and recreational facilities.

Images: Cities Power Partnership staff and Mayors, CEOs and Elected Officials attending the CPP Climate Leaders Breakfast at the ALGA General Assembly.



Accelerating action in strategic regions

The CPP strengthened its relationship in strategic regions, including Western Australia and the Hunter Valley in NSW. In collaboration with the Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA), the CPP delivered two local government climate solutions roundtables in that state. These events engaged 19 regional councils at the Busselton event, and 24 metropolitan councils at the Perth event. The Perth event included an exclusive CEO breakfast attended by 20 council CEOs and elected officials. This was the first time CPP engaged a CEO audience in person, so the level of attendance and engagement was particularly impressive. Both events centred on the theme of regional collaboration and the exchange of climate solutions. In total, 84 individuals attended these events, and a Channel 7 Busselton TV news segment featured the regional WA event.

In NSW, the CPP solidified an official partnership with the Hunter Joint Organisation (HJO), which has chosen five pledges to advance emissions reduction in their region. This partnership - the first regional partnership model of its kind - builds on our existing collaboration with HJO, and is critical to accelerating council-led climate action within the Hunter region.

Image: CPP delivered two local government climate solutions roundtables in collaboration with the Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA).



Shifting the dial on council vehicle fleets

While electric vehicle fleets are a key topic of interest for councils, most do not have the skills and knowledge to effectively electrify their fleets. To address this need, the CPP set up a 12-month EV fleet project for councils that aims to equip council officers, fleet managers, and elected officials with the necessary skills to procure EV fleets. In March 2023, CPP made history with a joint statement featuring 120 mayors and councillors from across the country advocating for strong national fuel efficiency standards. This joint statement garnered extensive media coverage, over 700 media hits across broadcast, online and print outlets - making it the most successful joint statement to date.



CLIMATE MEDIA CENTRE

Established in an era of climate change denial, the Climate Media Centre (CMC) was founded to platform the many voices and stories of the impacts of climate change, as well as solutions.

While the political and narrative landscape have changed considerably since 2015, the Climate Media Centre's mission remains critical. We continue to empower and inspire trusted voices to drive more ambitious climate action, and over the past 12 months, we did this in myriad ways.



Image top: CMC spokesperson Dr Dean Miller fronting national media to explain how we can save the Great Barrier Reef.

Image bottom: CMC staff run media training in Newcastle.

Media training

Training and empowering trusted voices in our communities has been the cornerstone of the Climate Media Centre's success in changing the narrative around climate change in the media.

This year, we trained more than 150 new spokespeople to add to our ever-growing force of climate narrative warriors. Whether it's farmers talking about the impacts to their way of life and our food security, or doctors talking about the health implications of climate change, the CMC continues to platform the stories of the people living its effects in real time. Training took place across the country in metro and regional centres, in person and online.

The CMC is committed to diversifying our trained spokespeople. This year, women and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds made up more than half of those trained.

"I found this course very helpful - practical and engaging. It afforded the opportunity to challenge myself and build my communication method. It was also a friendly, supportive and collaborative process. Overall this course was very empowering."

Sydney in-person media training attendee,
May 2023

As part of our mission to elevate the voices of those most affected by climate change, the CMC scoped a new project to replicate our services to the peoples of the Pacific with a view to a more permanent presence ahead of the potential for COP31 to be hosted jointly by Australia and the Pacific.

Media highlights

In 2023, the CMC spokespeople reached millions of Australians in 15,000 media items (the equivalent to annual coverage for a large not-for-profit), describing the urgent need for action on climate change from various points of view including that of farmers, doctors, parents, energy finance experts and bushfire survivors, to name a few.

A different lens on climate harms

The CMC pitched and funded a trip by noted photojournalist Andrew Quilty to visit with a number of communities around the country to help visualise their stories of climate impact.

The essay series will be published in the next financial year in several editions of *The Weekend Australian Magazine* and will tell the stories of survivors of the floods in the NSW Northern Rivers, First Nations communities in Tennant Creek living in extreme heat without access to electricity, and in Cairns, Far North Queensland, where Quilty met Indigenous rangers who are rehabilitating mangroves, while also assisting researchers who are studying the capacity of mangroves to capture and store carbon.

Action on climate change is action on the cost of living

Cost of living remains the number one concern for Australians, so finding ways to keep elevating our issue as well as outlining the financial costs of climate inaction / financial benefits of climate action remains a key narrative priority. Collaborating with the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) and Solar Citizens, the CMC convened the Power Together coalition to produce a report demonstrating the benefits that renewable energy can bring to all Australians, particularly those struggling to pay ever increasing electricity prices.

The report and ongoing media engagement by the CMC secured more than 1000 pieces of media coverage, with polling commissioned by the CMC in August showing that the majority of Queenslanders are positive about the role renewable energy can play in helping build the state's economy and energy independence, as well as its benefits for our environment.



Image: CMC spokesperson Iain Field on his goat farm in Tasmania earlier this year.

Going to extremes

Floods lashed large areas of Eastern Australia this past year and in the northern hemisphere extreme weather has never been far from the headlines. The CMC has worked to create a drumbeat of coverage (from the BBC to the ABC) by creating opportunities proactively as well as responding to the extraordinary extreme weather events sweeping across the world. Crucially, we have focused on linking these more frequent and intense extreme weather events in the media to the continued burning of fossil fuels.

Climate Council Community

OUR SUPPORTERS

Founding Friends, Champions and Members

We would like to thank our incredible community of supporters who power our work with their generosity.

- › Ahead of celebrating our 10th Anniversary in 2023-24, we would like to make a special acknowledgement of **14,000 Founding Friends** who responded to our call to arms when the Climate Commission was scrapped in 2013.
- › Since 2013, we have been supported by **290,000 people across the nation** demanding stronger action on climate.
- › In the past year, more than **210 people committed to donating \$1,000 or more each year**. Without our Champions, the Climate Council's strategic interventions would lack scale and ambition.
- › More than **5,700 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

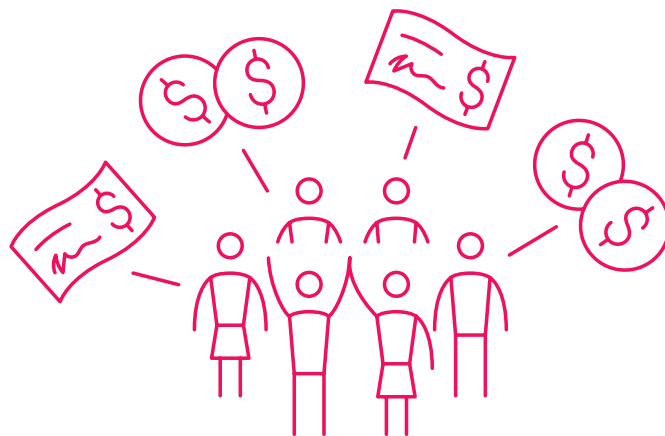
A gift in your Will to the Climate Council enables your support of climate action to live on for many years to come, and can create a better future for the people, places and communities you care about. We would like to acknowledge and thank our supporters who have already joined our Legacy Circle, creating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

Corporate Supporters

The Climate Council thanks the number of corporate supporters who share our vision for urgent climate action and accelerated move to a clean energy future. In particular, we would like to thank our partners who have powered some high impact interventions this financial year:

- › 99 Bikes
- › Ben & Jerry's
- › BMG Rights Management
- › Clay Matters Exhibition
- › Curated with Conscience
- › Fusion Digital
- › Gearon Civil
- › Greenstone Drinks
- › Insurance GC Brokers
- › Pangolin & Assoc
- › Pedal Group
- › Pottery for the Planet
- › PSC Consulting
- › Quiip
- › Synyati Enterprise Systems
- › TikTok
- › WYN Republic

We look forward to seeing what we can keep achieving together.



Major Donors, Philanthropy and Grants

Climate Council has always been empowered by the generosity of philanthropy. Since the founding of the Climate Council in 2013, philanthropists, trusts and foundations have provided generous support, powering our core work as well as strategic projects. Climate Council is fiercely independent, and values the support of the philanthropic community.

Thank you to our Major Donors for your support over the past financial year. Your contributions powered our incredible work, and for that we are truly thankful. The following generous supporters, trusts and foundations, have contributed at least \$10,000.

- › ACME Foundation
- › Andy & Jill Griffiths
- › Anna Josephson Foundation
- › Anonymous x 12
- › Australian Communities Foundation
- › Australian Geographic Society
- › Barbara Semler
- › Beverley Jackson Foundation
- › Boundless Earth
- › Carolyn Loton & Stephen Moir
- › Clem Davis
- › Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- › Diversicon Environmental Foundation
- › Eastern Water Dragon Endowment
- › Ethinvest Foundation
- › European Climate Foundation
- › Gerry Hueston
- › Gordon Smyth
- › Graeme Wood Foundation
- › Groundswell
- › Grow Corp Foundation
- › Herschell family
- › Ian Landon-Smith
- › Jocelyn Luck
- › Kate & Paul Saunders
- › Keo Charitable Foundation
- › Koshland Innovation Fund
- › Krups family
- › Manivannan Gopalakrishnan & Roy Bishop
- › Mathew & Monica Whittingham
- › Michael Pain & Lisa Giles
- › Michael Williams
- › Morris Family Foundation
- › Muldoon family
- › PACE Foundation
- › Peter Hayes
- › PK Gold Family Foundation
- › POD Foundation
- › Robert Hicks Foundation, Equity Trustees
- › Rod & Cheree Hamilton
- › Tenet Resourcing
- › The Aethra Project
- › The Leo & Mina Fink Fund
- › The Sunrise Project
- › Therese Cochrane
- › Trawalla Foundation
- › Trusay Pty Ltd
- › U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Australia
- › Vere Initiatives
- › Vibrant Oceans Initiative, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies
- › Vicki Olsson
- › Vincent Chiodo Charitable Foundation
- › Vine Foundation
- › Woods5 Foundation

For information on how you can become part of this incredible community, with donations of over \$10,000, please contact our Director of Philanthropy, at micah.demmert@climatecouncil.org.au



COMMUNITY ACTION

Time and time again, the Climate Council community backs our campaigns, reinforces our messages and demonstrates to decision-makers that our calls-to-action have strong public support. This year, our community has amplified our reach through a lens of international action, holding global decision-makers and big polluters to account.

Postcards to Egypt

Almost 2,000 people joined our call for urgent action at the Annual UN Climate Conference, COP27, by sending a postcard to Egypt. Messages from the community were printed into a booklet that was hand delivered to Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen at COP27.

Community Action Figures



2,000

people sent postcards to COP27 in Egypt, which was hand delivered to Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen.



3,000

emails sent to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries calling for stronger fuel efficiency standards.



2,700

emails sent from the Climate Council community to Australia's biggest corporate polluters.



8,000

people signed our petition addressed to Federal Minister for Resources Madeleine King to crack down on big polluters.

Stop blocking the road

The Climate Council community sent more than 3,000 emails to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries and its leading members Toyota, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Volkswagen, Honda, Hyundai, Nissan and Volvo, to call for strong fuel efficiency standards. This was part of the Climate Council's clean transport campaign for lower fuel bills, better access to cleaner, cheaper electric vehicles, and less pollution.

Cracking down on big polluters

As discussions about the Safeguard Mechanism heated up, the Climate Council community got behind our campaign targeting big polluters by directly emailing Australia's biggest corporate polluters and signing our petition calling on the Federal Resources Minister to strengthen the Safeguard Mechanism. The community sent more than 2,700 emails to Australia's biggest corporate polluters, while another 8,000 people signed our petition addressed to Federal Minister for Resources, Madeleine King.

Image: This is one of 2,000 postcard messages addressed to the Australian Government and delivered to Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen at COP27 in Egypt.

"You must commit to stop burning fossil fuels and help other countries to do so too. The planet we rely upon for life is dying."





FUNDRAISING TREKS

In March 2023, a small group of intrepid travellers embarked on a week-long trek of the Southern Alps, through spectacular Aotearoa - New Zealand (NZ), all in aid of raising critical funds for Climate Council.

Together with Climate Councillor and Board Member, Professor Lesley Hughes, trip participants traversed awe-inspiring landscapes, hiking up steep mountains and through valleys, from Aoraki/Mt Cook to the Rob Roy Glacier.

During the trek, Lesley, our trip participants and guides spoke about what motivates them to take action, the work of the Climate Council, and developed lasting relationships. The group was also able to see climate impacts on the landscape, witnessing first-hand impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfire ash on NZ's glaciers.

In July 2022, we launched our Larapinta Trek, with Climate Councillor Greg Mullins AO AFSM attending as host. Sixteen supporters participated in the trip, hiking through spectacular Northern Territory landscapes.



Our participants hosted everything from bake sales to musical events to help propel Australia towards bold, effective climate action this decade – and collectively, the Southern Alps Trek and Larapinta Trek raised more than \$60,000.

These trips are an invaluable opportunity to immerse people in the purpose fuelling our work, help build a sense of connection with the cause and like-minded people, as well as the organisation.



**RAISING
\$60,000+**



2022 - 2023

Finances



Climate Council remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold rigorous financial governance and donor management systems. Oversight is assured by the Finance and Risk Subcommittee of the Climate Council Board. This year, we welcomed a new Treasurer, Leigh Petschel. Backed by a dedicated team of senior members, Leigh has been instrumental in reinforcing our financial and compliance controls. Monthly reviews have been pivotal in enforcing prudent budgetary and cash management processes, harmonising with our overarching objective: ensuring the financial sustainability of the Climate Council so that we can continue to maximise our impact.

The fiscal data presented in this report are sourced from the Annual Financial Report, audited by Thomas Davis & Co, Chartered Accountants. We confirm that the auditor once again provided an unqualified audit report. Our financial statements adhere to the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the AASB and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012. In line with the ACNC's requirements, we disclose our company and financial information annually, including publishing our Annual Report and Financial Statements on the ACNC website. We also meet the reporting mandates set by the Register of Environmental Organisations and state fundraising licence regulators.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income

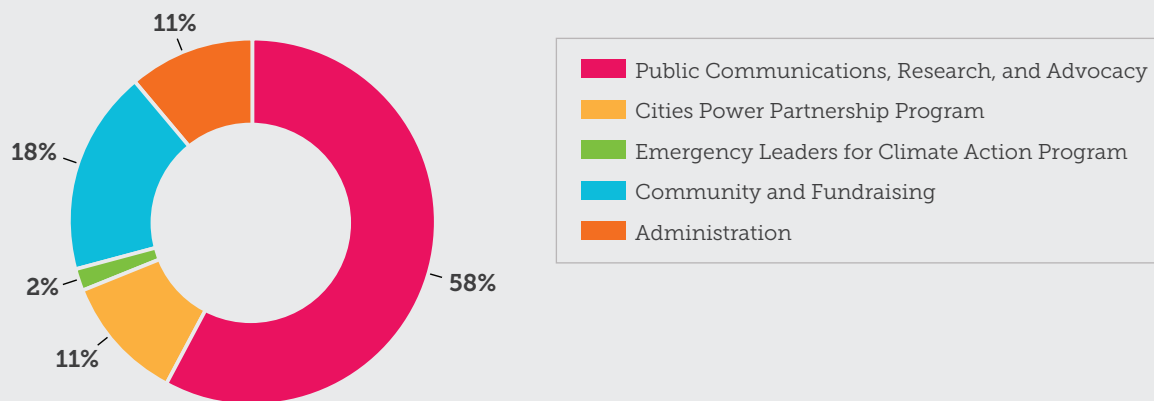
For the financial year 2022-23, the Climate Council received revenue of \$7,881,784, representing a decrease of approximately 4.95% from the 2021-22 financial year. We are grateful to the donors, partners and members of our community who continued to support the Climate Council during a challenging economic period when many across Australia have faced high cost of living pressures.

Expenditure

During the 2022-23 financial year the Climate Council had expenditure of \$8,191,262, marking a rise of 22.27% from the previous year. This increase primarily reflects the global trend of inflating operational and service costs. The Climate Council, like many entities in Australia and worldwide, has experienced higher costs of doing business due to a general uptick in prices. Where possible, we have also sought to address cost of living pressures for our staff through salary adjustments. These combined inflationary pressures have required additional expenditure to ensure consistent operational standards, continued accuracy and reliability, and the ongoing positive progress of our projects.

During the year Climate Council's expenditure was directed as follows:

- › **Public Communications, Research, and Advocacy (58%)** - This covers our communications, advocacy, research, and policy work. Our commitment to informing the public through traditional, digital and social media platforms remains unwavering. In this financial year we have also expanded Climate Council's direct advocacy and policy engagement with governments and departmental decision-makers.
- › **Cities Power Partnership Program (11%)** - This initiative aids local governments, providing them with the tools, resources, knowledge and networks to take impactful action on climate change.
- › **Emergency Leaders for Climate Action Program (2%)** - This initiative enables us to drive a strong drumbeat in the media, communities and directly with stakeholders about the urgency of climate action to protect communities from extreme weather, floods and fires.
- › **Community and Fundraising (18%)** - This team engages with Climate Council's active community of supporters and donors, including keeping them informed of our activities and mobilising them to support more and stronger climate action.
- › **Administration (11%)** - This encompasses the operational costs associated with the Climate Council's smooth and compliant operations.



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



PRO BONO GOODS AND SERVICES

There are many ways to support the Climate Council to make an impact. This year we have received pro bono (or discounted cost) goods and services for legal services, recruiters, as well as not for profit charity discounts for IT services and hardware.

Volunteers

During the 2022-23 year, volunteers made significant contributions to the Climate Council in various capacities:

- › Digital communications volunteers were instrumental in generating content for our social media platforms, drafting web articles, providing support during media launches, and helping with the monitoring and moderation of social media activities.
- › Volunteers with the Cities Power Partnership provided support for events and in media and communications.
- › In community and fundraising, our team of volunteers provided support with answering emails, phone calls and providing administration assistance.

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

Carol Schwartz AO
Director and Chair



Carol is highly regarded as a public commentator and agitator on issues of gender equality, women's leadership, governance and business.

Carol has been recognised for her leadership via a range of honours including her 2019 appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia, an Honorary Doctorate from Monash University and Queensland University of Technology, induction into the Australia Property Hall of Fame, and a Centenary Medal. Carol was also named one of Australia's most influential women in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac's Inaugural 100 Women of Influence Awards and inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll. In November 2020 Carol was recognised with the nation's highest philanthropic honour, the 'Leading Philanthropist' Award by Philanthropy Australia.

Carol has chaired and participated in numerous listed and private company boards, and has also chaired major government boards and conducted significant inquiries on behalf of government. Carol's current board roles include the Reserve Bank of Australia, EQT Holdings Limited, the Climate Council and Trawalla Group.

Leigh Petschel
Director and Treasurer



During this financial year, Leigh Petschel acted as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President at Monash University where he oversaw the financial management, business strategy, funding and investments of the domestic and international operations of the University.

Mr Petschel'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.

Leigh will commence a new position as Chief Financial Officer at Port of Melbourne in the next financial year.

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 and Foundation and an alternate Director of New Course Energy. 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 Corbell is Chief Adviser at the renewable energy advisory and accelerator firm Energy Estate and the independent chairperson of the Clean Energy Investor Group, representing institutional investors

with wind and solar assets worth \$9 billion across the national electricity market.

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. His advocacy for a strong climate change policy for Canberra saw the ACT achieve national and international recognition as a best-practice jurisdiction, achieving 100% renewable energy by 2020 and with a target of net zero emissions by 2050. Simon is widely recognised as a leader in the areas of renewable energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, urban sustainability and public transport. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra and an Honorary Associate Professor at the Australian National University.

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). He has published more than 27 books including *'The Future Eaters'* (1994), *'The Weather Makers'* (2005) and *'The Climate Cure'* (2020).

Natalie Walker

Director



Natalie Walker is a Kuku Yalanji woman from the Daintree Rainforest who lives and works on Gadigal land in Sydney. Professionally, Natalie has more than 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 this, Natalie held various roles including inaugural CEO of Supply Nation, CEO of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and as a 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 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. In 2022, she was appointed as a member of the Climate Change Authority.

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 for governments in Australia and overseas, 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. Hilary advocates for the rapid and well-planned energy transition away from fossil fuels to protect health, now and in the future.

Greg Bourne
Councillor



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

With BP he lived and worked in the UK, Middle East, USA, Canada, Ireland, Brazil, China, Venezuela and Australia. For two years he was Special Adviser on Energy and Transport to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He returned to Australia in 1999 as Regional President, BP Australasia and worked with business and governments on the Climate Change agenda.

Greg was CEO at 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.

Professor Will Steffen
Legacy Councillor (1947 - 2023)



(June 1947 - January 2023)

Professor Will Steffen was a brilliant scientist, a gifted communicator, and a kind man.

Professor Will Steffen made an indelible contribution to ensuring that the world understands the severity of the climate crisis and our capacity to tackle it. The groundbreaking scientific contributions he made will continue to shape our understanding of the climate crisis for many years to come. His innate ability to translate complexity for a general audience will continue to be the benchmark for effective science communications. His work in public policy will continue to ripple through Canberra and Australia.

Will was a climate change expert and the Executive Director of the Australian National University Climate Change Institute. He was on the panel of experts supporting the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee, had served as the Science Adviser to the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and was chair of the Antarctic Science Advisory Committee.

From 1998 to 2004, Professor Steffen served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change. Will Steffen was active on the climate change science-policy interface for three decades and played a leading role in the development of Earth System science internationally.

He was 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.

His dedication, courage, passion, guidance and conviction stay with us as we continue his work. Will lives on in all of us as we use his science and his words to continue making the case for more urgent climate action to safeguard all that is precious to us.

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 worked as a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and then at the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) in Cambridge. The SDU is a world-leading unit tasked with reducing the carbon footprint of England's National Health Service. Kate has also completed a PhD in low-carbon healthcare, and has 15 peer-reviewed papers. Kate now works in the NSW public health system as a medical specialist in environmentally sustainable healthcare – 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.

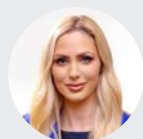
Between 2018 and 2021, Joëlle served as a lead author on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report – a global, state-of-the-art review of climate change science.

As a media 'go to' climate change spokesperson, 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' (2018) and 'Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope' (2022).

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 coordinated responses to many major

natural disasters over more than two decades and 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. ELCA repeatedly tried to warn the Morrison Government early in 2019 of an approaching bushfire catastrophe, but was ignored.

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. 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. Nicki is particularly interested in the intersection of economy, society and environment.

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

After many years in the corporate world, including most recently as a senior partner with Deloitte Access Economics, Nicki is now an independent economist, a consultant to Social Outcomes, and an expert faculty member (economics) at SingularityU Australia.

Nicki is also a longstanding council member of the Economics Society of Australia (NSW), and a Board member for One Million Women and the Financy Women's Index.

Nicki is a frequent commentator in the media and is a regular guest on both ABC's The Drum and Channel 10's The Project.

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.

OUR EMPLOYEES

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated employees of the Climate Council, whose unwavering commitment and passion have been instrumental in driving our mission forward this year.

Alexandra Lederer	Chrissy Grubbs
Alexandra Soderlund	Christopher White
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Brigitte Johnson	Dylan Quinnell
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AUTHORS, CONTRIBUTORS & REVIEWERS

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Re-energising the Indo-Pacific: Australia's clean energy opportunity

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Power Up: Ten climate gamechangers

Thank you to Martijn Wilder, Andrew Stock, Madeline Taylor and Nicki Hutley for their inputs and technical guidance.

Australia's Clean Engine Room: Central Queensland's industrial future

The Climate Council is grateful to the following interviewees for sharing their time and insights: Dr Amanda Cahill, CEO - The Next Economy; Kahn Goodluck, Deputy Mayor - Gladstone Regional Council; Leanne Martin, Acting Principal - Gladstone State High School; Ethan Frost and Katie Windsor, Grade 12 students - Gladstone State High School; Carol Holden and Hugh Bridge - Gladstone community members; Rob Williamson, COO - Alpha HPA; Cameron Smith, Head of Manufacturing - Fortescue Future Industries; and Kellie Charlesworth, Energy Transition Leader - Arup.

Are we there yet? Clean transport scorecard for Australian states and territories

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The Great Deluge: Australia's new era of unnatural disasters

We are grateful to the Larkin family in the Scenic Rim, Queensland for the courage and generosity to share their lived experience of the destructive impacts of accelerating climate change on Australians, our communities and businesses.

Powder Keg: Australia primed to burn

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Climate Trauma: The growing toll of climate change on the mental health of Australians

Thank you to the nearly 500 Australians who bravely shared their experiences of extreme weather disasters. We are also grateful to Beyond Blue for their generous support of this project.

Australia's Clean Industry Future: Making things here in a net zero world

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Ute Beauty! The case for lower and zero emissions utes in Australia

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Climate Allies: Australia, the United States and the global energy shift

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Shifting Gear: The path to cleaner transport

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Offsetting

To tackle harmful climate change, our core priority is to deeply cut emissions this decade. That means we must rapidly phase out the burning of fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas, and switch to alternative zero emission fuels and inputs.



Offsetting involves buying a “credit” from an activity that reduces pollution in order to justify a polluting activity. While this sounds like a fair balance, offsets never effectively account for the harmful greenhouse gases created by burning fossil fuels. It’s why they should only be used to deal with a small share of emissions from operations that cannot be avoided or reduced. In the limited circumstances where offsets are used, they should be high quality.

Where possible, the Climate Council uses digital platforms to engage with our community. This includes using online meeting platforms, and event tools for both internal and external activities. When in-person attendance is required we lean first on staff and Councillors living locally to projects, events and speaking opportunities to reduce travel requirements. When travel via commercial flights was necessary for some crucial elements of our strategy we engaged Greenfleet to offset 154.20 tonnes tonnes of carbon emissions produced from 565,502.56KMs kilometres of travel during the 2022-23 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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