

**CLIMATE CROSSROADS:
PROGRESS, POLITICS AND
A PIVOTAL ELECTION**

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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 land, sea and sky. We acknowledge the ongoing leadership of First Nations people here and worldwide in protecting Country, and securing a safe and liveable climate for us all.


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Key findings

1 We analysed the climate record and election policies of Australia's major parties, and found that the Albanese Labor Government has delivered clear progress, and the Liberal-National Coalition ranks the worst on climate change.

- › The Albanese Labor Government made clear progress on renewable energy, clean transport and climate targets in this term of Parliament, and have credible policies to deliver in the next. However, Labor's approval of 26 coal, oil and gas developments undermined their record, and they have no clear plans to phase out future fossil fuel development. *Rating: Right Direction.*
- › The Liberal-National Coalition voted against every law to cut climate pollution in the past three years and their policies would increase climate pollution by at least 6.3 billion tonnes. *Rating: Harmful.*
- › The Australian Greens have the strongest climate policies of all parties. *Rating: Strong.*
- › Independents made valuable contributions to strengthening climate action during the past three years, and their influence is only expected to grow in the likely event that no party is able to form a majority government after the next federal election.

2 The last Parliament performed a major u-turn on climate, with significant progress made. The next Parliament could get us on track this decade.

- › At the last election in 2022, Australia was a global climate pariah, following nine years of inaction under successive Liberal-National Governments. Renewable power investment had stalled, climate science had been cut, and Australia had no credible policies to reduce climate pollution.
- › Three years later and Australia is nearly halfway to powering our nation with renewable power, and commands significant international respect.
- › Australians are already paying dearly for the failure of former governments, here and around the world, to slash climate pollution. The severity of events we face into the future rests entirely on how quickly and deeply the world cuts pollution from coal, oil and gas.
- › The next term of Parliament will be crucial to protect our kids' future. Crucial to slashing climate pollution, building a 21st century energy system and building the clean industries that can power jobs and communities for decades to come.

3 The Albanese Labor Government made significant progress cutting climate pollution and ramping up renewables, but failed to curb fossil fuel expansion. Key milestones included:

- › Cutting Australia's expected 2030 climate pollution by 39 million tonnes, and strengthening our target to a 43% cut this decade (up from 26-28% under the previous government).
 - › Adopting a renewable energy target of 82% this decade, and unlocking \$87 billion of public and private investment in renewable power, storage and transmission.
 - › Creating vehicle standards to ensure new cars use less petrol and release less pollution, and investing \$100 million in active transport infrastructure, like safer bike lanes.
 - › Setting stricter limits on Australia's biggest industrial polluters via reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism.
 - › During this term, Labor approved 26 new coal, oil and gas developments and broke a key election promise to fix Australia's environment laws, instead weakening them. Labor has no clear plan to limit fossil fuel development, which substantially undermines their policies to cut climate pollution.
- › If elected, the Labor party has promised to:
 - Continue efforts to cut climate pollution by 43% on 2005 levels this decade, and legislate a 2035 target.
 - Double Australia's renewable power backed by storage to 82% this decade and has announced clear policies and investments to achieve this.
 - Continue delivering the New Vehicle Efficiency Scheme, giving Australians access to cleaner and cheaper-to-run new cars.
 - Reform our national environment laws and deliver a federal environment protection agency, which it failed to deliver this term.
 - › While encouraging, the Labor Government's progress does not go far enough or fast enough to do our fair share in limiting global heating to well under 2 degrees and protect Australians from the worst impacts of climate change.

4 Crossbenchers, including the Australian Greens and community independents, pushed the Labor Government to deliver stronger climate reforms.

- › Independents successfully secured key amendments to strengthen the Climate Change Bill 2022 and advocated for greater household electrification support.
- › Crossbenchers also attempted to progress other reforms – to ensure our targets are science-aligned, prevent new coal and gas projects, and better regulate big polluters – which were ultimately blocked.
- › The Australian Greens supported every single climate action bill and secured a number of important amendments, including placing a hard cap on climate pollution from big polluters, preventing certain public funds from supporting coal and gas projects, and protecting clean energy investment from future government rollbacks.
- › A strong, pro-climate crossbench could further strengthen Australia’s climate policy in the next parliamentary term, particularly in the likely event of a hung parliament.

5 The Liberal-National Coalition voted against every law to cut climate pollution in the past three years. Their policies for this election would increase climate pollution by at least 6.3 billion tonnes.¹ Their policies have been rated as *Harmful*.







- › The Coalition failed to support a single improvement in climate policy throughout the 47th Parliamentary term.
- › If elected, the Federal Coalition plans to:
 - Abandon Australia’s climate pollution reduction target of 43% by 2030.
 - Introduce a nuclear scheme that would lock in at least two billion more tonnes of pollution from coal, oil and gas.
 - Provide \$1.3 billion in funding for the gas industry, and ramp up polluting gas production by fast-tracking approval of new gas projects and expanding existing gas projects, including the North West Shelf in WA.²
 - Undermine support for renewable power by cutting \$20 billion in funding for essential grid upgrades, weaken pollution standards for vehicles and wind back regulation on industrial polluters.
- › The Coalition has no credible plans to cut climate pollution. Together the Coalition’s policies would dramatically increase climate pollution, driving more frequent and damaging extreme weather.

¹ 6.3 billion tonnes includes 2 billion tonnes from a nuclear scheme, and 4.3 billion tonnes from the approval of the expanded North West Shelf gas project.

² The Woodside North West Shelf project alone would lead to 4.3 billion tonnes of climate pollution, which is 10 times more than Australia’s total annual emissions.

ELECTION POLICY SCORECARD: HOW DO THE BIGGEST PARTIES MEASURE UP ON CLIMATE & ENERGY?

C

ACTION REQUIRED	LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
 Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution	❌ No 2030 target. ❌ No 2035 target. ❌ Net zero by 2050, but no credible plan.	✔️ Legislated 43% cut by 2030. ✔️ Committed to setting a 2035 target. ✔️ Net zero by 2050, with policies and investments to support.	✔️✔️ 75% cut by 2030. ✔️✔️ Net zero by 2035.
 Ending new fossil fuel development	❌ Plans to expand gas projects and weaken approval requirements.	❌ No plan to phase out fossil fuel development.	✔️✔️ No new coal and gas. ✔️✔️ No public funding for fossil fuels.
 Powering the country with renewables backed by storage	❌ Opposes 82% renewables by 2030. ❌ Pursuing nuclear, more coal and gas.	✔️✔️ 82% renewable power by 2030. ✔️✔️ Significant policies and investments to support.	✔️✔️ 100% renewable power ASAP.
 Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels	? No clear policies.	✔️✔️ Supports industrial electrification. ✔️✔️ Significant policies and investments to support. ? More work needed to tighten pollution limits.	✔️ Supports sustainable fuels and technologies. ? Lacks detailed industrial decarbonisation policies.
 Accelerating shared, active, and electric transport	❌ Wind back fuel efficiency standards. ❌ No public or active transport policies.	✔️ Supports fuel efficiency standards. ✔️ Rolling out investment in active transport.	✔️✔️ Doubling public transport services and reducing fares. ✔️✔️ Supports more investment in active transport.
 Better protecting Australians from climate impacts	? No resilience or adaptation policies. ? Conflicting statements on insurance policies.	✔️ Demonstrated commitment to deliver National Climate Risk Assessment, National Adaptation Plan, and disaster funding.	✔️ Insurance reforms funded by polluters. Supports a national disaster risk map.
OVERALL RATING	HARMFUL	RIGHT DIRECTION	STRONG

Foreword

Emeritus Professor David Karoly, FAA (Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science)

Decisions made throughout the 2020s are shaping the kind of world our kids will inherit, and the 2025 Federal Election is a critical turning point. Every decision made in the next term of Parliament will determine Australia's climate trajectory for decades to come. Every fraction of a degree of avoided warming will be measured in lives and livelihoods saved, and a safer future for our kids.

The stakes are high and the science is clear. We must cut climate pollution further and faster to reduce climate impacts, and we must do the lion's share of the work in the 2020s.

Digging up and burning coal, oil and gas is blanketing Earth in heat-trapping pollution that supercharges extreme weather. The stakes are higher than ever. Globally, 2024 was [the hottest on record](#), and the [second hottest in Australia](#) – behind only 2023. For the first time, the global temperature in 2024 surged past 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

This extreme heat, combined with record tropical levels of water vapour in our atmosphere, has fuelled extreme heatwaves, torrential rains, and devastating disasters worldwide. This rise is part of a relentless trend, with 2015-2024 standing as the 10 hottest years ever recorded. From [unprecedented](#) winter infernos in Los Angeles to record floods in Townsville, climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is here, now, upending lives and economies.

Spring 2024 and Summer 2024-25 were the hottest on record in Australia, driving marine heatwaves that devastated reefs and wildlife in Western Australia, and fueling bushfires in Victoria and Tasmania. In March, Queensland experienced yet another climate-fuelled flooding event in the south of the state, stoked by Tropical Cyclone Alfred. As our oceans continue heating up, scientists fear cyclones that track further south – like Tropical Cyclone Alfred – will [become more common](#).

The costs of inaction are mounting. These escalating disasters are making [essentials like food, energy, and insurance increasingly unaffordable](#), ramping up the cost of living. At the same time, unnatural disasters and extreme weather are increasingly disrupting workers and businesses, making it harder for Australians to earn a living. These spiralling costs and disruptions are rapidly eroding the Australian way of life we hold dear.

The only solution is to reduce climate pollution as quickly as possible. Scientists conclude that Australia needs to cut climate pollution by 75% on 2005 levels by 2030 and get on track to reach net zero by 2035. In addition to cutting climate pollution at home, Australia's exports of coal and fossil gas – the third largest in the world – add to global climate pollution and must be phased out. The next few years are a crucial window to act. Failing to take necessary action now is an active decision to accelerate the climate crisis and make our children's lives more treacherous. As the world becomes more dangerous, these decisions will haunt generations to come.

This report assesses the 47th Parliament's progress and provides a stark warning of what's at stake in the years ahead. It documents the decisions made, the opportunities seized—and those squandered—and the urgent actions required to secure a safer, more sustainable future for all Australians.

The path forward is clear: phase out fossil fuels, slash climate pollution, and accelerate the shift to clean energy.

The opportunity to lead is here. The question now is: who will seize it?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DK' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Emeritus Professor David Karoly

FAA (Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science)



Introduction

THE 2022 FEDERAL ELECTION DELIVERED A CLIMATE MANDATE, BUT DID AUSTRALIA'S 47TH PARLIAMENT DELIVER IT?

Three years ago, Australians made a decisive choice. The 2022 federal election marked a critical turning point, where voters rejected years of polluting policies and elected a Parliament with a clear mandate to take stronger action on climate change.

In the wake of the devastating Black Summer Bushfires and the 2022's Great Deluge, Australians voted out the then Liberal-National government. Independent candidates and parties championing strong climate action were [rewarded by voters across the country](#), and a pro-climate action majority was elected to the Senate.

Elected off the back of this wave of support for climate action, Australia's 47th Parliament had a strong mandate to respect climate science, advance policies to cut climate pollution, and back-in clean industries, with an ambition to grow Australia into a clean energy superpower. This increased action and climate-policy certainty was also strongly supported by major business groups and investors, including the [Business Council of Australia](#), [Australian Industry Group](#) and the [Financial Services Council](#).

But did our 47th Parliament deliver the climate action that Australians voted for in 2022?

This report compares the current parliament's achievements against the level of action necessary to protect Australians from the worst impacts of climate change. It will also compare the current Government's policies against its immediate predecessor, the 2019-2022 Morrison Liberal-National Government.

It finds that there has been meaningful progress. The Albanese Government has legislated emissions reduction targets, restored independent climate advice to government decision-making, and introduced policies to cut climate pollution from major industries. Renewable energy investment has accelerated, electric vehicles are more accessible, and climate science has regained its place in policy discussions. Independent MPs and Senators have played a crucial role in strengthening climate action, demonstrating that ambitious policies are both necessary and achievable.



However, this is not yet enough to keep Australians safer from worsening climate extremes fuelled by pollution from coal, oil and gas. Australia remains one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters, and Labor has approved new coal and gas projects. Pollution reduction targets remain short of what the science demands. Misinformation and political obstruction have slowed key reforms. While some political leaders, MPs and Senators have driven action, others have worked to delay and weaken it.

As we pass the halfway point of this critical decade, this report scrutinises the climate and energy policies that major parties are taking into the 2025 election, and assesses whether their plans get us on track to secure a safer future, or fail to live up to what the science tells us is required.

Climate Council is non-partisan and advocates for evidence-based policies that will progress science-aligned climate action.



1.

Measuring progress on climate action in the 47th Parliament



Setting science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

WHAT CREDIBLE, SCIENCE-BACKED CLIMATE POLICY LOOKS LIKE

The science tells us that Australia must cut climate pollution by 75% on 2005 levels this decade, and get on track to reach net zero by 2035, to help hold global warming at the safest levels now possible. Climate Council's [Seize the Decade plan](#) lays out a clear pathway to achieve this.

To keep Australians safer from climate impacts, there are six key priorities underpinning credible climate policy:



Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

To keep everyone safer from climate change, Australia needs to strengthen its 2030 climate pollution target to a 75% cut on 2005 levels, and get on track to reach net zero by 2035.



Ending new fossil fuel development

Building new and expanded coal and gas projects is like pouring fuel on a fire. To secure a safer future for our kids, we must put an end to all new fossil fuel development as a priority. Fixing Australia's outdated environment laws, so the impact of climate pollution on our natural places is accounted for, is one way to achieve this.



Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels

Where possible, Australia should power our mining, manufacturing and other industries with renewable electricity: the most efficient, affordable, and clean power source available. Our government also needs to back the development of green hydrogen, green ammonia, and sustainable aviation fuels to power processes which cannot be readily electrified.



Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

To cut climate pollution rapidly, Australia must keep building renewable power like solar and wind, backed up by storage like big batteries and pumped hydro, with a goal of achieving 94% renewable power by 2030.



Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

We need to help more people and freight move around by using the most efficient form of transport: shared and active transport for people, and rail for freight. Expanding access to these options can cut climate pollution, make getting around more affordable, and give everyone more options.



Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

Australia must invest in practical measures to adapt our communities and infrastructure to the now locked-in impacts of climate change, which will continue to escalate in coming years. That means limiting new investment in areas at high-risk of climate impacts, and helping people to move out of now unsafe areas with dignity and fair compensation.

How it started: Australia's climate standing at the beginning of this Parliament

In 2022, the Climate Council completed an extensive review of the approach taken by the previous three Liberal-National Governments to climate change, from 2013 to 2022, finding that they completely and catastrophically failed to act on the climate crisis.

The review also found that the Coalition repeatedly and deliberately covered up poor performance on climate with misleading claims, dubious accounting and censorship, as well as conducting frequent, wide-ranging and debilitating attacks on independent science, including CSIRO, our premier national science agency.

As a result, the 47th Parliament inherited an incomplete and failing approach to climate policy, defined by delay, denial and distraction. The previous Liberal-National Government (2019-2022), led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, had:

- › Opposed science-aligned climate pollution targets, refusing to increase Australia's 2030 target beyond 26-28% (on 2005 levels).
 - › Delayed any net zero commitment, eventually announcing a net zero by 2050 target in late 2021, with a non-binding plan that did not demonstrate how that target would be reached.
 - › Continued to approve and subsidise new fossil fuel projects, including significant gas developments, such as the Scarborough gas project in WA and the Beetaloo Basin in the NT.
 - › Undermined climate science, including continued underfunding of Australia's science agencies, and selective use of data to try and persuade Australians and the international community it was doing more than it was on climate change.
- › Failed to deliver meaningful support for renewable power, and promoted a "gas-fired recovery" post-COVID instead with no consideration of the impacts of this pollution.
 - › Ignored expert warnings from [emergency leaders](#) ahead of the catastrophic 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires.

Collectively, these decisions, combined with the decisions made by the previous successive [Liberal-National Governments from 2013-2019](#), set Australia back years in tackling the climate crisis and put Australia on a dangerous trajectory with catastrophic consequences.

[Projections](#) released prior to the 2022 election showed that Australia was on track to cut climate pollution by just 30% on 2005 levels by 2030, less than half of what scientists deem necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.



The Liberal-National Government's climate leadership failure put Australians, the economy, and the ecosystems we depend on at risk.

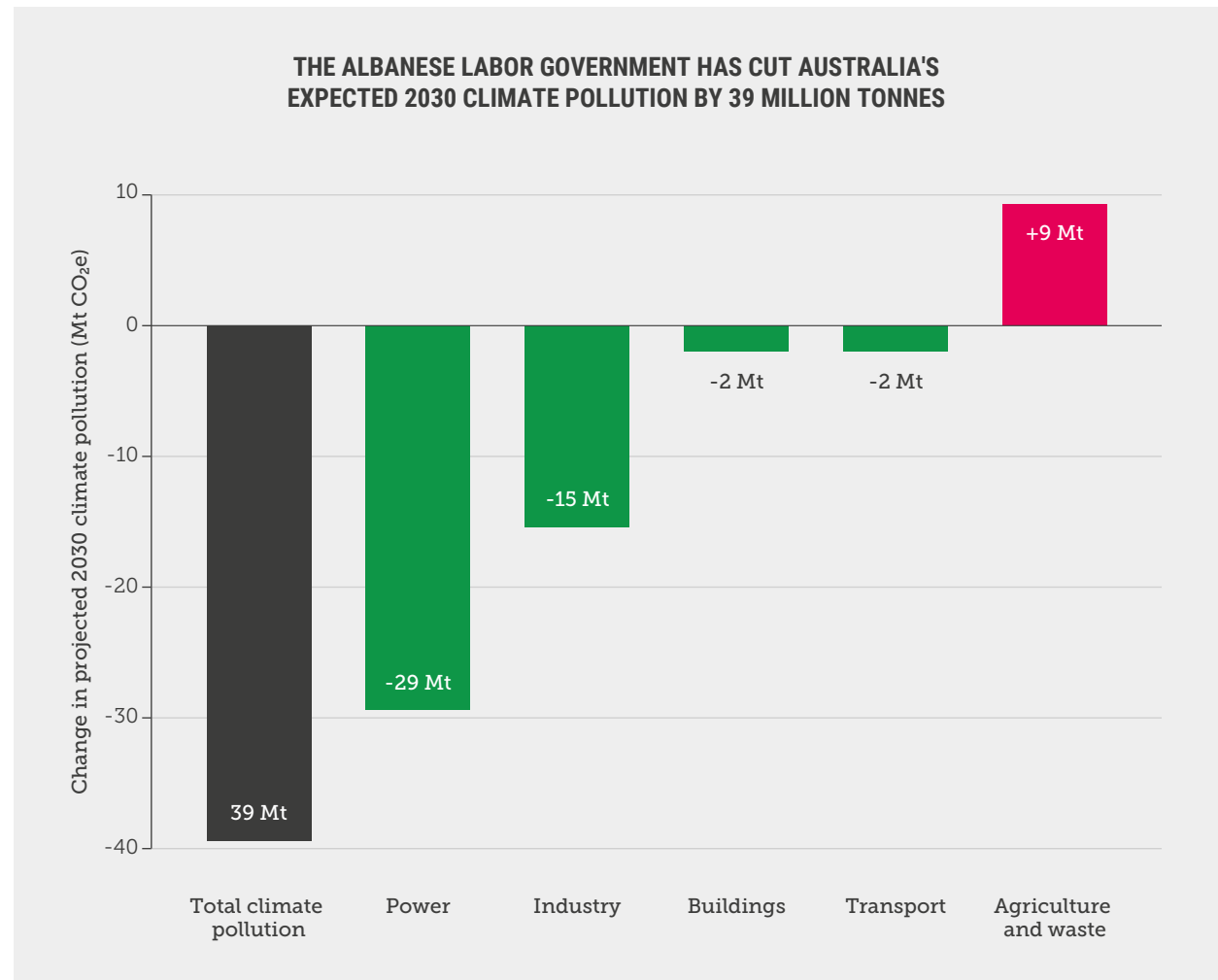
(The Lost Years: Counting the costs of climate inaction in Australia, March 2022.)

How it's going: Australia has made clear progress under the Albanese Labor Government

Major climate policy reforms in the 47th Parliament (2022-2025) mean that Australia's climate pollution in 2030 is already expected to be 39 million tonnes lower than the trajectory in 2022, representing a 9% improvement. Combined with a revision to the estimated climate pollution absorbed by Australia's land and forests, Australia is now expected to achieve a [42.6% reduction in climate pollution on 2005 levels](#) by 2030.

These reforms, championed by the Labor Government, were backed in by a strong pro-climate crossbench, including key independents and the Australian Greens. In some cases, crossbench members were able to push the government closer to where the science tells us we need to be. For example, independents and crossbenchers like David Pocock, Kylea Tink and Zoe Daniel proposed [key amendments](#) that ultimately strengthened the Climate Change Bill 2022, by clarifying that the 2030 target is a floor, not a ceiling; ensuring future targets are informed by advice from the independent Climate Change Authority; and improving rules around reporting and integrity.

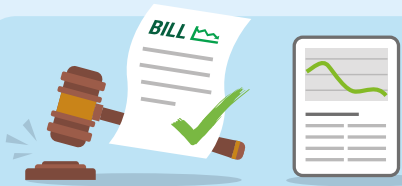
In contrast, the Liberal-National Coalition failed to support a single improvement in climate policy throughout the 47th Parliamentary term.



Source: Based on Climate Council analysis of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water's [2021](#) and [2024](#) emission projections. Excludes Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry emissions.



SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE **WINS** OF THE 47TH PARLIAMENT



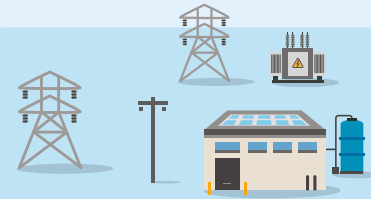
CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Sets legally binding climate pollution targets across government, with clear reporting requirements.



RENEWABLE POWER TARGET

Introduced a target of 82% renewable power by 2030.



REWIRING THE NATION

Provided \$20 billion in low cost loans for necessary upgrades to our grid.



NEW VEHICLE EFFICIENCY STANDARD

Made cleaner and cheaper-to-run new cars more affordable and easier to access.



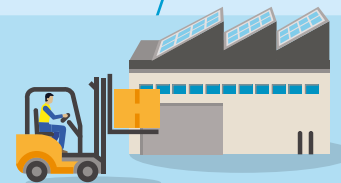
BACKING RENEWABLE POWER AND STORAGE

Underwriting about \$67 billion of private investment in renewable power and storage projects.



TIGHTENED INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION RULES

Tightened rules on Australia's biggest polluters, ensuring they cut their climate pollution over time.



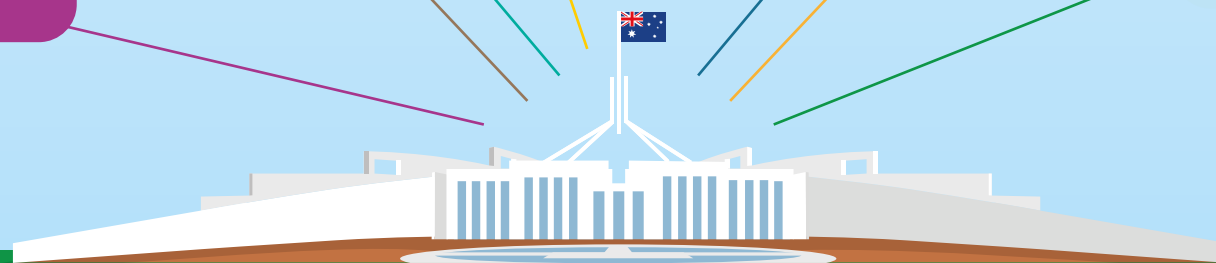
FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA

Developed a \$23 billion plan to build thriving clean manufacturing and mining industries.



ACTIVE TRANSPORT FUND

Invested \$100 million in walking and cycling projects, like bike lanes and footpaths.



Building on clear progress, more action is needed to keep Australians safer from climate change

While the key reforms passed in this term of Parliament have turned the tide on Australia's climate pollution trajectory, the expected 42.6% reduction in climate pollution is still much lower than what the science shows is necessary to keep Australians safer (a 75% cut by 2030).

There were also notable climate policy failures in this term of government:

SIGNIFICANT CLIMATE FAILURES OF THIS TERM



FAILED TO FIX OUR ENVIRONMENT LAWS

Failed to ensure our broken environment laws consider the impact of climate pollution on the environment, and then weakened them in the final weeks of the term.



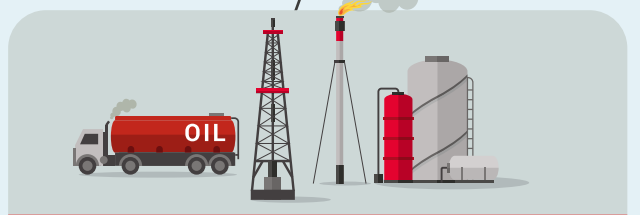
APPROVED COAL MINES

Approved 12 new and expanded coal mines, which will lead to 2.5 billion tonnes of climate pollution.



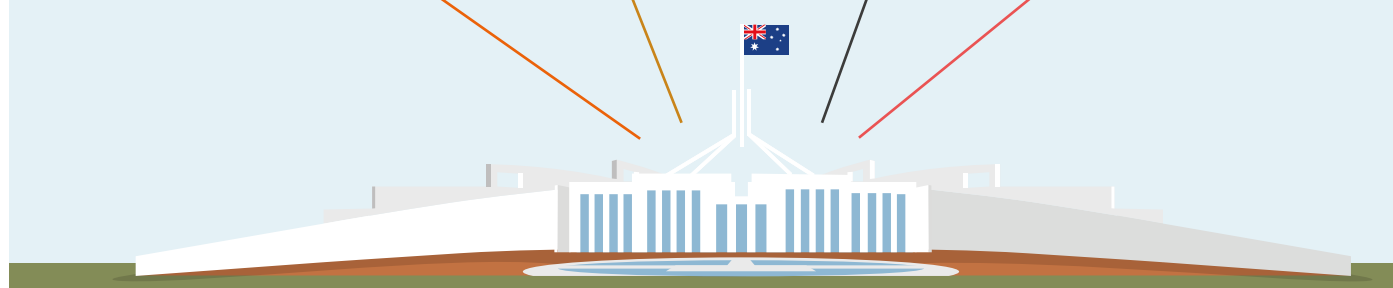
FAILED TO PLAN FOR A HOTTER AND MORE VOLATILE CLIMATE

Failed to deliver on their commitment to prepare a National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan.



APPROVED GAS AND OIL PROJECTS

Approved five new and expanded gas and oil projects, and issued nine new offshore exploration permits.



Comparing the pair: Albanese Labor Government versus Morrison Liberal-National Government







How do this government's climate policies compare to their predecessor? Considering the climate policy wins and failures of this term, and the [track record](#) of the previous Liberal-National Government, Climate Council has scored each government's handling of climate change.

Previously, we found that when the 47th Parliament commenced in 2022, Australia was [languishing at a national level on climate action](#). Three years later, the Albanese Labor Government has corrected course, outperforming the previous Morrison Liberal-National Government on every priority policy area except fossil fuel development.

Still, Australia has a long way to go - the Albanese Labor Government has continued to approve new and expanded coal, oil and gas projects, and has not yet put in place plans to cut climate pollution deeply enough over the next 10 years.



FROM GLOBAL PARIAH TO NATIONAL PROGRESS: HOW THE LAST TWO TERMS OF GOVERNMENT COMPARE

ACTION REQUIRED	MORRISON LIBERAL-NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (2019 TO 2022)	ALBANESE LABOR GOVERNMENT (2022 TO 2025)	WHERE WE NEED TO GO
 Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution	✗ Opposed science-aligned targets. ✗ Set a weak 2030 target of 26-28%. ✗ No credible plan to reach net zero by 2050.	✓ Legislated a 43% cut by 2030 and net zero by 2050. ✓ Adopted new transparency and integrity measures.	75% reduction by 2030.
 Ending new fossil fuel development	✗ Approved new coal and gas. ✗ Subsidised false solutions, including carbon capture and storage	✗ Expanded fossil fuel production - approved 12 coal mines and 5 oil and gas projects. ✗ Weakened Australia's already broken environment laws.	No new or expanded fossil fuel development.
 Powering the country with renewables backed by storage	✗ Failed to set a meaningful renewable energy target. ✗ Attempted to divert federal funding from clean energy to gas, and promote a "gas-fired recovery".	✓✓ Adopted a target of 82% renewables by 2030. ✓✓ Ramped up investment in renewables, storage and transmission.	94% target by 2030.
 Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels	✗ No clear plan for cleaning up industry. ✗ Relied on weak voluntary measures and carbon capture and storage funding, which was ineffective.	✓✓ Set stricter limits on Australia's biggest industrial polluters and invested \$22.7 billion in clean manufacturing through the Future Made in Australia Plan.	Reduce major polluters' ability to use carbon credit offsets to meet their obligation to cut climate pollution.
 Accelerating shared, active, and electric transport	✗ No fuel efficiency standards unlike most developed countries. Failed to materially invest in electric vehicles or active transport.	✓✓ Created new vehicle standards to cut car pollution. Committed \$250 million to expand electric vehicles and \$100 million for active transport infrastructure like bike lanes.	Greater investment in shared and active transport is needed to cut climate pollution faster.
 Better protecting Australians from climate impacts	✗ Ignored expert warnings before the Black Summer bushfires. Established Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements but failed to implement recommendations.	✓ Commenced National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, but did not deliver. Invested \$200 million per year in disaster preparedness and resilience.	Australia needs a fully-funded national plan to adapt to worsening climate impacts.
OVERALL RATING	HARMFUL	RIGHT DIRECTION	

2.










The key climate policy battles of the 47th Parliament



CLIMATE VOTING RECORD: HOW EACH PARTY VOTED FOR OR AGAINST CLIMATE ACTION DURING THE 47TH PARLIAMENT

The 47th Parliament saw the Albanese Labor Government lead a climate action revival, with stronger targets backed by integrity and transparency, policies to cut emissions from electricity, industry and transport, and more support for communities. Still, more is needed to get us on track for a safer future.

This chapter examines how action in this term of parliament stacks up against what is needed, and the role played by each party and independent in the progress made over the past three years.

KEY CLIMATE VOTES IN THE 47 TH PARLIAMENT	LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
 Higher and binding climate pollution targets, and improved accountability (p.14)	✗	✓	✓
 Accelerate renewable power and storage (p.22)	✗	✓	✓
 Invest in growing new, clean industries and manufacturing in Australia (p.27)	✗	✓	✓
 Support workers and communities during the transition (p.18)	✗	✓	✓
 Reduce transport pollution and provide cleaner and cheaper to run new cars to Australians (p.24)	✗	✓	✓
 Reduce emissions from Australia's biggest industrial polluters (p.26)	✗	✓	✓
 Require large corporations to report on their climate pollution, risks and opportunities (p.28)	✗	✓	✓
 Prevent the use of unproven carbon capture and storage schemes under the seabed (p.17)	✗	✗	✓
 Allow environmental approvals to be reconsidered if circumstances change (p.19)	✗	✗	✓
OVERALL SCORE	0/9 ALWAYS OPPOSED CLIMATE ACTION	7/9 ALMOST ALWAYS SUPPORTED CLIMATE ACTION	9/9 ALWAYS SUPPORTED CLIMATE ACTION

 Supported
  Opposed

Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

RESETTING AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

What do we need to achieve?

To get Australia on track to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the science tells us that we [need to cut emissions by 75% on 2005 levels by 2030, and get on track for net zero by 2035](#).

The government must raise the bar by committing to binding, science-aligned targets to slash climate pollution, supported by credible policies and plans to achieve them. Regular and transparent reporting that respects the expertise and advice of climate scientists remains critical, and will ensure accountability to the Australian public and our international partners.

Labor's *Climate Change Bill* finally set legally-binding climate pollution targets for Australia.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

The Labor Governments *Climate Change Bill 2022* passed the Australian Parliament in September 2022 and established a clear framework for climate action in Australia, including:

- › Setting binding targets to cut climate pollution by 43% on 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2050.
- › Improved transparency and accountability, including strengthening the role of the independent Climate Change Authority, ensuring it provides science-led advice on progress and future targets, and requiring the Minister for Climate Change to report to Parliament annually on progress towards meeting the targets
- › Embedded targets into government decision-making, including requiring agencies and departments to consider climate targets when making policy and funding decisions.

This legislation was a fundamental step in the right direction, finally setting legally-binding climate pollution targets for Australia, and ensuring that progress reporting would be regular, transparent, and informed by climate science advice. These binding targets, which set a minimum level of ambition, also provide important policy certainty for businesses, allowing them to plan for investment in clean energy, and for the phase out of polluting fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, the legislated targets do not get Australia on track to make a fair contribution to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. Reaching net zero by 2050 is at least a decade too late, and a 43% reduction by 2030 does not go far enough this decade.

Australia is required to commit to a 2035 climate pollution reduction target (known as a Nationally Determined Contribution) under the Paris agreement by September 2025.¹ The Australian Government must use this as an opportunity to set a binding 2035 target that puts us on a science-aligned path to slash climate pollution. It is noteworthy that the UK has already submitted its updated 2035 target, committing to an 81% emissions reduction below 1990 levels.

¹ Updated NDCs were initially due on February 10, 2025. The UNFCCC Secretariat is now [accepting NDCs until September 2025](#) for inclusion in the next NDC synthesis report.

How did each party vote?

HIGHER AND BINDING CLIMATE POLLUTION TARGETS, AND IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY

Climate Change Bill 2022

 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

This Bill created an important legal framework to guide Australia's response to climate change, including defined, binding targets and enhanced transparency and accountability of government to achieve them.

✓ Supported by	✗ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens Supported the bill after securing amendments to ensure stronger accountability and greater ambition in future target-setting.</p> <p>Other Independent MPs and Senators Supported the bill, with many securing amendments for stronger action, integrity and transparency.</p> <p>Bridget Archer (Liberal - Bass) Crossed the floor to support the bill, noting that "it is important that we do move forward, that we act now and that we do not delay until the eve of the next election".</p> <p>Centre Alliance (Rebekha Sharkie)</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition Opposed the bill, arguing it would harm the economy and was unnecessary given existing commitments.</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation Strongly opposed the bill, citing skepticism of climate science and concerns over economic impact.</p> <p>United Australia Party (Clive Palmer's party, represented by Ralph Babet in the Senate).</p> <p>Dai Le (Independent - Fowler) Abstained from the vote, noting that she "can't justify voting yes".</p>	<p>The Greens Proposed bringing the legislated targets in line with scientifically necessary levels, requiring a 75% cut on 2005 levels by 2030, and achieving net zero by 2035, and pushed for a ban on new coal and gas projects.</p> <p>David Pockock (Independent Senator - ACT) Proposed more rigorous reporting and review mechanisms, all of which were agreed.</p> <p>Zali Steggall (Independent - Warringah) Proposed stronger interim emissions reduction targets, seeking 60% by 2030.</p> <p>Allegra Spender (Independent - Wentworth) Suggested clearer definitions and implementation strategies for emission reductions.</p> <p>Other independents Dr Monique Ryan, Zoe Daniel, Kylea Tink, Dr Sophie Scamps, Kate Chaney, Dr Helen Haines and Andrew Wilkie all advocated for more ambitious, science-based targets and stronger accountability measures.</p> <p>Combined pressure from the crossbench secured amendments to strengthen the Bill, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › noting the need for greater ambition › clarifying that the 2030 target is a floor, not a ceiling › ensuring future targets are informed by advice from the Climate Change Authority. <p>Rules around reporting and integrity were also improved, with amendments requiring the CCA's advice be broadened to consider the impact of all government policies, consider benefits for regional areas, and be tabled in Parliament in a timely manner.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).



Ending new fossil fuel development

A FAILURE TO DELIVER ESSENTIAL REFORMS TO AUSTRALIA'S NATURE LAWS

What do we need to achieve?

To achieve a safer future, we need to stop allowing new and expanded coal, oil and gas projects to be developed. Every fossil fuel project releases more climate pollution that we can't afford.

Australia already has enough coal and gas. Building more mines or wells puts us all at greater risk of worsening climate impacts, and holds our economy back from investing in the industries of the future.

To stop building these polluting projects, we need to fix our national environment laws. They fail to consider climate pollution, despite it being the biggest risk to our environment. We need to fix our outdated laws, so that they say a quick no to projects that cause more climate harm, and a quick yes to environmentally responsible projects that help cut climate pollution.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

In the past term of parliament, the Labor Government categorically failed to protect our environment from the impacts of new fossil fuel developments. In fact, in many cases, they have explicitly and implicitly supported the ongoing growth of fossil fuels. During their time in power, the Albanese Government has:

- › Approved over 26 fossil fuel developments, including 12 new and expanded coal mines, and five new and expanded oil and gas projects, and nine offshore gas exploration permits. Coal projects alone will result in 2.5 billion tonnes of climate pollution over their lifetime.
- › Failed to fix our [broken environment laws](#), which still do not protect the environment from projects which worsen the impacts of climate change.
- › Invested \$1.9 billion in the polluting [Middle Arm project](#), supporting a hub for gas exports, carbon capture and storage and petrochemicals.
- › Passed the [Sea Dumping Bill](#), a law which supports new fossil fuel projects by enabling the use of carbon capture and storage schemes.

- › Published the [Future Gas Strategy](#), which inconceivably promotes the need for new gas projects, the use of gas “to 2050 and beyond”, and growing LNG exports, all despite an emerging [global glut in gas supplies](#), and an urgent need to phase out this polluting fossil fuel.

The Albanese Government committed to reforming [Australia's environment laws](#) in this term of parliament, but failed to deliver this reform. This included failing to address one of our environment laws biggest flaws: it doesn't directly address climate pollution, and therefore isn't adequately protecting our treasured natural places. Instead, in the final sitting weeks of the 47th Parliament, Labor weakened our environment laws, restricting the public's right to contest approvals in some cases.

Australia still has no laws adequately restricting the expansion of fossil fuel development. This is despite clear scientific evidence showing that building any new or expanded fossil fuel projects [is a significant risk to our climate](#). Globally, governments are planning to extract and dig up [more than twice the amount of fossil fuels](#) than is consistent with a safer climate.

In lockstep with Labor, the Liberal-National Coalition has continuously advocated for more climate-wrecking fossil fuel projects during this parliamentary term.

This has included calling for more rapid approvals. In June 2024, shadow resources minister Susan McDonald [said that](#) “A Coalition Government will get Australia’s gas sector back on track by slashing approval timeframes in half” and “commit to an annual release of offshore acreage for gas exploration and development”. In February 2025 she [claimed](#) the Coalition would “bring on more gas by the bucket load.”

Further, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has indicated a [desire to](#) “build on our strengths in major commodities like iron ore, coal, gas”, claiming that a Coalition government would be “the best friend that the mining and resources sector in Australia will ever have.”

In contrast to the Coalition, the crossbench has made it harder for new polluting fossil fuel projects, while advocating for an end to fossil fuel approvals.

The Greens have advocated strongly for an end to fossil fuel approvals, including:

- › Supporting the repair of our broken environmental laws, [including a “climate trigger”](#) which would require new projects’ potential impact on climate change to be considered.

- › Pushing for amendments to the safeguard mechanism, to ensure [new LNG projects are required to get their on-site emissions](#) to net zero from day one.
- › Blocking [changes to offshore gas laws](#) which could have weakened environmental approval processes.
- › Securing amendments to [Future Made In Australia Bills](#) which prevent funding for coal, oil and gas under Future Made in Australia legislation or commercial investments and programs of Export Finance Australia.

Several Independents have also explicitly fought for an end to new fossil fuel development during this term of Parliament, including:

- › [Calling on Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek](#) “to publicly re-commit to legislating the complete package of [Nature Positive] reforms during this parliamentary term” (Steggall, Chaney, Daniel, Haines, Pocock, Ryan, Scamps, Spender, Tink and Wilkie).

- › Supporting Independent MP Monique Ryan’s private member’s bill to [abolish seismic blasting permits](#), which are used in fossil fuel exploration.
- › Supporting Independent Senator David Pocock’s private senators bill to [require decision makers to protect young Australians from the impacts of climate change](#), including when considering new fossil fuel projects.

Despite an overall lack of progress from major parties, the Labor government was able to pass legislation in this term to support workers and communities to adapt and benefit as Australia cuts climate pollution – especially those impacted by the closure of coal fired power plants and coal and gas extraction. The [Net Zero Economy Authority Bill](#) was passed in 2024 with the support of most independents and the Greens, opposed by the Coalition. The Net Zero Economy Authority commenced operation in December 2024.

Labor’s ongoing fossil fuel approvals undermine their policies to cut climate pollution.

How did each party vote?

USING UNPROVEN CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE SEABED

Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment Bill 2023.

 Supporters of climate action would have **opposed** this bill.

The bill supports new fossil fuel projects by enabling the use of carbon capture and storage schemes. Specifically, the law allows climate pollution to be stored under the seabed in international waters, enabling offshore gas projects.

✘ Supported by	✔ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced the bill.</p> <p>Liberal-National Coalition</p> <p>Dai Le (Independent - Fowler)</p>	<p>Australian Greens Opposed the bill, with Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson telling the Senate: “We should feel ashamed as a chamber, in this time of climate emergency, that we are about to pass legislation written for a fossil fuel company”</p> <p>Other Independent MPs and Senators Opposed the bill, with many moving amendments to block the use of the bill to expand fossil fuels.</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p> <p>Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Opposed the bill, with Senator Hanson claiming the bill was part of an “insane quest to get rid of carbon dioxide”.</p> <p>United Australia Party</p>	<p>The Greens Proposed amendments to strengthen the bill’s environmental controls, under the bill, including preventing carbon dioxide from being exported to countries with weaker environmental regulations.</p> <p>Several Independents proposed amendments to strengthen the Sea Dumping Bill, aiming to limit its support for fossil fuel expansion and ensure it contributed to real emissions reductions.¹</p> <p>All these amendments were opposed by the Labor Government and Coalition.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).

¹ **David Pocock:** Proposed a number of amendments to strengthen the bill, including [preventing new fossil fuel](#) projects from using the new CO₂ export provisions; **Haines:** [Prevent](#) the bill being used for new fossil fuel facilities; **Stegall:** [Prevent](#) the bill being used to offset new emissions, ensuring any activity results in a real reduction in total emissions; **Tink:** [Strengthen](#) the bill’s reporting and transparency requirements; **Spender:** [Prevent](#) the bill from commencing until the government’s proposed environmental reform is completed; **Scamps:** [Prevent](#) fossil fuel facilities from receiving permits under the bill, and prevent public funding of carbon capture and storage from fossil fuel projects.

SUPPORTING WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES DURING THE TRANSITION

Net Zero Economy Authority Bill 2024

👍 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

This bill establishes a government body with the mandate to help industries, workers, and communities transition to a clean, low-carbon economy. The Authority will support businesses in cutting emissions, assist workers in fossil fuel industries to find new opportunities, and ensure regional communities benefit from the shift to clean energy.

✔ Supported by	✘ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens</p> <p>Other Independent MPs and Senators</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition</p> <p>Russel Broadbent (Independent - Monash)</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p> <p>Tammy Tyrell (Independent Senator – Tasmania)</p>	<p>Several amendments were proposed by the crossbench. The Australian Greens secured a requirement for the Act to undergo an independent review within its first 10 years, and expanded its objectives to include supporting communities, rather than just regions and workers.</p> <p>Helen Haines moved several amendments, including to enhance consultation with communities, and to require the authority to develop binding plans for communities to benefit from renewables projects. These amendments did not pass. An amendment to Zali Stegall moved an amendment to expand the types of 'closing employers' from which the economic authority could support employees, ensuring impacted businesses which were not direct suppliers or contractors would be in-scope for the Authority. These amendments did not pass.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).



PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FROM BEING RECONSIDERED IF CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Reconsiderations) Bill 2025

 Supporters of climate action would have **opposed** this bill.

This bill removes the public's right to request the reconsideration of particular kinds of decisions if new information comes to light or circumstances change if the activity has already been occurring for five years or more. This means that some decisions cannot be reconsidered if a species becomes threatened, or a new environmental impact comes to light.

 Supported by	 Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bills.</p> <p>Liberal-National Coalition</p> <p>Andrew Gee (Independent – Calare)</p> <p>Ian Goodenough (Independent – Moore)</p> <p>Tammy Tyrell (Independent – Tasmania)</p>	<p>Other Independent MPs and Senators</p> <p>Australian Greens</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p> <p>Australia's Voice (Fatima Payman)</p>	<p>Andrew Wilkie (Independent – Clarke) moved an amendment which ensured reconsiderations could still be undertaken if "the action is likely to cause or significantly contribute to the extinction of any native species."</p> <p>Rebekha Sharkie (Centre Alliance – Mayo) moved an amendment which ensured reconsiderations were allowed if there is evidence of environmental impacts occurring, which could not have been foreseen at the time of the initial approval.</p> <p>Neither amendment was passed.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).

Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

SETTING A PATH TO 82% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2030

What do we need to achieve?

The majority of the necessary cuts to climate pollution this decade will be delivered by improving how we power ourselves.

To deliver the necessary cuts to climate pollution, we need to aim for 94% renewable electricity by 2030. This would see a rollout of more renewable generation and storage in homes, businesses and our grid, alongside the closure of all coal-fired power plants this decade.

The Albanese Labor Government has unlocked \$87 billion of public and private investment in renewable power, storage and transmission.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

The Albanese Labor Government has utilised this parliamentary term to establish a clear plan to achieve 82% renewable electricity by 2030, underpinned by a number of major investments, [including](#):

- › Rewiring the Nation, which provides \$20 billion in low-cost financing for electricity grid improvements.
- › The Capacity Investment Scheme, which will underwrite 32 GW of new renewable generation and storage capacity.
- › The Household Energy Upgrades Fund, a \$1.3 billion program to help more Australians make energy-saving upgrades to their homes.
- › Supporting 400 new community batteries around Australia, which soak up energy from rooftop solar and strengthen the power grid.
- › Record funding for the Australia Renewable Energy Agency ([ARENA](#)) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation ([CEFC](#)) to boost clean energy projects and technologies.

Policies introduced in this term of Government have cut expected 2030 electricity sector emissions by 29 million tonnes - the equivalent of taking every ute and van in Australia off the road for almost two years.

This is a significant step in the right direction, and will underpin emission reductions made in other sectors - like industry and transport, which are moving away from fossil fuels in favour of electricity. But Australia needs to go further and faster. Building more renewables and storage will help achieve a bigger, greener grid, with polluting coal closed sooner, and more power to fuel our new, green industries. And it will keep power bills as low as possible, because renewable power backed by storage is [the cheapest form](#) of new power we have.

In contrast, the Liberal-National Coalition have consistently opposed renewable energy and storage, instead pursuing nuclear.

The Liberal-National Coalition failed to support renewable energy and storage in this term of parliament, at times campaigning directly against it. The Coalition has committed to cancelling three offshore wind zones across [south west Victoria](#), the [Hunter](#), and in [south west Western Australia](#).

Senior members of the Opposition frequently advocate against renewables, with the Leader of the Nationals David Littleproud in 2024 [claiming they would](#) “look for whatever option we can so we don’t have to pursue large-scale renewables full stop.”

Instead, the Coalition has committed to building seven publicly-owned nuclear facilities. This is despite expert, independent analysis suggesting nuclear power won’t be ready until [at least 2040](#) – many years too late to replace Australia’s ageing coal fired power plants – and lead to billions of tonnes more climate pollution by 2050.

The Coalition has also [pledged to underwrite](#) new and existing gas generators under the Capacity Investment Scheme, despite gas only needing to play a small supporting role in future electricity generation, and producing significant climate pollution.

The crossbench and key Independents have consistently supported the rollout of renewable energy, securing further funding.

Independents in the 47th Parliament have generally supported the rollout of renewables and storage. For example, all independents with the exception of [MP Russel Broadbent](#), and [Senators](#) Hanson, Roberts, Babet and Rennick voted in favour of legislating the Capacity Investment Scheme.

Members of the crossbench have also secured further focus on the role of households in adopting renewable energy, with Senators David Pocock, David Van, Jacqui Lambie and Lidia Thorpe [securing an agreement from the Government](#), which will see the Australian Renewable Energy Agency consider funding further suburb-wide electrification trials.

While the Federal Opposition frequently opposed renewables, a pro-climate crossbench supported the Government’s landmark reforms.



How did each party vote?

ACCELERATE RENEWABLE POWER AND STORAGE

Electricity Infrastructure Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

This bill requires the government to underwrite the development of at least 23 GW of renewable generation capacity; and at least 9 GW of clean dispatchable capacity (such as battery or pumped hydro storage).

✓ Supported by	✗ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Greens Introduced the amendment to electricity infrastructure laws.</p> <p>Australian Labor Party</p> <p>Other independent MPs and Senators</p> <p>Australia's Voice (Fatima Payman)</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p> <p>Russel Broadbent (Independent - Monash)</p> <p>Gerard Rennick (Independent - QLD)</p> <p>United Australia Party</p>	<p>The Greens locked-in the Capacity Investment Scheme, ensuring support for 32 GW of renewables and storage</p> <p>In February 2025, the Greens successfully moved an amendment to Australia's electricity laws to legislate the Capacity Investment Scheme, ensuring future governments cannot back away from the scheme without parliamentary approval.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).





Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

SECURING CLEANER AND CHEAPER-TO-RUN CARS, BACKING SHARED AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

What do we need to achieve?

Transport is Australia's second largest source of climate pollution, and the fastest growing.

To get Australia on track, we need to more than halve climate pollution across freight and passenger transport by 2030. We can do this by shifting 30% of passenger transport to low and zero emission shared and active transport, and moving one-third of road freight to rail transport.

Road transport that can't be avoided can be electrified, with 30% of passenger vehicles and 17% of freight vehicles to be electrified by 2030.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

For many years Australia has lacked an efficiency standard for new vehicles, leaving us lagging behind our peers. The 47th Parliament delivered a New Vehicle Efficiency Scheme (NVES), helping more Australians access cleaner, cheaper to run new cars. It is expected to cut [over 300 million tonnes of climate pollution](#) by 2050. In addition to the NVES, the National Electric Vehicle strategy also saw an additional [\\$250 million committed](#) to support the rollout of electric vehicles, including funding for chargers on key routes and at dealerships and mechanics.

The Albanese Government has also shown how Federal Governments can support active transport, with the \$100 million active transport fund supporting projects that help more Australians get around by walking or cycling.

However, we have much further to go to get climate pollution from transport on track. To cut climate pollution to necessary levels, more Australians need to be able to get around using shared and active transport. And, more freight needs to be moved using cost-effective, cleaner rail rather than on our roads.

The Albanese Labor Government delivered a New Vehicle Efficiency Standard, helping Australians access cleaner, cheaper to run new cars and cutting over 300 million tonnes of climate pollution



How did each party vote?

REDUCE TRANSPORT POLLUTION AND PROVIDE CLEANER AND CHEAPER TO RUN NEW CARS TO AUSTRALIANS

New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Bill 2024

 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

The New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Bill established a requirement for car manufacturers to sell cleaner and more efficient cars, by ensuring their average emissions intensity is below a cap, which declines over time. This ensures manufacturers are encouraged to sell Australians more efficient vehicles, reducing fuel use, and cutting climate pollution.

✓ Supported by	✗ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens Supported the bill after securing concessions to proposed changes to offshore gas legislation.</p> <p>Other independent MPs and Senators</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition Opposed the bill, falsely claiming it was a "car and ute tax".</p> <p>Russel Broadbent (Independent - Monash)</p> <p>Andrew Gee (Independent - Calare)</p> <p>Dai Le (Independent - Fowler)</p> <p>Centre Alliance (Rebekha Sharkie)</p> <p>United Australia Party</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p>	<p>The Greens supported the NVES in exchange for concessions to proposed changes to how fossil fuel projects are approved.</p> <p>The Greens used their balance of power in the Senate to negotiate changes to other proposed bills in exchange for their support of the NVES. Specifically, they secured changes to offshore gas laws, removing changes that had the potential to weaken environmental approval rules for offshore gas projects.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).



Cleaning up Australian industry

CUTTING CLIMATE POLLUTION AND GROWING THE INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

What do we need to achieve?

About 22% of Australia's climate pollution comes from mining, with a further 12% from manufacturing.

We need to more than halve these emissions by 2030 to get Australia on track for a safer future.

Cement and metals manufacturing can make use of biomass and biofuels, while electrifying heavy machinery in mining can reduce the use of diesel and petrol. More early adopters can use green hydrogen.

All industries can cut their climate pollution impact by adopting more energy-efficient practices.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

The 47th Parliament has seen several major reforms made to Australia's industry-related climate policies, with policies to both cut climate pollution and support the growth of essential clean industries. New and altered policies include:

- › Reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism will require some of Australia's largest polluters to reduce their emissions by about 5% each year, or purchase offsets. The reform is expected to drive a direct emissions reduction of around [22 Mt CO₂-e from industry in 2030](#).
- › Future Made in Australia, a [\\$22.7 billion plan](#) to grow Australian manufacturing by [making more things here with clean energy](#) and Australian resources, including green metals, critical minerals, green hydrogen and low carbon liquid fuels.
- › New [mandatory climate-related financial reporting requirements](#), requiring large businesses to report on their emissions, as well as climate-related risks and opportunities across their operations, providing greater transparency for investors and the community.

The Future Made in Australia reforms are a welcome step in the right direction for Australia's economy. However, the reforms of the 47th Parliament do not go far enough to get climate pollution from Australia's biggest polluters under control. The mechanism's scope is relatively narrow, covering only polluters with over 100,000 tonnes of climate pollution, and excluding electricity generators - which are some of Australia's most polluting facilities.

Importantly, the Safeguard Mechanism still allows polluters to use an unlimited amount of carbon-credit offsets to meet their obligation to cut climate pollution. In fact, less than half of the reductions by 2030 will come from real, on-site reductions. [Carbon offsets won't do enough](#) to get climate change under control – we need real, permanent emission reductions at the source.

How did each party vote?

REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST INDUSTRIAL POLLUTERS

Safeguard Mechanism (Crediting) Amendment Bill 2022.

 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

This legislation requires the country's biggest polluters—like coal mines, gas plants, and large factories—to cut the climate pollution they produce over time. If a company pollutes less than its set limit, it can earn credits to sell to others that exceed their cap.

 Supported by	 Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens Supported after securing amendments.</p> <p>Centre Alliance (Rebekha Sharkie)</p> <p>Other independents MPs and Senators Supported the bill.</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition Strongly opposed the reform, with shadow Emissions Reduction Minister Ted O'Brien claiming it "will not lead to decarbonisation", despite current projections suggesting it will cut direct climate pollution by 79 million tonnes between 2024 and 2030.</p> <p>United Australia Party</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p> <p>Katter's Australian Party (Bob Katter)</p>	<p>The Greens supported reforms to the safeguard mechanism after securing important changes, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a hard cap on total emissions which declines overtime, › conditions making it harder to build new gas projects, › requiring facilities to provide an explanation if they use a large proportion of carbon-credits, and › preventing certain government funds from investing in anything which could support coal or gas. <p>Independents also sought to pass amendments to strengthen the Safeguard Mechanism, including limiting or discouraging high levels of offsetting (e.g. Pocock, Steggall), increasing the number of facilities covered by the law overtime (e.g. Tink), and requiring that all new or expanded coal, oil and gas extraction is net zero from day one (Scamps). These amendments were opposed by both Labor and the Coalition.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).

INVEST IN GROWING NEW, CLEAN INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA

Future Made in Australia Bill 2024

👍 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

A bill designed to boost local clean energy manufacturing by providing government support for industries like solar panel production, battery manufacturing, and green hydrogen. It aims to create jobs, strengthen supply chains, and position Australia as a global leader in renewable energy.

✓ Supported by	✗ Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens Supported after securing concessions.</p> <p>Centre Alliance (Rebekha Sharkie)</p> <p>Other independent MPs and Senators</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition Opposed Labor's Future Made in Australia plan, voting against it. Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor has described it as a "corporate welfare initiative". It is not clear how the Coalition would otherwise support the development of clean manufacturing and new zero-emissions energy sources.</p> <p>United Australia Party</p> <p>Gerard Rennick (Independent - QLD)</p>	<p>The Greens supported the passage of the Future Made in Australia legislation, after securing an amendment which prevents the program or Export Finance Australia from investing in coal or gas related projects.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).





REQUIRE LARGE CORPORATIONS TO REPORT ON THEIR CLIMATE POLLUTION, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Treasury Laws Amendment (Financial Market Infrastructure and Other Measures) Bill 2024

👍 Supporters of climate action would have **supported** this bill.

This bill introduced mandatory reporting requirements for large companies, requiring them to disclose their carbon emissions, climate risks, and how they are preparing for a low-carbon future. This helps investors, businesses, and the public understand which companies are taking climate change seriously and which may face financial risks from failing to adapt. The goal is to drive greater transparency and accountability, encouraging businesses to cut emissions and prepare for a cleaner economy.

 Supported by	 Opposed by	Key amendments proposed
<p>Australian Labor Party Introduced and championed the bill.</p> <p>Australian Greens</p> <p>Centre Alliance (Rebekha Sharkie)</p> <p>Jacqui Lambie Network</p> <p>Other independent MPs and Senators</p>	<p>Liberal-National Coalition</p> <p>Pauline Hanson's One Nation</p> <p>Russel Broadbent (Independent - Monash)</p>	<p>Independent Kylea Tink raised an amendment attempting to reduce greenwashing, by removing a clause which made directors immune from liability for their transition plans, stating "it's essential entities are held to account for greenwashing and promoting false solutions to the climate crisis." This amendment was blocked by Labor and the Federal Coalition.</p>

Voting record: [House of Representatives](#), [Senate](#).





Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

ADAPTING TO A HOTTER WORLD

What do we need to achieve?

Today we are living with the consequences of past inaction over the climate crisis and our failure to cut climate pollution as fast and deep as necessary. As a result, we are dealing with worsening extreme weather and unnatural disasters, that are costing Australians dearly.

As the risk of property loss and damage increases, so does the cost of insurance. In fact, many households at higher risk of extreme weather are being priced out of insurance altogether.

While there is still considerable scope to limit the severity of future floods, fires and destructive storms, we must also adapt as much as possible to the escalating impacts confronting us, and in the coming years. Households and businesses need clear data and information about the escalating risks they are facing, and support them to adapt to them, including help to access affordable insurance.

While communities need support to adapt where they can, we must also seek to limit further investment in areas at a high-risk of climate impacts, and help people to relocate from unsafe areas with dignity and fair compensation.

Did the 47th Parliament get us on track?

The 47th Parliament initially saw a significant improvement in Australia's climate adaptation capability. In the Labor Government's first budget, \$22.6 million was allocated to improve insurance affordability and availability, including the creation of the [Hazards Insurance Partnership](#).

The Labor Government also committed to developing and completing both a [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) and [National Adaptation Plan](#), allocating [\\$27 million](#) over two years for the projects. The Government also initiated an [Independent Review of the Australian Climate Service](#), established by their predecessors. The Labor Government responded to the recommendations arising from the final report in December 2024. Alongside this activity, the government also launched the [Disaster Ready Fund](#), committing \$1 billion in funding over five years, investing \$200 million in disaster preparedness resilience projects each year, such as state based home resilience programs.

However, neither the final National Climate Risk Assessment or Adaptation Plan have been released, despite the risk assessment initially planned to be completed [in 2024](#), and consultation on the adaptation plan issues paper [having closed in April 2024](#).

The [National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025](#), was released under the previous government in 2021, two years into its second term. With no more recent plans having been released during this term of Parliament, Australia now effectively has no national plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Members of the crossbench have continued to highlight the importance of addressing climate impacts throughout the parliamentary term. The Australian Greens [established a senate inquiry](#) into the impact of climate risk on insurance affordability and availability, including considering “the role of governments to implement climate adaptation and resilience measures to reduce risks and the cost of insurance”. Independent members such as Zali Steggall have also [called for](#) expanded adaptation to the impacts of climate change, holding a climate resilience round table in 2024, and calling for policies including a national standard for climate-adapted planning controls.

No legislation regarding disaster resilience and climate adaptation was voted on in this term of parliament.



3.

What does the 48th Parliament need to deliver?



Securing a safer future

HOW THE NEXT PARLIAMENT CAN BUILD ON MOMENTUM TO DELIVER DEEP AND PERMANENT CUTS TO CLIMATE POLLUTION

With progress comes momentum. The 47th Parliament reset climate action in Australia, and has started to deliver real solutions that cut climate pollution and benefit all Australians. From renewable power to electric vehicles and green metals, Australia's energy and industry future is becoming clear. Now we can seize the opportunity to build on this momentum and go further.

The next term of the Australian Parliament will be make or break for climate action. It is an urgent opportunity to cut emissions to the levels required in this critical decade, which will set the trajectory for our climate over the next century.

Will Australia's next government and 48th Parliament keep the momentum behind real, tried and tested solutions, or will they divert from the critical path and pursue solutions that are too slow or that send us backwards?

In the next three years, Australia is required to set a 2035 climate pollution reduction target and review the Safeguard Mechanism, a cornerstone policy for cleaning up our biggest polluters. At the same time, the two major parties are offering greatly contrasting policies on key areas like energy and transport.

In earlier pages of this report, the Climate Council has outlined what the science tells us needs to be done, and what credible climate policy looks like across six key priorities in order to get us where we need to go. In this section, we will consider how each of the major party's policies measure up against these, and what they tell us about what the major parties will deliver on climate in the next term of Parliament.

In completing this analysis, Climate Council has considered each party's policies,¹ public comments and statements, and recent parliamentary record to build a full picture of how each party may seek to maintain, advance or regress climate policy in the 48th Parliament.

This analysis is current as of 31 March, 2025.








































Our ongoing analysis of election commitments will continue to be updated until election day, and is available [on our website](#).



The next term of government will determine whether we secure, or squander, a safer future.

¹ See Labor: [Building Australia's Future](#); Liberal: [The Priorities of a Dutton Coalition Government](#); Greens: [Election Platform](#).

ELECTION POLICY SCORECARD: HOW DO THE BIGGEST PARTIES MEASURE UP ON CLIMATE & ENERGY?

ACTION REQUIRED	LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	AUSTRALIAN GREENS
 Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  No 2030 target.  No 2035 target.  Net zero by 2050, but no credible plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Legislated 43% cut by 2030.  Committed to setting a 2035 target.  Net zero by 2050, with policies and investments to support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  75% cut by 2030.  Net zero by 2035.
 Ending new fossil fuel development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Plans to expand gas projects and weaken approval requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  No plan to phase out fossil fuel development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  No new coal and gas.  No public funding for fossil fuels.
 Powering the country with renewables backed by storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Opposes 82% renewables by 2030.  Pursuing nuclear, more coal and gas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  82% renewable power by 2030.  Significant policies and investments to support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  100% renewable power ASAP.
 Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  No clear policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Supports industrial electrification.  Significant policies and investments to support.  More work needed to tighten pollution limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Supports sustainable fuels and technologies.  Lacks detailed industrial decarbonisation policies.
 Accelerating shared, active, and electric transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wind back fuel efficiency standards.  No public or active transport policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Supports fuel efficiency standards.  Rolling out investment in active transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Doubling public transport services and reducing fares.  Supports more investment in active transport.
 Better protecting Australians from climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  No resilience or adaptation policies.  Conflicting statements on insurance policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Demonstrated commitment to deliver National Climate Risk Assessment, National Adaptation Plan, and disaster funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Insurance reforms funded by polluters. Supports a national disaster risk map.
OVERALL RATING	HARMFUL	RIGHT DIRECTION	STRONG

The Australian Labor Party

A FUTURE LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP BUILDING ON CLIMATE PROGRESS, BUT THE PARTY'S POSITION ON FOSSIL FUELS THREATENS TO UNDERMINE THIS MOMENTUM

The Albanese Labor Government has strengthened Australia's climate policy in this last term, cutting expected 2030 emissions by 39 million tonnes and establishing a clear legal and policy framework to guide Australia's response to climate change.

Labor has committed to building on its climate policies if re-elected, focusing on delivering existing targets and programs to back-in renewable power, storage, and the clean industries of the future. It also has a clear plan to continue cutting climate pollution this decade and double renewable energy, backed by storage, by 2030.

However, stronger action is needed from Labor to end new and expanded fossil fuel developments to ensure progress in sectors like electricity, industry, and transport is not undermined. A clear plan to phase out fossil fuel expansion would solidify Australia's path toward deep emissions cuts and a cleaner future, and until Labor develops such a plan, genuine progress to cut climate pollution to the levels required will continue to be undermined.

Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

✓ **Right direction:** Labor are committed to reducing climate pollution by 43% on 2005 levels by 2030, and have legislated mechanisms for both annual reporting and ongoing climate science advice. They have not indicated any intention to strengthen the 2030 target and [have not yet committed to a 2035 target](#), although they have indicated that they will consider the advice of the independent Climate Change Authority in setting a 2035 target, as is currently required by law.

Ending new fossil fuel development

✗ **Harmful:** Labor has committed to strengthening Australia's environmental laws but has yet to ensure they account for climate change, the greatest threat to our natural environment. In its first term, Labor failed to pass legislation on this issue, and approved 26 new and expanded fossil fuel developments. It also passed the 'Sea Dumping Bill,' supporting new fossil fuel projects by enabling offshore carbon capture and storage. While policies like the Safeguard Mechanism aim to cut pollution, a clear plan to phase out new or expanded fossil fuel developments is needed to align with Australia's climate goals.

Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

✓ **Strong:** In government, Labor has adopted a non-binding target of 82% renewable electricity by 2030, and has implemented several significant policies to support this – namely the Capacity Investment Scheme and Rewiring Australia. Labor is expected to maintain this target, and set new ambitions for the 2030s. Labor will also reportedly introduce [new support for household batteries](#), consistent with its ambition to reach a high share of renewable power by 2030.

Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels

✓ **Strong:** Labor has supported cuts to climate pollution from industry through the reformed Safeguard Mechanism. However, the mechanism is still too reliant on carbon offsets, and its coverage is too narrow. More ambition is needed across all these areas to get us on track for the necessary cuts to climate pollution. The mechanism is due for review in 2026-27, offering a key opportunity to fix and strengthen these important regulations.

Labor has also set up clear policies and incentives to encourage the development of new clean industries, including the production of green metals, critical minerals, green hydrogen, green ammonia, and low carbon liquid fuels through its Future Made in Australia plan.

Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

✓ **Right direction:** Labor has announced [\\$1 billion to secure a rail corridor](#) in Western Sydney and [\\$2 billion for the upgrade of Melbourne's Sunshine Station](#), which could see better shared transport access for local residents. Further policies to cut climate pollution from transport during a potential second term have not yet been announced, but Labor is expected to continue to deliver its commitments from the 47th Parliament.

In this term of government, Labor took initial steps to expand shared and active transport, including establishing the [\\$100m active transport fund](#), which aims to increase walking and cycling through the upgrade of existing and construction of new bicycle and walking pathways.

Labor also implemented the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES), which will give Australians access to cleaner new cars, including more electric vehicles, and they have committed to retain this. Labor also developed Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy, and commenced consultation on development of a Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan,¹ both of which they have indicated they would deliver if re-elected.

Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

✓ **Right direction:** Labor has not yet announced further resilience and adaptation policies for a potential second term, but is expected to continue to deliver its commitments from the 47th parliament.

In this term of government, Labor introduced the Hazards Insurance Partnership to improve insurance affordability and availability, and reviewed the Australian Climate Service, national natural disaster governance arrangements and Commonwealth disaster funding.

Labor also committed \$27.4 million toward the development of a National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, and \$200 million per year toward disaster preparedness and resilience. However, neither the Risk Assessment or Adaptation Plan have been delivered within this parliamentary term. With the previous strategy expiring in 2025, Australia effectively has no national risk assessment or adaptation strategy. These strategies must be delivered as a priority by any future government, but Labor has not yet committed to a timeline for their release.

Labor has committed to building on its climate policies if re-elected.



¹ This plan outlines pathways for Australia to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 across all transport modes—road, aviation, maritime, and rail. It encompasses freight and supply chains, active and public transport planning, and supporting infrastructure.

The Liberal-National Coalition

THE LIBERAL-NATIONAL COALITION HAS NO CREDIBLE PLAN TO CUT CLIMATE POLLUTION AND THEIR NUCLEAR SCHEME COULD INCREASE CLIMATE POLLUTION BY 2 BILLION TONNES

When the Climate Council reviewed the last Coalition Government, in power from 2013 to 2022, we found [“a complete and catastrophic failure to act on the climate crisis”](#). The Federal Coalition’s voting record and policies announced in opposition over the past three years suggest little has changed.

The Liberal-National Coalition’s climate and energy policies would be actively harmful, taking Australia backwards from our current trajectory. The Liberal-National Coalition’s plan to slow the renewables rollout and pursue nuclear reactors would alone lead to at least 2 billion tonnes more climate pollution. Promises to expand gas production by the “bucket load” and wind back Australia’s 2030 emissions reduction target would see climate pollution increase even further.

Amongst the three largest parties in the 47th parliament, and based on their current policies and voting record, the Climate Council has ranked the Liberal-National Coalition worst on climate change.

Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

✗ **Harmful:** The Coalition claims to be supportive of net zero climate pollution by 2050, yet many of its members continue to oppose this target. In September 2023, the National Party [debated](#) retracting its [net zero](#) commitment, and in January 2025, Nationals Senator Matt Canavan publicly declared [“No more net zero!”](#)

The Coalition has confirmed that [it would abandon the current climate pollution reduction target](#) of 43% on 2005 levels if elected, despite this target already being [legislated](#), and has [refused to commit](#) to a different 2030 target unless it is elected. Independent expert analysis indicates that the Coalition’s current nuclear policy implies a maximum emissions reduction of [38% on 2005 levels](#) by 2030 – significantly weaker than Australia’s current target.

Public commentary from the Coalition has also raised questions regarding [whether](#) the Party intends to commit to medium term targets if elected, with one [high-profile Liberal](#) indicating in February 2025 that they may not set a 2035 emissions target. [Subsequent media reports highlighted clear disparities](#) with the Liberal and National party room on the issue.

Concerningly, the Coalition has also intensified attacks on independent science agencies and authorities:

- › Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has [repeatedly made unevicenced claims](#) that the CSIRO is politically compromised, [claiming in December 2024](#) that their in-depth work on nuclear costings had been politically influenced.
- › In February 2025, senior members of the Coalition publicly [threatened to sack the chair of the Climate Change Authority](#), an independent organisation responsible for informing Australia’s climate policy with science-backed advice.
- › The Coalition’s energy spokesperson Ted O’Brien further claimed that the Authority’s independent analysis of the Coalition’s nuclear policy demonstrated that the Authority had become a [“puppet”](#) – despite their analysis being entirely based on data from the Coalition’s own modelling.

Ending new fossil fuel development

✘ **Harmful:** The Coalition's [2025 election platform](#) includes cutting approval requirements for new gas projects, encouraging increased exploration and development, such as the highly-polluting Beetaloo Basin gas reserve. They have committed to spending [\\$1.3 billion](#) to expand extraction of polluting gas and build new pipelines, despite Australia's gas needs dwindling.

The Coalition has committed to "[bring\[ing\] on more gas by the bucket load](#)" and has publicly supported the recent approval of polluting [coal](#) and [gas](#) projects. The Coalition has also [stated it would approve](#) the highly polluting North West Shelf project, despite the proponent's own analysis showing the project would lead to [90 million tonnes of climate pollution each year](#), equivalent to over [one-fifth of Australia's yearly emissions](#).

Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

✘ **Harmful:** The Coalition has outwardly opposed renewable energy, and would [not achieve](#) Australia's current target of 82% renewable electricity by 2030.

Instead, the Coalition has committed to pursuing taxpayer funded nuclear reactors, despite experts confirming they would [take too long](#) to build, [increase power bills](#) for Australians, and be at risk of [significant budget and timeline blowouts](#). They would also provide [government support](#) for gas generation, encouraging more polluting electricity. At the same time, they have [committed to cutting](#) \$20 billion in support for essential transmission projects if elected.

The Coalition's own modelling shows that its nuclear scheme would result in one billion tonnes more direct climate pollution by 2050 than Australia's current plans, with the [potential for at least a billion tonnes of additional climate pollution from transport and industry](#) caused by slowing the transition to renewables. Pursuing nuclear would delay action to cut climate pollution from electricity [for at least a decade](#), with climate pollution remaining higher than under our existing plan for more than 20 years.

The Coalition has also made misleading claims about the cost of their plan, including [claiming](#) that the total cost of nuclear would be lower than Australia's current plan, while [significantly underestimating](#) the costs of building and operating nuclear reactors, including by planning to produce far less power than Australia is expected to need. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has also [claimed that their modelling](#) shows that nuclear would reduce household bills, despite it explicitly stating that "[electricity prices are not modelled in this project](#)". Coalition members themselves have undermined their colleagues' claims on the cost of nuclear, with Coalition Senator Matt Canavan stating nuclear "[ain't the cheapest](#)" form of energy.

The Coalition has suggested it may introduce policies to support [household batteries](#), despite Opposition Leader Peter Dutton previously questioning the effectiveness of batteries, [saying in](#) 2024 "Hopefully the battery technology [needed to provide consistent energy] is about to be discovered, but not yet."

The Coalition has also committed to blocking important [updates to the National Construction Code](#), including [proposals](#) to ensure all new commercial buildings install rooftop solar.

The Federal Coalition's nuclear scheme would be a climate disaster, as it would lock in at least two billion more tonnes of pollution from coal, oil and gas.



Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels

? No plan: During this term of Parliament the Coalition opposed reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism, which requires Australia's biggest polluters to cut their climate pollution. The Coalition is reportedly planning to [weaken or abolish the mechanism if elected](#). They also opposed legislation enabling the Future Made in Australia plan, which supports the growth of new clean energy industries. The Coalition has [committed to cutting support](#) for green hydrogen under the plan, which is essential to cut climate pollution from steel production and other heavy industries.

The Coalition has not committed to any policies to cut climate pollution from industry. The Coalition has also not committed to any policies that support the development of green hydrogen, ammonia, or sustainable aviation fuel.

Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

✗ Harmful: During this term of parliament, the Coalition expressed clear opposition to and ultimately voted against Labor's New Vehicle Emission Standards (NVES) - a measure to give Australians access to cheaper and cleaner new cars while cutting climate pollution. During debate over the reforms, opposition leader Peter Dutton consistently repeated the false [claim that the standard](#) was a "car and ute tax". Other Coalition MPs have [continued to repeat](#) this claim.

[In March 2024](#), Opposition Leader Peter Dutton stated that the Coalition would not support Labor's fuel efficiency standards, regardless of any concessions made, and in [October 2024, criticized the NVES legislation](#), labeling it poorly considered and problematic. The Coalition has committed to [winding back the standards](#) if elected.

The Coalition currently has no policies to expand access to shared and active transport.

Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

? No plan: The Coalition has not announced any policies to protect Australians from the impacts of climate change.

In February 2025, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton criticised major insurers for high premiums in disaster-hit areas like North Queensland, [suggesting a Coalition government may break up insurers](#) found to be overcharging. However, no details have been released regarding how this policy would work in practice, or how effective it would be in the absence of broader policies to tackle the underlying causes of these rising premiums and/or a broader range of disaster preparedness and resilience policies. Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor later contradicted the Opposition Leader, claiming that the Coalition had ["been clear"](#) that insurance was excluded from their divestiture policy, leaving the Coalition's plans uncertain.



The Australian Greens

THE GREENS SUPPORT SCIENCE-ALIGNED ACTION ON CLIMATE, INCLUDING AN END TO NEW COAL AND GAS

In this term of parliament the Greens have lifted ambition, slowed the expansion of fossil fuels, and worked to prevent government funding for coal, oil and gas.

The Greens are the only major political party with seats in the current parliament that supports science-aligned targets to reduce climate pollution and an end to new and expanded coal and gas projects. Their actions during the 47th Parliament advanced climate action, pushing the Labor government to go further in exchange for the passage of legislation in the Senate, and the Party's policy platform indicates that Australians should expect more of the same in the next parliamentary term.

The Greens supported and strengthened Australia's climate reforms, and continue to push for more ambitious climate action.



Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

- ✓ **Strong:** The Greens have advocated for science-aligned reductions to climate pollution, acknowledging the need to reach [net zero by 2035](#) or sooner. They have previously [sought to amend Australia's climate change laws](#) to incorporate this 2035 net zero target, with an interim target of a 75% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030.

Ending new fossil fuel development

- ✓ **Strong:** The Greens have pledged to [stop new coal and gas projects](#), and have already passed a number of amendments making it harder for new gas projects to be developed, including preventing the use of public funds for [investment in coal and gas](#).

Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

- ✓ **Strong:** The Greens [support expanding renewable energy](#), including providing [grants and low interest loans](#) for homes and businesses to electrify and install solar and batteries, and building publicly owned renewable energy. Their party policy platform supports "[100% of electricity used in Australia to come from renewable sources as soon as possible](#)".

More detail regarding specific policy mechanisms or funding to achieve these ambitions would assist to strengthen the Greens policy platform.

Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels

- ✓ **Right direction:** The Greens would end fossil fuel subsidies (i.e. the diesel excise rebate) for industries other than agriculture. In this term of parliament, the Greens supported Labor's Future Made in Australia plan after [securing amendments](#) which prevent it from funding fossil fuel projects.

The Greens do not otherwise have detailed policies to support the growth of clean industries, or cuts to climate pollution from existing industry.

Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

- ✓ **Strong:** The Greens would [increase funding for shared and active transport](#), including doubling the number of high-frequency public transport services in major cities by 2030, introducing 50c fares nationally, building Melbourne to Brisbane high speed rail by 2040, and investing in active transport infrastructure.

To ensure a measurable impact on share and active transport uptake, the Greens plan could also incorporate more specific targets for mode shift or public transport access, and assess the cost-effectiveness of policy measures such as 50c fares in increasing shared transport use.

Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

- ✓ **Right direction:** The Greens have announced a policy to improve insurance affordability in disaster-prone regions by expanding the 'cyclone reinsurance pool' to all natural disasters, and requiring fossil fuel companies to contribute to the pool, and the Disaster Ready Fund under a 'polluter pays' principle. They have also committed to establishing a public national disaster risk map to provide access to better information on the risk posed by climate-fuelled natural disasters. The Australian Greens also introduced a broader [Polluter Pays bill](#), which intends to make big polluters legally liable for the costs of climate disasters.

It is important that these policies also incorporate a broader plan to reduce the nation's overall risk exposure, including assisting households to move out of high risk areas, and preventing the building of new homes and infrastructure in these areas. While increasing the affordability of insurance is important, it also has the potential to encourage households to settle or remain in high-risk areas, which must be addressed.

Independents and the crossbench

A GROWING, POSITIVE FORCE FOR STRONGER CLIMATE ACTION

Independents played a critical role in strengthening Australia's climate laws in this last parliamentary term, and their influence is only expected to grow in the next parliament. With polls suggesting neither major party is likely to form a majority government in 2025, a stronger pro-climate crossbench could positively shape Australia's next wave of climate policies.

Over the past three years, independents secured real and sensible wins on climate action, such as increasing ambition, transparency and integrity in the Climate Change Act, backing policies for cleaner and cheaper-to-run cars, and advocating for greater household electrification support. Independents also introduced or pushed for amendments to limit new coal and gas projects, strengthen climate pollution reduction targets, and introduce a legal duty of care to protect future generations from climate harm—though these were all blocked by the two major parties.

With the strong possibility of a hung parliament at the upcoming election, members of the crossbench are likely to be in a strong position to negotiate with the major parties, using their influence to secure greater climate action.

A strong, pro-climate crossbench could be a critical pathway to ensuring Australia's transition to clean energy and climate pollution reductions accelerate in the next term of government.

In the 2025 federal election, many of the independents and minor parties who contributed to strong climate action in the previous Parliament are running with practical climate policies that go beyond the current commitments of the two major parties.

Every independent candidate is different.

Every independent Member of Parliament and candidate is different and should be assessed based on their individual policies, commitments, and track record. While many independents have championed strong climate policies, not all members of the crossbench prioritise climate action or have a voting record that supports climate action. This list of policies is not intended to be exhaustive, but highlights positive policies from independent MPs and Senators from the 47th Parliament. Voters should carefully review each candidate's stated policies and positions, from trusted sources, to determine their approach to addressing climate change.



Legislating science-backed targets to cut climate pollution

Many independents are continuing to advocate for stronger climate pollution reduction targets, including [Dr Monique Ryan](#), [Allegra Spender](#), [Zali Steggall](#) and [Zoe Daniel](#) backing a target of 75% by 2035, while others push for a stronger 2030 target, such as [Dr Sophie Scamps](#).

Ending new fossil fuel development

A significant number of independent candidates recognise the essential need to end new fossil fuel development. Dr Sophie Scamps is advocating for a [phase out of coal and gas](#), while [Kylea Tink](#) and [Allegra Spender](#) have supported an end to new coal and gas projects. Kate Chaney, [supported by](#) Allegra Spender and David Pocock, has called for an end to [taxpayer-funded fossil fuel subsidies](#). Other independents, including Dr Monique Ryan, have called for [tougher rules](#) to ensure a “reasonable tax return” from offshore oil and gas producers.

Other independents including [Allegra Spender](#) and [Kate Chaney](#) have called for reforms to Australia’s [broken environment laws](#), while [David Pocock](#) and [Sophie Scamps](#) have each introduced bills to require governments to consider the impact of their actions - including as fossil fuel approvals - on future generations.

The influence of pro-climate independents is only expected to grow in the next parliament.

Powering our country with renewable power backed by storage

Many independents are advocating for practical policies to expand renewable power and storage, while delivering cost of living relief to households. This includes Dr Sophie Scamp’s policy to support Australian families to [install a home battery](#) and Zali Stegall’s support for [home electrification](#). Allegra Spender has also proposed support for [energy efficient upgrades to homes](#) alongside minimum standards for rental properties, and disclosure of home energy efficiency ratings during sale. Specific to regional communities, [Dr Helen Haines](#) has advocated for more micro-grids, which would see regional communities able to power themselves independently during disasters or outages, primarily with renewable power and battery storage.

Electrifying industry and switching to zero-emission fuels

Independents like Zoe Daniel are backing industrial energy efficiency, including [greater recycling](#) of steel and aluminium. Proposals to [phase out fossil fuel subsidies](#), backed by independents including Allegra Spender and Kate Chaney, would also provide a clearer incentive for industry to reduce its use of fossil fuels.

Accelerating our move to shared, active and electric transport

Independents are backing the faster rollout of electric vehicles, with independent Zoe Daniel aiming for one-third of road kilometres to be travelled by electric vehicles, backed by electrification of [taxis and rideshare vehicles](#). Independents backed the passage of the NVES in this term of parliament, making it easier for Australians to access a larger range of new electric and low emission vehicles.

Expanding shared and active transport is essential to cutting climate pollution from transport quickly enough. Some independents are calling for better access to shared and active transport options for their communities, including [Dr Helen Haines](#), who is advocating for fast, frequent and reliable trains between Wodonga and Melbourne.

Better protecting Australians from the impacts of climate change

A number of independents are pushing for more action to make Australia more resilient to climate impacts. Independent Zali Stegall is continuing to push for a [National Framework for Adaptation](#), which would comprehensively assess and plan for the impacts of climate change. This would include a legally binding requirement for the government to plan for the impact of climate change, and provide transparent information about climate risks and adaptation planning. Other independents, including [Dr Sophie Scamps](#), have backed long-term adaptation strategies, and committed to advocating for more support for communities experiencing and recovering from extreme weather.

Conclusion

The stakes for climate action in Australia have never been higher. The 47th Parliament made real progress—strengthening climate laws, boosting renewables, and setting a foundation for a cleaner future. But the job is far from done.

Australian voters face a clear choice: accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and seize the enormous opportunities of a clean energy economy, or stall and leave Australians exposed to worsening climate impacts and economic risks.

We cannot afford to waste more time on delay and distraction. Every moment spent debating inappropriate technologies or approving new fossil fuel projects only makes the transition harder and more expensive. Science, and economics all point in the same direction: ramp up renewables, electrify homes and businesses, and phase out fossil fuels.

As Australians head to the polls, the decision is stark. Will we keep building a cleaner, more prosperous future—or be held back by those who refuse to act, or are beholden to the interests of big business and major polluters? The next Australian parliament will define Australia's climate path for decades to come. It's time to double down and get on with it.

The 48th Parliament must go further and faster to cut climate pollution, and Australians must vote like their lives depend on it.





Appendix

FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENTS APPROVED IN THIS TERM OF PARLIAMENT



APPROVED COAL PROJECTS

12 new or expanded coal mines were approved.

Project	Type	Approval notes	Approval date	Lifetime emissions impact (Mt)	Approval source	Emissions source
Lake Vermont coal mine	Time extension	Approval extended to 2063	January 2023	Unknown	link	
Issac River coal mine	New	Approved with conditions	May 2023	7	link	link
Star coal mine	New	Approval not required	June 2023	3	link	link
Ensham coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	July 2023	106	link	link
Gregory Crinum coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	August 2023	39	link	link
Narrabri coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	September 2023	475	link	link
Ashton and Ravensworth coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	September 2024	6	link	link
Mount Pleasant coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	September 2024	876	link	link
Caval Ridge coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	December 2024	473	link	link
Boggabri coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	December 2024	156	link	link
Lake Vermont Meadowbrook coal mine	Expansion	Approved with conditions	December 2024	307	link	link
Vulcan South coal mine	New	Approved with conditions	January 2025	25	link	link



APPROVED GAS PROJECTS

5 new and expanded gas and oil projects were approved.

Project	Type	Project notes	Approval type	Approval date	Approval source
West Erregulla Field Development Program	Expanded extraction	Onshore conventional (2x new conventional wells)	EPBC approved with conditions	October 2024	link
Santos - Towrie	New extraction	Onshore - Coal Seam Gas	EPBC approved with conditions	February 2023	link
Atlas Stage 3	New extraction	Onshore - Coal Seam Gas	EPBC approved with conditions	June 2024	link
Santos - Dorado	New extraction	Offshore	Offshore project plan approved	February 2023	link
Oil Field Carbon Capture Utilisation Storage (CCUS) Project (V2 04/07/2022)	Expanded extraction	Onshore	The Department determined this was not a controlled action, and therefore EPBC approval was not required, allowing the works to go ahead.	September 2022	link














OFFSHORE EXPLORATION PERMITS ISSUED

9 exploration permits were issued by the Resources Minister:

- > **Esso (ExxonMobil):** 3x Otway Basin (VIC), 1x Sorell Basin (TAS)
- > **Beach Energy:** 1x Otway Basin (VIC)
- > **Chevron:** 1x Northern Carnarvon Basin (WA)
- > **Melbana:** 1x Northern Carnarvon Basin (WA)
- > **Woodside:** 1x Northern Carnarvon Basin (WA)
- > **Inpex:** 1x Bonaparte Basin (NT)

A TIMELINE OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison Liberal-National Governments		
	2013	September 2013 Federal Election
	2014	 The Liberal-National Coalition repeals the price on carbon and cuts funding to essential agencies including the CSIRO, Climate Change Authority, and Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).
	2015	 195 countries including Australia adopt the Paris Agreement.
		 The Liberal-National Coalition weakens the Renewable Energy Target by 20% and Australia sets a 2030 emissions reduction target that's among the weakest of any developed country (26-28 percent below 2005 levels).
	2018	 Australia announces it will use "carry over" credits from the Kyoto Protocol to meet its first commitment under the Paris Agreement. The move has no legal basis and was widely criticised for being against the spirit of the Paris Agreement.
Morrison Liberal-National Government	2019	 Australia is called out as one of a handful of countries holding up progress on the completion of the Paris Agreement's rulebook, specifically rules covering the international trade in emissions reductions (Article 6).
		 Australians experience the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires on the back of the hottest and driest year on record for Australia. The Liberal-National Coalition ignored warnings from former fire and emergency services chiefs from throughout Australia, and Prime Minister Morrison refused to meet with them or take advice.
	2020	 Liberal-National Coalition embarks on a so-called "gas-fired recovery" from the COVID-19 pandemic.
		 The Liberal-National Coalition approves initial stages of the Scarborough gas project, expected to add between 800 million to 1.6 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project (This equates to 1.5 to 3 times Australia's annual emissions).
	2021	 The 2021-22 federal budget allocates \$52.9 million to gas infrastructure projects and a gas-fired power station (\$30 million), with no new support for renewable energy or electric vehicles.
		 The Liberal-National Coalition took a net zero by 2050 target to COP26 and published "The Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way", which fails to include a strengthened 2030 target and does not enable Australia to reach net zero by 2050.
	2022	 The Great Barrier Reef suffers from an unprecedented fourth mass bleaching event in seven years (2016, 2017, 2020 and 2022). In a report submitted to UNESCO in February 2022, the Government glossed over its woefully inadequate response to the deadly consequences of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef by citing its plan to reach net zero by 2050, despite its own modelling revealing it could not achieve this with their policies.

2022 May 2022 Federal Election

After being elected with a promise of increased action on climate change, Labor passes the Climate Change Bill and legislates targets to cut climate pollution by at least 43% by 2030. It also establishes a mandatory annual statement on progress, including advice from the independent Climate Change Authority.



A project to extract more oil by [pumping carbon dioxide](#) into the Surat Basin is determined to not require scrutiny under national environment law, and is waved through.



Labor delivers its first budget, including \$500 million to help reduce transport pollution, \$300 million in support for community batteries and solar, \$42 million to restore the role of the Climate Change Authority, and a \$20 billion fund to finance new and upgraded transmission lines.



Unfortunately, it also includes \$1.9 billion for the Middle Arm Project, which will be a hub for gas exports, petrochemicals, and carbon capture and storage.

2023

Strengthens the Safeguard Mechanism, requiring big polluters to cut climate pollution in line with Australia's targets, expected to result in direct cuts of [23 million tonnes in 2030](#).



Announces the Capacity Investment Scheme, which will underwrite 23 gigawatts (GW) of renewable generation and 9 GW of clean dispatchable capacity, effectively doubling the capacity of renewables in Australia's main grid.



Funds the household energy upgrades fund, a \$1.3 billion program to help more Australians save on energy bills by making energy-saving upgrades to their homes. Also includes \$300 million to upgrade the energy efficiency of social housing.



Officially launches the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) providing up to \$200 million annually over five years for disaster mitigation and resilience projects. Commits \$27.4 million over two years for Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, providing analysis of significant climate risks and necessary adaptations.



Announces Hydrogen Headstart, a production incentive to support green hydrogen projects with payments until the mid 2030s.



Labor approves six new and expanded coal mines and two new gas extraction projects.



Launches Australia's first [National Health and Climate Strategy](#) which aims to build a climate resilient, net zero health system while protecting the health and wellbeing of communities from climate impacts - including heat and heatwaves, mental health, air quality and communicable disease.



Labor's '[Sea Dumping Bill](#)' passes both houses. The bill supports fossil fuel developments by enabling the use of offshore carbon capture and storage. Carbon capture and storage is [an unreliable technology, which fails to deliver cuts to emissions, and only serves to ramp up emissions](#).















- 2024**
-  Legislates the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES), helping Australians access cheaper, cleaner-to-run cars, and supporting the uptake of electric vehicles. The NVES is expected to [cut 321 million tonnes of climate pollution between 2024 and 2050](#).
 -  Passes Future Made in Australia legislation - a \$22 billion plan to support Australian manufacturing by making more things here with clean energy and Australian resources, including green metals, critical minerals, and low carbon liquid fuels.
 -  Labor legislates to establish an independent statutory authority to guide workers, industries, and regions through Australia's transformation into a net-zero economy. The Net Zero Economy Authority commences operations in December 2024.
 -  Announces record funding for ARENA, including \$1.9 billion boost to baseline funding, \$2 billion for round two of the Hydrogen Headstart program - \$1.7 billion for the Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund - \$1 billion previously announced for the Solar Sunshot program - \$500 million for the Battery Breakthrough Initiative
 -  The value of total renewable energy investment in Australia [reaches record levels in June 2024](#), at \$2.3 billion for the quarter.
 -  Labor [approves](#) the large Atlas Gas project in Queensland, which will see up to 151 new, polluting coal seam gas wells drilled. Labor also approves [two new conventional gas wells](#) in the West Erregulla gas field.
 -  Labor approves [five expanded coal mine](#) developments and [issues nine offshore gas exploration permits](#). We cannot build new or expanded coal mines if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
 -  Legislates new [climate-related financial reporting](#) requirements in September 2024, requiring large Australian businesses to disclose climate change related financial risks and opportunities, as well as their scope 1 and 2 emissions.
 -  The [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy](#) is released, supporting First Nations people to benefit from the rollout of renewable power.
 -  The [National Health and Climate Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2028](#) is released, outlining how the Australian Government will deliver the 49 actions contained in the [strategy](#).
- 2025**
-  Amendments to electricity laws which [legislate the Capacity Investment Scheme](#), including underwriting of 32 GW of renewables and storage capacity, are introduced by the Australian Greens and supported by Labor.
 -  Announces an [additional \\$2 billion to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation \(CEFC\)](#) to support Australian households, workers and businesses to make the shift to cheaper, clean, reliable, renewable energy.
 -  The Labor [approves](#) the new Vulcan South Coal Mine, which will lead to 25 million tonnes of climate pollution over its lifetime.
 -  The Labor approves the final hurdle of the [Scarborough gas project](#), which will lead to an eye-watering [1.37 billion tonnes](#) of climate pollution over its lifetime. The Government also approves [exploration drilling](#) in the Otway Basin.

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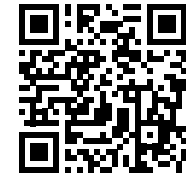
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The Climate Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, meet and work. We wish to pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and recognise the continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to land, sea and sky. We acknowledge the ongoing leadership of First Nations people here and worldwide in protecting Country, and securing a safe and liveable climate for us all.



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