



Thank you for making an impact.

The Climate Council is 100% independent and community-funded. We rely on word-of-mouth and donations from the general public to provide reliable and quality research, socialise it and then campaign for the solutions we need. If you'd like to support more reports like this go to: www.climatecouncil.org.au/donate

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Cover image:

Climate Council supporters worked hard on their costumes for the 2024 City2Surf.

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

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Thank you for your support

Over the past 12 years, the Climate Council has united Australia's foremost experts in climate impacts and solutions, communications, and advocacy to drive significant, society-wide change—and it's working. From the day of our inception—immediately after the decision to abolish the Climate Commission—we have gone from strength to strength as an independent, community-funded organisation thanks to your support.

Image 1: Climate Council staff and Councillors in discussion at a donor event in Sydney. **Image 2:** Climate Council staff and Councillors presenting on the impact of our election campaign at a donor event in Sydney. **Image 3:** Climate Council staff supporting a Sydney donor event in May. **Image 4:** CEO Amanda McKenzie interviewed by Craig Reucassel on a panel discussing Australia's opportunity to cut climate pollution at SXSW Sydney 2024. **Image 5:** CEO Amanda McKenzie in conversation with Chair of the Climate Change Authority Matt Kean during a community webinar. **Image 6:** Climate Council staff and supporters participate in the 2024 City2Surf.



1



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3



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5



6

A message from the Chair and CEO

It is our pleasure to share the Climate Council's 2024–25 Annual Report.

This year, energy dominated the national conversation, and our work, as communities across the country decided whether our future would be fuelled by renewables or Australia would continue to rely on polluting fossil fuels.

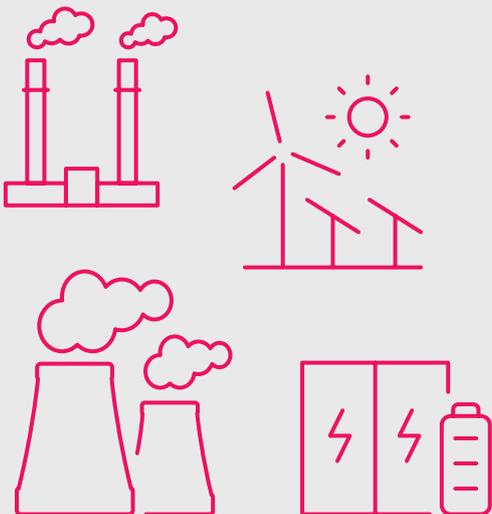
The federal election became what many described as an "energy referendum," with climate and energy policy emerging as defining issues of the campaign. As disinformation spread, the Climate Council focused on cutting through confusion and highlighting the real-world consequences of different climate and energy choices.

Climate change is now a permanent fixture of Australian elections, and a large voting block prioritises climate action at the ballot box. Recent election outcomes highlight that Australians expect all political parties to put forward credible, future-focused climate and energy policies.

Our Seize the Sun campaign helped build strong public momentum that contributed to the landmark \$2.3 billion federal commitment to support one million more households and businesses to install batteries within five years. This policy helps families get cleaner, cheaper energy by cutting the cost of a typical battery by about 30 percent - while slashing climate pollution. It stands as a powerful example of how independent, people-powered advocacy can deliver real benefits for communities and for our climate.

When wildfires raged in Los Angeles and Cyclone Alfred struck Australian communities, we were the top voice helping Australians connect these events to rising climate pollution. Through both these disasters, we stayed focused on sharing clear, evidence-based information - even as some lobby groups publicly challenged this work.

Throughout the year, we worked to make the economic climate risks tangible for more Australians. Our 17 reports and digital tools - like the Climate Risk Map and Heat Map - are helping people visualise how climate change is affecting their



own suburbs, homes, and health. These tools were broadcast to millions of Australians and accessed by thousands, who now have a deeper understanding of the connection between the burning of coal, oil and gas, and the impacts of climate change they're experiencing in their communities.

This year, the Climate Council's advocacy was instrumental in lifting the upper end of Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target to a strong 70% - a level unlikely to have been achieved without our intervention - while we continue to push for greater ambition to strengthen the lower end of the target, which currently sits at 62%. Our policy analysis and public engagement strongly shaped national advocacy on the 2035 target and reinforced the importance of strong, evidence-based ambition. This year our expert researchers, communicators, and campaigners worked tirelessly to hold governments to account, debunk dangerous myths, and keep climate action on the national agenda.

Behind all of this work was our remarkable community. Every report written, every story told, every policy win achieved was powered by your generosity and belief in independent, evidence-based action. To our staff, Councillors, Board, partners, and supporters - thank you for your dedication and courage.

As we look ahead, Australia's clean-energy transformation is accelerating. The Climate Council will continue providing authoritative research, practical solutions and clear communication to help drive down pollution, strengthen community resilience and support a faster clean-energy transition.

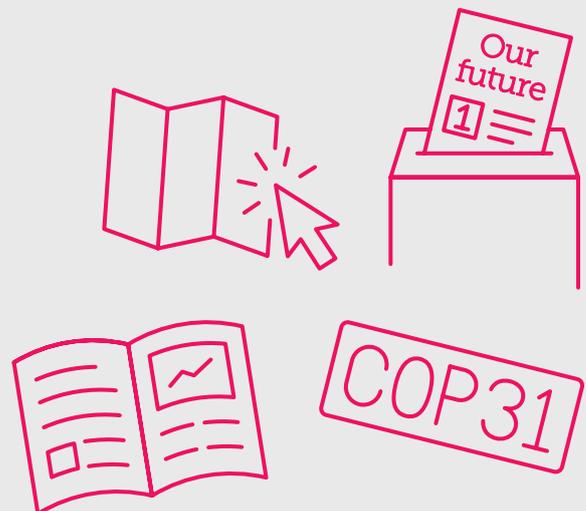
Together, we can ensure Australia not only keeps pace with change but leads it - for our children, our communities and everything we hold dear.



Carol Schwartz AO
Chair



Amanda McKenzie
CEO



2024-25 INFLUENCE SNAPSHOT

How your gifts this year powered our small but mighty organisation to have an outsized influence.

YOU SHARED THE FACTS

17 **REPORTS LAUNCHED**



3 **INTERACTIVE TOOLS LAUNCHED**

- Climate Risk Map
- Heat Map
- Momentum Monitor

Total tool uses on our site
28,068



YOU HELPED CHANGE HEARTS & MINDS



26,350

MEDIA ITEMS LANDED

that elevated climate across radio, television, online and print - which is **50% of all the media coverage** generated by climate, energy and environment groups



4,000+

MENTIONS OF

'CLIMATE POLLUTION'

This term based on Climate Council audience research is now widely used by climate campaigners, journalists and even our opponents



123

COMMUNITY

VOICES TRAINED

to speak in the media about climate impacts and solutions



94

STAKEHOLDER

MEETINGS

to present policy work to the politicians, industry and to catalyse the wider climate movement



463K

followers on social media



110K

supporters in our email community



4.8M

views of our persuasive TV ads



47M

views of our social media content

YOU DROVE REAL CHANGE



\$2.3 billion in government funding for household battery storage – a major win for cutting climate pollution and lowering power bills.



Making nuclear energy politically toxic at the ballot box – with voters rejecting it as a dangerous distraction.



Growing community support for renewables, helping reinforce momentum for solar and wind backed by storage as the cleanest, fastest and cheapest path forward.

Impact Summary

The Climate Council had a unique role to play this past year—with a fierce communications machine, a highly-trusted brand, and deep policy and advocacy expertise. This year the Climate Council, together with our community of supporters and philanthropic partners, has thrown everything we have at advocating for a safer future for our children.

OUR WORK HAS FOCUSED ON:



Elevating the climate crisis in the national conversation;



Demonstrating that renewable energy is here, powerful and reliable, including through our successful Seize the Sun Campaign;



Fighting back against polluting policies, particularly nuclear and gas;



Supporting climate champions in the climate movement and in parliament, and amplifying trusted local voices through the **Climate Media Centre (CMC)**, which trained Australians from a range of communities to speak about climate impacts and solutions, and



At the recent federal election empowering Australians to put climate first at the ballot box.

High Impact Work

WINNING CHEAPER BATTERIES FOR AUSSIES VIA OUR SEIZE THE SUN CAMPAIGN

Our **Seize the Sun** campaign helped to secure a **major policy win**, with the Australian Labor Party announcing a \$2.3 billion commitment to help one million more households and businesses install



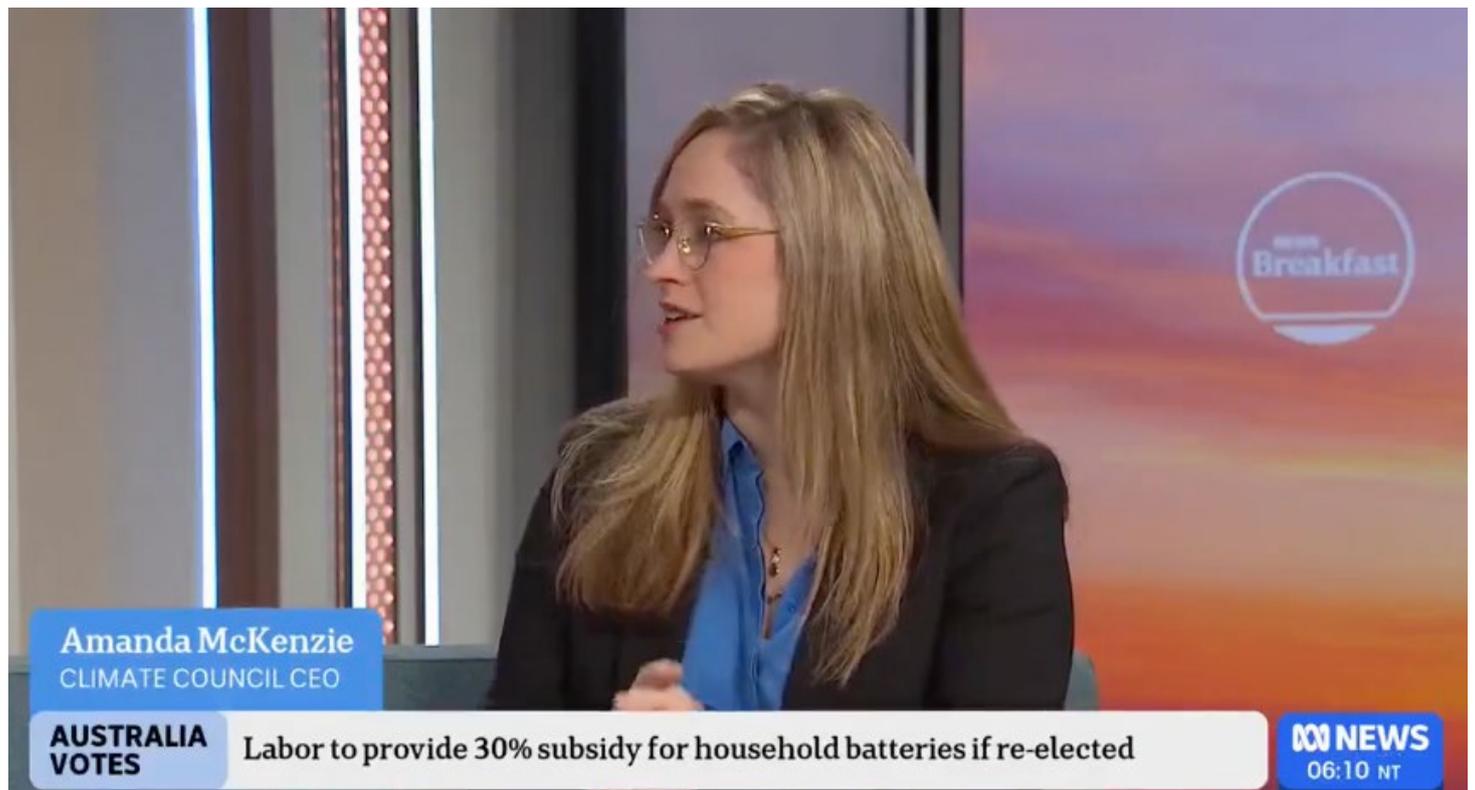
batteries within five years. This policy will cut the cost of a typical battery by around 30% and be delivered through the existing Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme.

It reflects a core recommendation from our *Seize the Sun* [report](#) and campaign, and a large focus of our advocacy work.

Our advocacy and public framing helped build the public and political runway for this announcement. Our framing and communications work helped to ensure this policy was a central plank of the Government's election platform.

Following the announcement, we backed in the policy, across prominent media, including [ABC News Breakfast](#), [ABC Radio News](#), [SBS](#), and [PV Magazine](#).

Image: CEO Amanda McKenzie interviewed on ABC News Breakfast following ALP's announcement.



IN THE FEDERAL “ENERGY REFERENDUM” VOTERS REJECTED POLLUTING POLICIES

The 2025 federal election was described as an “energy referendum”. The Federal Coalition’s push for nuclear became a defining moment in the energy debate on the national stage—and we made sure Australians understood that this was too slow, too costly, and too risky. We worked with partners to lead a strategic, multi-channel response over 12 months to contest the nuclear proposal and focus attention on proven, renewable solutions.

The election results were decisive. Nuclear was rejected, becoming toxic amongst undecided voters – particularly women – and cited as a key reason for the Federal Coalition’s electoral defeat. There is no electorate in Australia where a majority of voters believed nuclear power would be good for Australia.

Activities included: Fighting back with facts

As a trusted source of climate and energy information we released numerous publications over 12 months, which set out the facts for journalists, politicians and advocates. For instance, our economic analysis, *Counting the Real Cost of Peter Dutton’s Nuclear Fantasy*, provided insights into the staggering costs and long lead times associated with nuclear power. The analysis was viewed more than 8,000 times between launch and election day, and spread organically by influencers, like Hannah Ferguson on SBS.

Educating journalists

Over 12 months, we held a number of well-attended expert briefings for journalists. This ensured they wrote informed stories and were equipped to ask pointed questions.

For example, responding to misleading comparisons to Ontario’s nuclear power plants, the Climate Council arranged an expert briefing from Professor Mark Winfield from York University in Canada. This provided a direct counterpoint to the Coalition’s claims about Ontario’s nuclear experience in the media, including the Sydney Morning Herald’s piece *‘You couldn’t make this up’: Expert pans Ontario nuclear option*.

The lead-up to the Coalition’s policy costing announcement marked another opportunity to educate journalists. We sent a detailed nuclear briefing note to 180 journalists across the press gallery, energy, and environment rounds, highlighting seven anticipated shortcomings in the Coalition’s modelling. All shortcomings were present in the Coalition’s eventual modelling, including a plan to generate 45% less power by 2050. This was widely highlighted in the immediate media response, including the Sydney Morning Herald, ABC’s 730 and 9News.

Amplifying trusted voices

In mid-2024 we shared targeted energy communications research with MPs, candidates and allies, sharpening climate messaging and countering misinformation. It drove greater consistency, confidence and impact.

The CMC supported grassroots spokespeople to share their stories. Two examples include:

- › Tony Wolfe, a former coal power station worker who attended our advanced broadcast media training, outlined why he supports renewable energy over nuclear and coal in [ABC Victoria Stateline](#).
- › Wendy Farmer, President of Voices of the Valley who completed CMC media training, and was quoted in [The Guardian](#) opposing nuclear plans that override community consent.

Informing a Federal Parliament inquiry into nuclear

When Parliament launched a federal inquiry into nuclear energy, the Climate Council played a key role in informing the debate and supporting affected communities.

We made two submissions to the inquiry (on behalf of the [Climate Council](#) and [ELCA](#)), with CEO Amanda McKenzie and energy expert and Climate Councillor Greg Bourne appearing before the Parliamentary Committee. The CMC supported local voices from proposed nuclear regions to highlight community opposition and the strength of renewable power as an alternative. We also facilitated testimony from Canadian energy expert Professor Mark Winfield, who challenged misleading comparisons to Ontario's nuclear program.

The parliamentary inquiry's [interim report](#) confirmed what we've been saying all along: nuclear power is a high-risk, zero-reward distraction. The [committee's final report](#) directly used analysis from our submission (Figure 3.1 Pg 36).



Image: Social media tile of CEO Amanda McKenzie at the parliamentary inquiry into nuclear energy.

Not worth the risk: nuclear coverage in the media

Over the 12 months we ran a steady drumbeat of anti-nuclear coverage with peaks around key moments. For instance, in December, we secured 96 media items critiquing the nuclear plan across major outlets. Tim Flannery's syndicated op-ed and our nuclear explainer, *Why Nuclear Energy is Not Worth the Risk*, helped keep the conversation rooted in science and economics. The explainer was viewed more than 60,000 times between its launch and election day.

We worked hard to tackle disinformation. When the fossil-fuel-backed 'Get Clear on Nuclear' campaign was launched, we partnered with women's media to provide fact-based stories that directly challenged such misleading campaigns, and put renewables back in the spotlight.

Shaping the online conversation

We rolled out more than 40 pieces of social media content on nuclear that reached more than 300,000 Australians organically, with more than 29,000 interactions. We also ran high-performing digital ad campaigns across LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram, with our top four nuclear-focused LinkedIn ads alone attracting more than 337,000 impressions.

This multi-tiered strategy, a collaborative effort with a number of other organisations, paid off with nuclear being identified as a significant factor in the Federal Coalition's election defeat. By equipping journalists, informing our community, supporting frontline voices and countering disinformation, we ensured that the facts cut through.

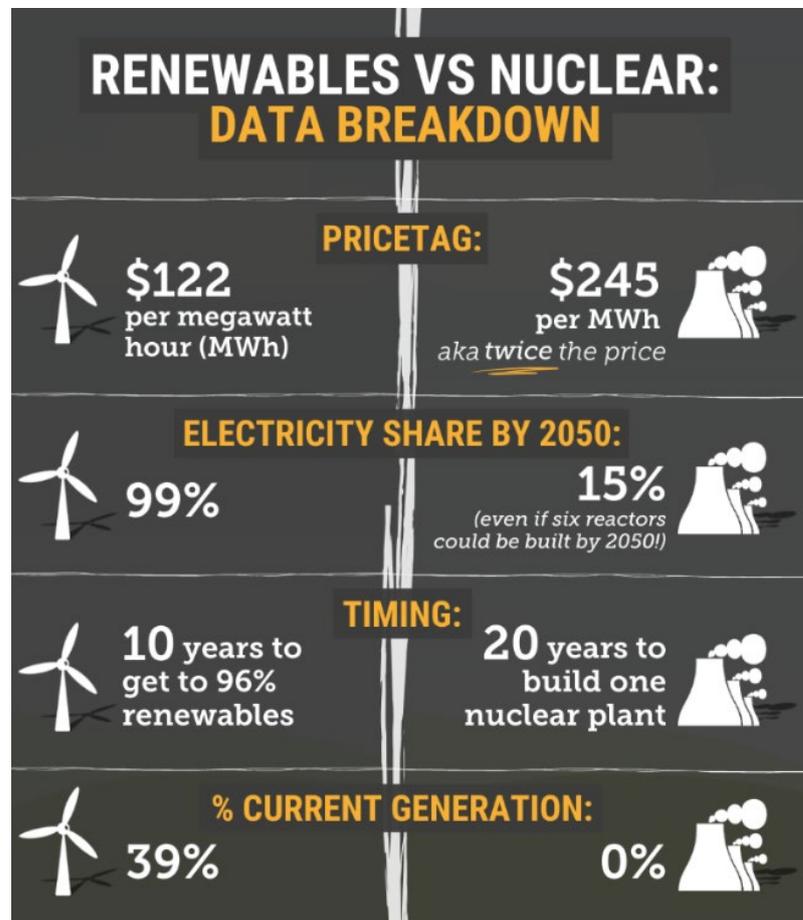


Image: Climate Council Facebook ad outlining how damaging nuclear energy would be for Australians.



OUR NATIONAL TV ADS AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT REACH 26 MILLION VIEWERS

During our election campaign (between February and May) the Climate Council’s strategic communications reached 26.1 million people, meaning persuadable voters in key locations saw our material repeatedly. This along with the volume of our high-profile media coverage, as well as background briefing of key journalists, helped shape the narrative before and after the election.

- › **9.9 million views** of 4,360 media stories across radio, television, online and print
- › **11.4 million views** across social media channels
- › **4.8 million views** of our TV ads

Just prior to the election being officially called, we launched two powerful national ad campaigns designed to elevate climate change as an election issue and influence persuadable voters in key electorates.

The first ad, 'The Things We Do for Love', was narrated by a grandmother speaking directly to the concern many Australians feel for future generations. When testing the ad, we found it highly effective in reminding target audiences of what’s at stake.

The second ad featured Climate Councillor Greg Mullins AO, AFSM, the former Fire & Rescue NSW Commissioner. His message was simple, powerful, and impossible to ignore: 'The next Black Summer is coming. Vote like our lives depend on it. Because they do.'

Drawing on his experience as a first responder, the ad delivered a stark warning: worsening climate-fuelled disasters are here, and poor leadership is putting lives at risk. It resonated strongly with viewers across metro and regional areas—increasing concern, building urgency, and highlighting the direct link between fossil fuel-driven climate change and escalating unnatural disasters.



"I've seen you on my TV so often it feels like I know you."

- Wannon candidate Alex Dyson.



Both ads aired nationally, backed by our digital advertising and a coordinated media push targeting key battleground electorates and persuadable audiences. The campaign generated significant national attention, with a feature on [The Project](#) and an opinion piece, [Vote Like Your Life Depends On It](#), which was syndicated across 110 Australian Community Media (ACM) newspapers helping to amplify Greg's message to a mainstream prime-time audience.

We also ran a range of other ads on nuclear and [our election scorecard](#), drawing attention to the stark difference between major political parties on climate and energy policy.

Our ad campaign reached millions delivering a powerful, persuasive and emotional appeal.



Television Ads

4.8 million people



Digital Ads

10.7 million impressions



Media Items

235

Elevating Climate on the National Agenda

CLIMATE HEAT MAP

The [Climate Heat Map](#) provides suburb-level insight into the worsening impacts of extreme heat – helping Australians connect the dots between climate pollution and the health, safety and economic risks in their own backyard. This map generated 300 powerful media hits (see RealEstate.com.au and News.com.au feature [here](#), and the widely syndicated AAP piece [here](#)) and drew thousands to use the tool on our website, including influential public commentators.

Challenge 4: Managing a changing climate



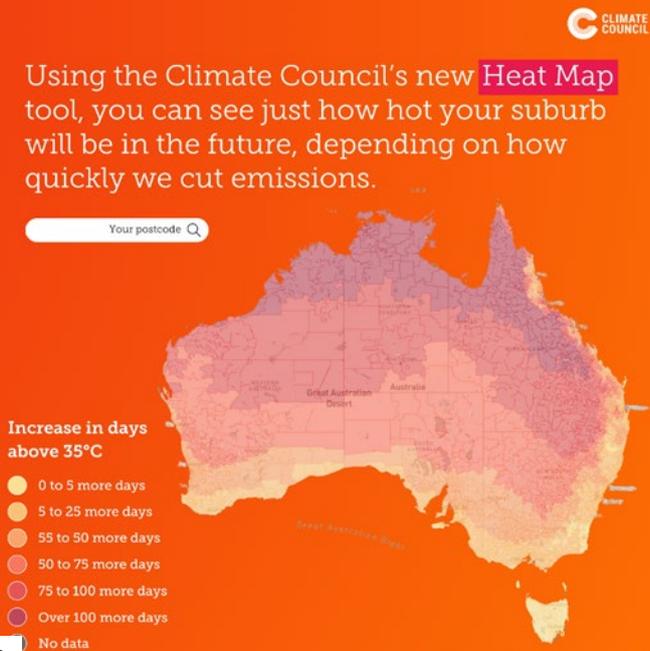
Melbourne will experience 2x as many very hot days by 2050 based on existing levels of action. But also more high rainfall days, and more days impacted by poor air quality due to bush fire smoke

What can cities do?

- Mitigation (reducing own emissions)
- Increased greening and permeability
- Investment in building and infrastructure resilience
- Plans for heatwaves (including for health services, homeless, outdoor workforce)

Melbourne City Council well-articulated strategy and lots underway!

1



Using the Climate Council's new **Heat Map** tool, you can see just how hot your suburb will be in the future, depending on how quickly we cut emissions.

Your postcode

Increase in days above 35°C

- 0 to 5 more days
- 5 to 25 more days
- 25 to 50 more days
- 50 to 75 more days
- 75 to 100 more days
- Over 100 more days
- No data

This map shows the 'No Action' scenario by 2090

2

Who will feel the heat? The suburbs in Australia most at risk from extreme heat revealed

People living in older, poorer and regional electorates are at the most risk of extreme heat in the coming decades, with some parts of the country projected to spend two-thirds of the year sweltering above 35C.



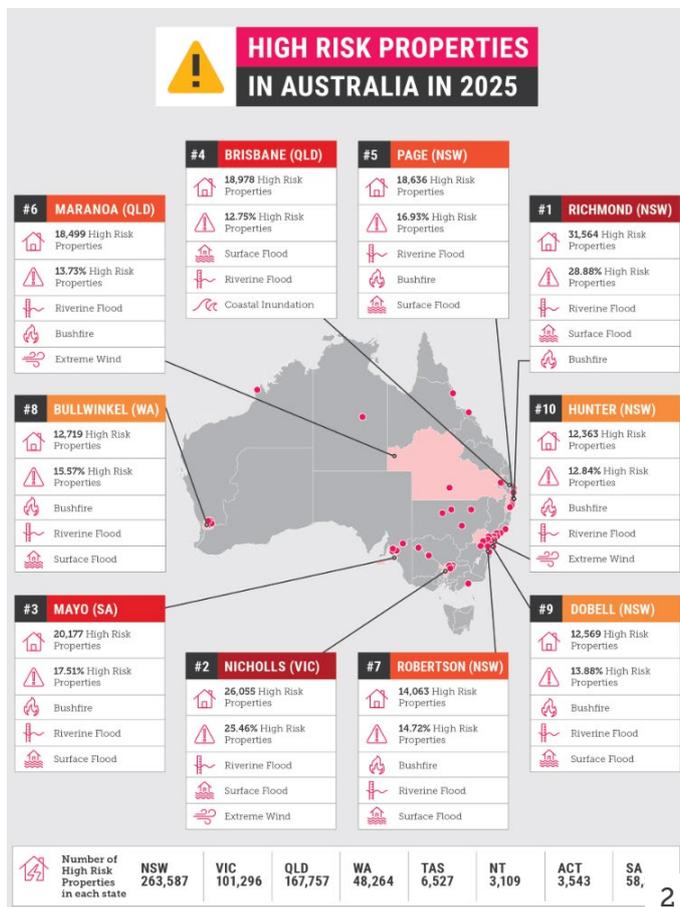
3

Heats are set to soar across Australia in the next coming decades without any accelerated climate action. Source: Getty / Andrew Merry

Image 1: Danielle Wood, Chair of the Productivity Commission, showcases our Climate Heat Map in her keynote speech at the Melbourne 2050 Summit. **Image 2:** The Heat Map showing a 'no action' to cut our emissions scenario by 2090. **Image 3:** An SBS article featuring the heat map tool.



1

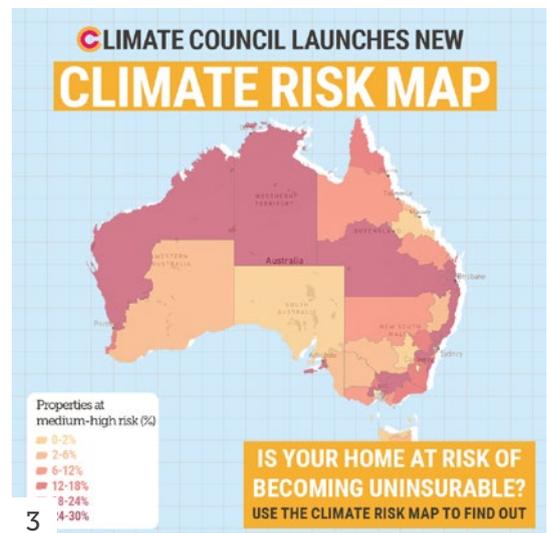


2

CLIMATE RISK MAP

This year we relaunched our [Climate Risk Map](#) – a powerful online tool enabling Australians to see the climate risks facing their electorate and suburb. The accompanying report, *At Our Front Door: Escalating Climate Risks for Aussie Homes*, revealed that 2.2 million properties are already at medium and high risk from climate-fuelled disasters.

The response was enormous, with the data used by politicians, digital influencers, news outlets and climate advocacy organisations repeatedly during the election campaign. The insurance angle helped to connect climate to the big issues of the election – housing, cost-of-living and economic management. The tool generated more than 850 media mentions in its first week of going live (including syndicated features across NewsCorp publications, an [ABC News Digital deep-dive](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [Fairfax mastheads](#), and [Channel Ten](#)). The Climate Risk Map generated a long tail of media coverage, including a feature on [60 Minutes](#).



3

Image 1: ABC News Digital deep-dive featuring the Climate Risk Map. **Image 2:** Climate Council's list of high risk properties in Australia in 2025. **Image 3:** Social media tile introducing Climate Council's Risk Map.

LA FIRES

The Climate Council responded swiftly to the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, reaching millions of Australians through a multipronged communications strategy. We highlighted the parallels with Australia's escalating fire risks and raised the urgency of the climate crisis. This included elevating Ken Pimlott, former Director of Cal Fire, to Australian audiences prominently on Channel 9's Today Show.

Climate Council



1,300 media items



60,000 Organic social reach



310,000 Paid social reach

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action



880 media items

Climate Media Centre



194 media items



1

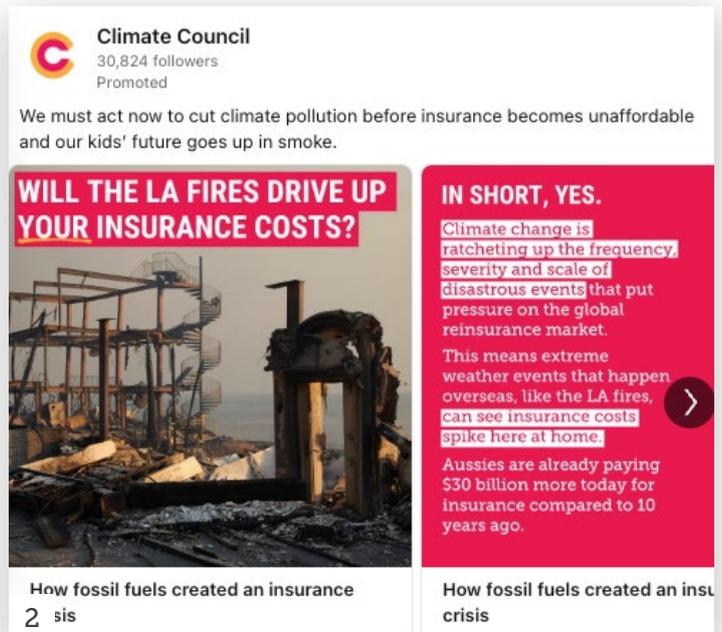


Image 1: Ken Pimlott, Former Director of Cal Fire, speaks to Climate Council about the increased intensity of fires over the span of his 30-year career. **Image 2:** Climate Council ad linking the LA fires to increasing insurance costs for Australians.

EX-TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED

We worked around the clock to link Cyclone Alfred's intensity to rising climate pollution. Laying out the science in a statement days before the cyclone hit, and launching a major report, *Eye of the Storm* afterwards. Our cyclone explainer and digital content reached more than **390,000 people**, and we generated 768 Climate Council media stories.

The Climate Media Centre helped Australians in Alfred's path share their stories — placing parents, farmers, doctors, and residents in 290 media items across national and regional media, including in ABC News TV, the Today Show and The Canberra Times.

We were attacked for sharing the science — with opinion pieces trying to downplay or deny the climate connection. But we didn't back down.

As Amanda wrote in the *Courier Mail*:

The self-serving coal industry can tell the scientists to pipe down all they like, but it won't change what Australians can see with our own eyes. Burning coal, oil and gas has supercharged our climate, warmed our oceans and fuelled more intense storms."



Image 1: Climate Council's *Eye of the Storm* report. **Image 2:** Climate Council social media content explaining the link between climate pollution and Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.



Empowering Climate Champions

THE CLIMATE MEDIA CENTRE (CMC)

Before the Climate Media Centre, climate impacts were accelerating, but microphones were mostly held by politicians and lobbyists. Communities on the frontline, experts delivering solutions, and trusted local leaders weren't being heard.

Thanks to you, the climate movement now has a full-time media bureau: the CMC. We find, train, support and platform credible spokespeople so Australians hear relatable stories backed by evidence.

We equip journalists with clear backgrounders and pre-bunk dis/misinformation so facts lead the story.

The CMC trained a new wave of trusted spokespeople in strategic locations to keep climate on the national agenda. Among the 123 trainees were bushfire survivors, former coal workers and doctors. Collectively, CMC spokespeople are putting a human face to the climate crisis, backing renewables (particularly in the regions), and pushing back on nuclear and gas.



Spokespeople trained

123



Location

**Regional VIC
Regional NSW
SE Queensland**



Who are they

**69 Women
28 Culturally and
Linguistically Diverse
(CALD) participants
5 First Nations
participants**



Average rating

4.9/5



Image: CMC delivers media training to local spokespeople in Orange NSW.



Image: CMC Advanced Media trainees and facilitators in December 2024.

CASE STUDY: CHAY KHAMSTONE, MUM & FIREFIGHTER

yahoo/news

Aussie mum's scary insurance dilemma after double disaster: 'Nowhere is untouched'

Chay Khamstone, who has faced two extreme weather disasters in five years, is one of millions struggling to find affordable insurance.



Michael Dahlstrom · Environment Editor
Updated 15 April 2025 · 4-min read



Mother and firefighter, Chay attended our Port Macquarie training. Chay powerfully connected climate risks to her children's future in a [Yahoo! News](#) feature, telling audiences:

"As a firefighter, I would feel like Australians have my back if they vote for a safer climate."

Image: Stories like Chay's connect people to climate issues in a powerful and persuasive way.

SUPPORTING PACIFIC VOICES

The Climate Media Centre has been developing partnerships with key Pacific and Pasifika voices, and in the past year provided specific training for the Edmund Rice Centre's 2024 Pacific Fellows cohort.



Image: Some of the Edmund Rice Pacific Fellows trainees with CMC trainers.

“Before attending this media training, I thought an interview was just a matter of answering a question. But now I know that there are things I could consider to guide someone in answering a question in order for them to develop and deliver an excellent response.”

— Media training participant.

The Evidence Base

REPORTS

Our reports are a vital resource, providing a trusted foundation of information for climate champions to draw on. They not only help shape the public conversation, but also generate significant media moments that elevate climate issues onto the national agenda.

In 2024–25, we published 17 reports with groundbreaking research on issues including extreme weather, climate solutions, the federal election, the risks of continued reliance on fossil fuels, and international action. Our reports are used as an authoritative source of information for governments and the media, as well as for health and emergency services, schools, universities and the broader community.

Demonstrating what we have to gain from more affordable, reliable renewable power	Fighting back against expensive, polluting fossil fuels	Making the case for stronger climate action
<p><u>Battery Boom: Supercharging Australia's Renewable Rollout:</u> June 2025</p> <p><u>Climate Council Choice Awards: Solar, Wind and Storage Projects that Set the Bar:</u> April 2025</p> <p><u>Electric Shock! Australia's Light-bulb Moment:</u> January 2025</p> <p><u>Seize The Sun: How to Supercharge Australia's Rooftop Solar:</u> September 2024</p> <p><u>Race to the Top: Australia's Clean Energy Momentum:</u> September 2024</p> <p><u>Next Stop Suburbia: Making Shared Transport Work for Everyone in Aussie Cities:</u> July 2024</p>	<p><u>Election 2025: Unpacking the Impact of Climate and Energy on Australian Voters:</u> May 2025</p> <p><u>Climate Crossroads: Progress, Politics and a Pivotal Election:</u> April 2025</p> <p><u>Lights Out: Ageing Coal and Summer Blackouts:</u> January 2025</p> <p><u>Dangerously Overlooked: Why We Need to Talk About Methane:</u> July 2024</p>	<p><u>At Our Front Door: Escalating Climate Risks for Aussies Homes:</u> April 2025</p> <p><u>Eye of the Storm: How Climate Pollution Fuels More Intense and Destructive Cyclones:</u> March 2025</p> <p><u>Summer Outlook 2024-25: Navigating a Volatile and Unpredictable Climate:</u> December 2024</p> <p><u>Under Pressure: The Climate Crunch Fueling Inflation and Hurting Aussie Families:</u> November 2024</p> <p><u>Winning Bid: The Pacific Partnership that Can Power Our Security and Prosperity:</u> September 2024</p> <p><u>Airborne Hazard: How Air Pollution Harms our Kids:</u> October 2024</p> <p><u>State of Queensland: Disaster Ground Zero:</u> October 2024</p>

The local legends powering Australia's switch to renewables

Across Australia, amazing renewable energy and storage projects at all scales are creating new job pathways for Australians, lowering people's power bills, empowering First Nations communities and revitalising essential community infrastructure and services.

The problem is, we don't hear very much about them! In fact, many Australians falsely believe that community support for renewables is much lower than it actually is. Two-thirds of Australians living in cities and rural areas support renewable power projects, including within their own communities.

In April this year, we launched the Climate Council Choice Awards, showcasing renewable energy projects across Australia that prove how wind, solar and storage projects can benefit Australians in innovative ways to meet the needs of local communities.

Some of our incredible award-winners included:

- > **Marlinja Microgrid (NT)**: A trailblazing First Nations-led solar project on the lands of the Mudburra and Jingili people that enables pre-paid meter customers to directly benefit from their own clean energy – delivering energy equity in remote communities.
- > **Haystacks Solar Garden (NSW)**: Australia's first solar garden, which has made solar power accessible to renters and apartment-dwellers through a community-owned model.
- > **South Australia's Virtual Power Plant (SA)**: Transforming social housing into a giant network of solar and battery systems so those doing it tough can slash their energy bills and strengthen the grid.

Image: The launch of the Haystacks Solar Garden in Riverina, NSW. Image credit: Community Power Agency.



SUBMISSIONS

In 2024–25, the Climate Council made submissions to six consultations to encourage governments at the federal, state and local level to take stronger action on climate change.

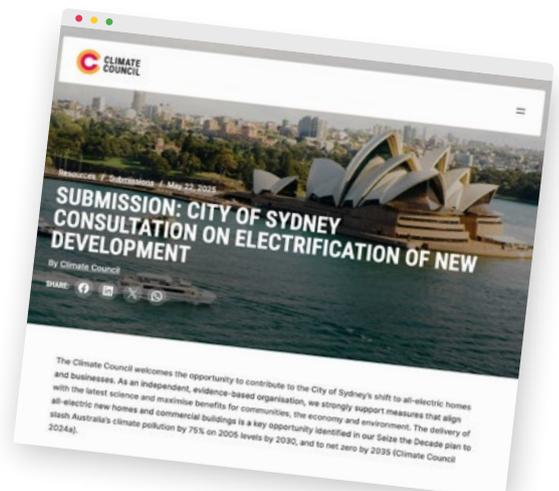


All submissions can be found on our website: www.climatecouncil.org.au/resource/submissions

Submission	Our position	Status
Senate Inquiry into the Nature Positive reforms – July 2024	Our submission set out proposed amendments for the Senate to make to the reforms to better protect nature from climate change.	The Nature Positive package has been superseded by the Albanese Government's 2025 environment law reforms .
Unlocking green metals opportunities – July 2024	We made key recommendations for Australia to seize the opportunity to become a renewables superpower by building a green metals industry.	In March this year, the Government announced \$750 million to support innovative green metal projects.
Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap – July 2024	We made recommendations for the Australian Government to roll out and scale up existing solutions that will permanently and deeply cut Australia's transport emissions.	The Transport and Infrastructure Roadmap was released this September, setting out a pathway to achieve deep reductions in transport emissions by 2050.
Inquiry into nuclear power generation in Australia – December 2024	We demonstrated why nuclear is not a viable climate or energy solution for Australians, and made recommendations for Australia to maintain its focus on building clean, safe, reliable and affordable renewables.	At the 2025 Federal Election, Australians delivered a clear message : more wind, solar and batteries and no nuclear – shortly after the inquiry.
Victoria's 2026-30 Climate Change Strategy – April 2025	As one of Australia's largest polluting states, Victoria needs to step up its climate ambition and play its part in meeting globally agreed goals. We recommended seven priority areas for action.	Victoria's next climate change strategy is due to be released by the end of 2025.

Policy win: Getting gas out of Sydney homes and businesses

As one of Australia's largest cities, Sydney's actions can make a significant contribution to our emissions and set an example for others to follow. We made a [submission in May this year](#) recommending that the City of Sydney implement the strongest possible rules to get gas out of homes and businesses. In October 2025, the [City of Sydney approved new rules](#) requiring new homes, and many commercial buildings, to be all-electric. This is a fantastic outcome for the city and a significant milestone towards a safer, healthier, future. Each new household could save [more than \\$600](#) every year on their energy bills.



Our Community

AUSTRALIANS POWERING CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER

Thousands of Australians got together in 2013 to crowdfund the Climate Council into existence, and this year our community remained at the heart of our work.

By sharing information with friends and family, calling for action from decision makers, and chipping-in to fund our campaigns, our amazing community helped combat disinformation, fight new fossil fuel projects and ensure Australians knew what was at stake for the climate during the federal election.

Our people power enabled us to stay 100% independent. This independence is vital to our mission – it means we can speak truth to power, and hold decisionmakers in government and industry accountable.

We feel very proud to be part of a caring community of supporters, fighting for our kids' future together.

Image: Climate Council supporters raising funds for climate action at Sydney's City2Surf in August 2024.



Our community at a glance:



463k

Social media followers engaging with and sharing persuasive, evidence-based climate information



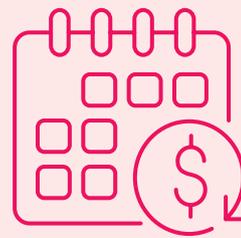
110k

Email subscribers reading and sharing our reports and explainers, and taking campaign actions.



5,800

One-off donors, chipping in to power our campaigns.



5,300

Regular givers powering climate action month in, month out.

AUSTRALIANS POWERING CLIMATE ACTION, TOGETHER

Disinformation Appeal

Following the re-election of Donald Trump in November and December, more than 1,600 members of our community chipped-in \$160,000 to power our work to combat the use of US style climate disinformation playbooks being used in Australia - and drown out the climate lies threatening our kids' future.

The campaign included a webinar outlining what we each can do to ensure disinformation doesn't dilute or pollute strong public support for climate action in Australia.

The funds raised enabled us to pre-bunk climate myths with a surround sound of reliable, accurate and persuasive messaging about climate solutions, arm Australians with the tools to separate fact from fiction, and directly call out lies in the media and on social media with cut-through content and trusted spokespeople.

What our community had to say:

"Amanda, thank you for the email yesterday [about the re-election of Donald Trump]. It's a difficult time. I'm filled with a mixture of anguish, disbelief, rage and despair. You and your wonderful colleagues are beacons of sanity and hope. We keep fighting together."

- Michael

"Let's keep up the momentum - for the planet, for an Australia that embraces renewables for our children and grandchildren's future. Thanks for all your work."

- Lourdes



Image: Our appeal in December raised funds to fight organised climate disinformation campaigns, like this misleading gas-industry-sponsored content that was presented as news.

Election Appeal

The future of our kids, their kids and generations to come was on the ballot during the Federal Election. Close to 2,000 members of our community gave more than \$370,000 to help Australians understand what's at stake, see through the lies, and know how to put climate - and our kids - first on polling day.

The campaign included a webinar outlining how the major parties' policies stacked up on climate, and an opportunity for community members to email their local candidates letting them know they'll be voting for candidates committed to strong climate action.

These crucial funds were critical in enabling us to set the facts straight, amplify trusted voices and reach key voters, persuasively, with the facts on climate through TV ads, social and traditional media.



Images: Close to 2,000 members of our community helped crowdfund ads - featuring parents, grandparents and Former Fire & Rescue NSW Commissioner Greg Mullins AO, AFSM - urging Australians to vote like their lives depend on it during the Federal Election.

What our community had to say:

"As a scientist and a mother of two I believe every small action to counteract climate change counts, in our communities and beyond. The time is now. I trust you Climate Council as a great communicator to bring a strong message to people and politicians."

- Anna

"I have been a monthly donor since Climate Council was set up. I have three great-grandchildren and I fear for their future. Thank you for all you are doing. I am 85."

- Bill



Fossil Fuel Fighting Fund

In May, the new Albanese Government failed its first climate test by approving an extension of Woodside's North West Shelf gas facility out to 2070 - which could unleash 4 billion tonnes of climate pollution. Our community jumped into action, with 3,600 people giving more than \$700,000 to create the Fossil Fuel Fighting Fund - a special fund to power our work to make new coal and gas politically toxic.

The fund is enabling us to produce expert research and analysis that reveal the true costs to Australians of new coal and gas projects, hard-hitting media and communications campaigns that expose the lies of the fossil fuel industry, and build public opposition to fossil fuel expansion, and influential policy and advocacy work to arm lawmakers with the right tools to pass strong laws that stop new coal and gas projects in their tracks.

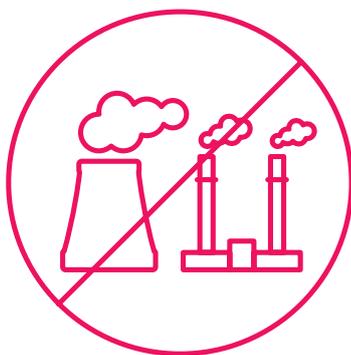


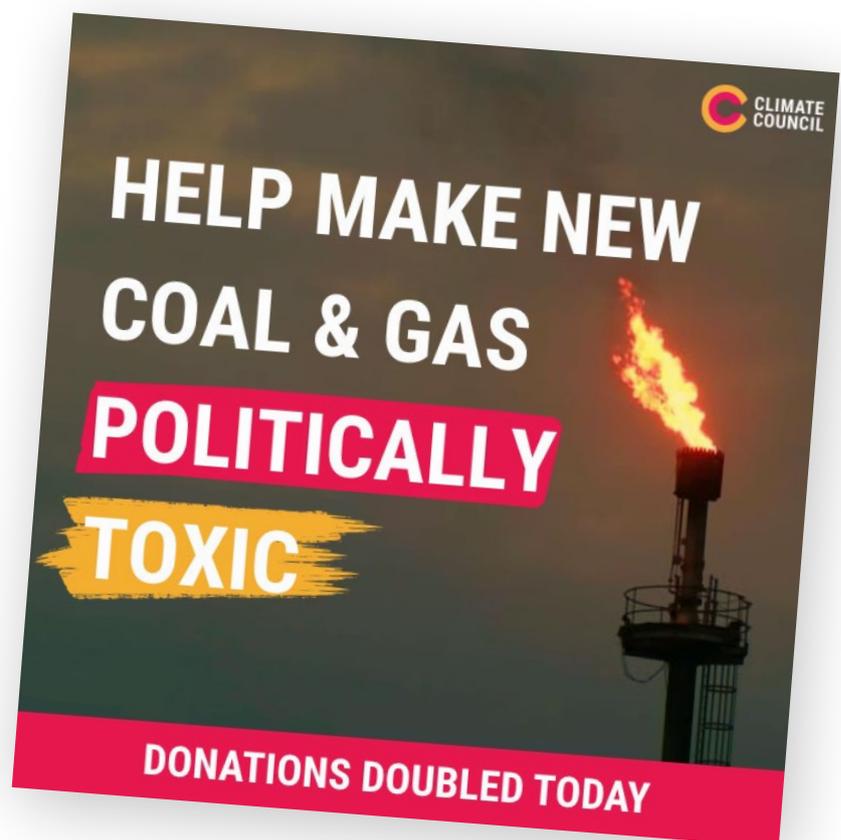
Image: When the Government approved the extension of Woodside's North West Shelf gas facility in May, our community jumped into action, raising more than \$700,000 to make new coal and gas politically toxic.

What our community had to say:

"I'm devastated by this project's approval and so grateful for your work to fight this!"
- Vivian

"I have written to [Environment Minister] Murray Watt and my local member..I'm ready to march the streets."
- Therese

"North-west shelf to 2070!! My great-granddaughter, aged 6 months, was baptised today. She will be 46 by then and possibly a parent herself. What sort of world are we passing on to her?"
- William



Seize the Sun Campaign

Rooftop solar and storage cuts energy bills by an average of \$1,500 per year, slashes climate pollution, and puts households in control of their energy bills. By August, 3.6 million Aussie households and some of Australia's largest businesses had installed rooftop solar, but there were millions more Aussie families and businesses who could also share these benefits.

So we launched an open letter calling for our major party leaders to support a bold, national push to double rooftop solar capacity and storage by the end of the decade. More than 4,800 people signed, demonstrating community support for the recommendations in our *Seize the Sun* report, which we placed in the hands of decision-makers from all sides of politics and helped contribute to some major policy announcements on home batteries and solar subsequently made by the Federal Government.



Image 1: CEO Amanda McKenzie introducing the *Seize the Sun* report on our social media. **Image 2:** More than 4,800 community members signed our *Seize the Sun* open letter calling on major party leaders to support a national push to double rooftop solar and storage.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

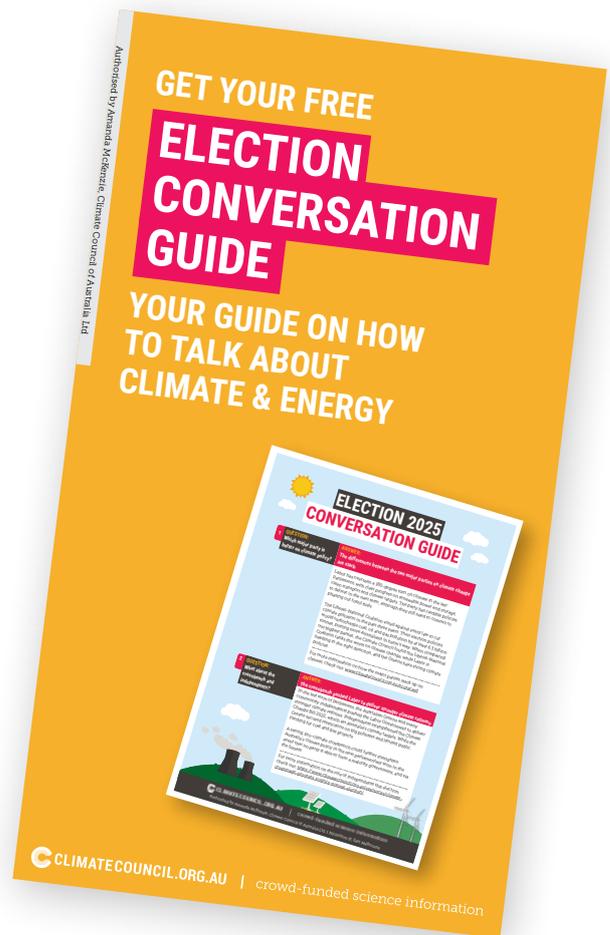
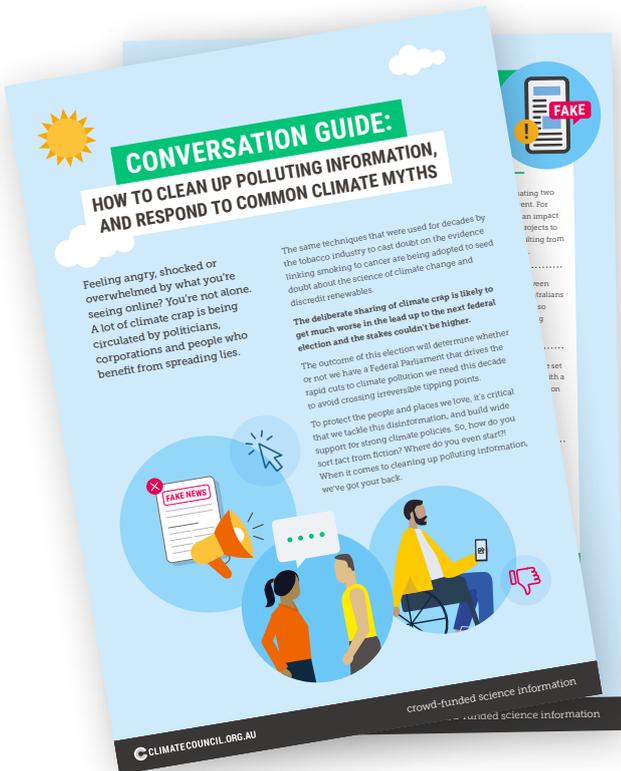
Based on community feedback, this year we developed a range of resources to empower our community to fight disinformation, be climate champions and stay resilient to the impacts of climate change on their daily lives.

Conversation Guide to Fighting Disinformation

A lot of climate disinformation is being circulated by politicians, corporations and people who benefit from spreading lies. It's designed to seed doubt about the science of climate change and discredit renewables. It's critical that we tackle disinformation to build wide support for strong climate policies, and knowing how to speak up against myths is one of the most powerful things we can do to help. So in December, we produced this easy-to-read guide that teaches people how to spot and respond to disinformation calmly and effectively.

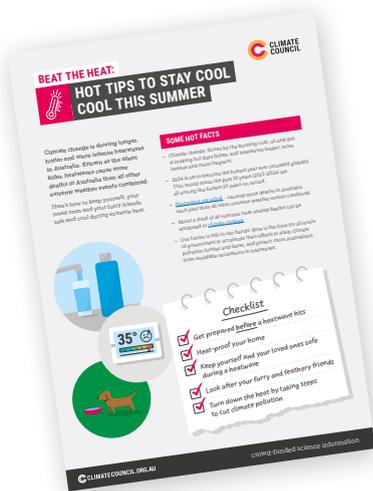
Election Conversation Pack

Our election conversation pack gave concerned community members a suite of tools to talk about climate change in the lead up to the federal election. It included a printable conversation guide, top 10 tips for having effective climate conversations, FAQs, and links to our policy scorecard, election report and sharable social media assets.



Climate Anxiety Toolkit

If you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or even powerless in the face of the climate crisis - you're not alone. In fact, more than three-quarters of Australians feel the same way. That's why, in March, we published a Climate Anxiety Toolkit - to help people come to terms with those feelings, recognise they're okay, and channel them into something positive. The free guide, created by health experts at the Climate Council, includes tools, actions, tips and links designed to give people suffering from climate anxiety positive coping strategies that both improve their mental health and help cut climate pollution.

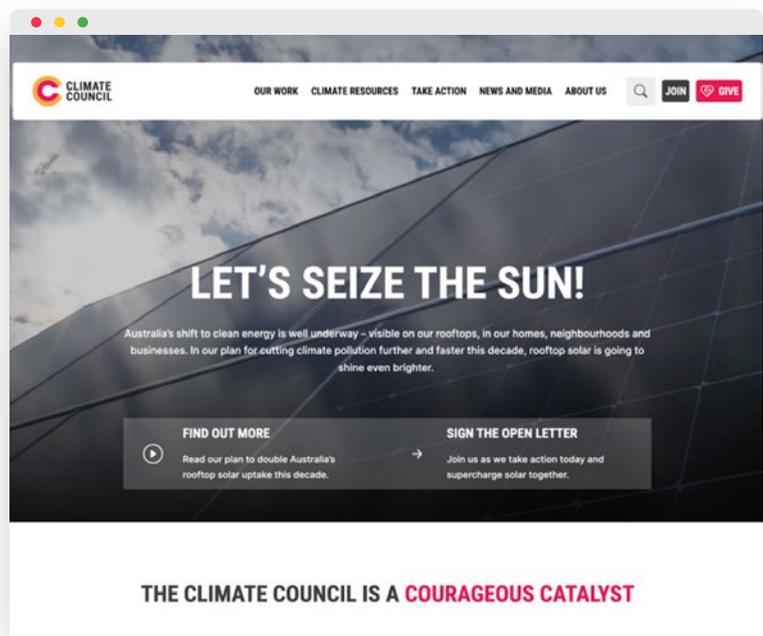


Beat the Heat Checklist

Climate pollution, from the burning of coal, oil and gas, is driving longer, hotter and more frequent heatwaves in Australia. Known as the silent killer, heatwaves cause more deaths in Australia than all other extreme weather events combined. So in December we updated our popular Beat the Heat guide, packed with hot tips to stay cool, including how to cool your home and care for pets, simple steps to reduce your exposure to extreme heat, and actions you can take to help cut climate pollution.

New Website

In November we launched our updated website. The new site makes it easier to find climate information, take action and get in touch. The updated design is also quicker to load and works better on a range of devices - making it an even more effective tool for getting the latest, evidence-based climate information to our community, journalists, decision makers and the public.



COMMUNITY WEBINARS

Over the past year, Climate Council’s community webinars have informed and mobilised our growing community during pivotal political and climate moments. Each event equipped supporters with credible insights and practical ways to take action – strengthening their sense of agency, connection, and optimism about driving climate progress in Australia.

We hosted four webinars this year:

- › Lies, Damn Lies, and Elections: What the US vote and Disinformation Means for Climate Action in Australia
- › Election 2025: Mission Critical – How the Federal Election Will Shape Our Future – and How You Can Make a Difference
- › In Conversation with Matt Kean: The Future of Climate Solutions and Energy in Australia
- › After the Vote: What Australia’s New Parliament Means for Climate – and How We Make the Most Of It.

In total, more than **6,600 people registered to attend** these four webinars, with an **average satisfaction score of 87%** – a clear sign these sessions are connecting and making an impact.

What our community had to say:

Your webinar was truly inspiring to me, and I hope it serves as a foundation for the beginning of my research journey into analysing climate change in Australia.

I am always impressed by your webinars, they’re a very good source of information and reassurance.



A Decade of Working Together

THE ROBERT HICKS FOUNDATION & THE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Among our earliest and most visionary philanthropic supporters was the Robert Hicks Foundation, a charitable trust managed by Equity Trustees. What began as a project-based grant for the Climate Media Centre has grown into a long-term, trust-based partnership, providing vital flexibility to respond to climate crises, policy shifts, and advocacy opportunities.

"This kind of long-term, trust-based support is incredibly powerful. The Robert Hicks Foundation's on-going funding has allowed the Climate Council to focus on driving impact and given us the flexibility to be brave and bold in our approach. Our partnership has achieved game-changing policy wins, and shaped the national conversation on climate."

– Amanda McKenzie, CEO, Climate Council

Driving climate action together

Philanthropic support is what makes this possible. The Robert Hicks Foundation has set a powerful example of what long-term, trust-based funding can achieve. Their belief in our mission – and willingness to back us year after year – has helped transform the public conversation on climate in Australia.

"This partnership represents the best of philanthropy – long-term, strategic, and grounded in trust. It's shown that when funders back organisations over time, they enable lasting change. The Robert Hicks Foundation's support has been foundational to the Climate Council's success, and a model for how effective, values-aligned funding can supercharge impact."

– Carol Schwartz AO, Chair, Climate Council and Equity Trustees



A legacy of impact

Robert Hicks, a Victorian farmer, witnessed climate change firsthand. His legacy directs funding toward climate action and environmental preservation – a vision now realised through this enduring partnership. Through this partnership, his vision lives on – not just in funding core work, but in supporting the scaffolding of a stronger, more effective climate movement.

We are proud to stand on the frontline of this movement—and deeply grateful to the Robert Hicks Foundation for standing with us.

With Special Thanks

We would like to thank our incredible community of supporters whose generosity makes our work possible. Most notably, we would like to recognise:

Founding Friends

Our 14,000 Founding Friends who played a crucial role in establishing Climate Council in 2013 through our crowdfunding appeal.

One off and regular donors

The 5,800 people who gave to our fundraising appeals or made a general donation, and the 5,300 people who supported our work month in, month out, with a regular donation this year.

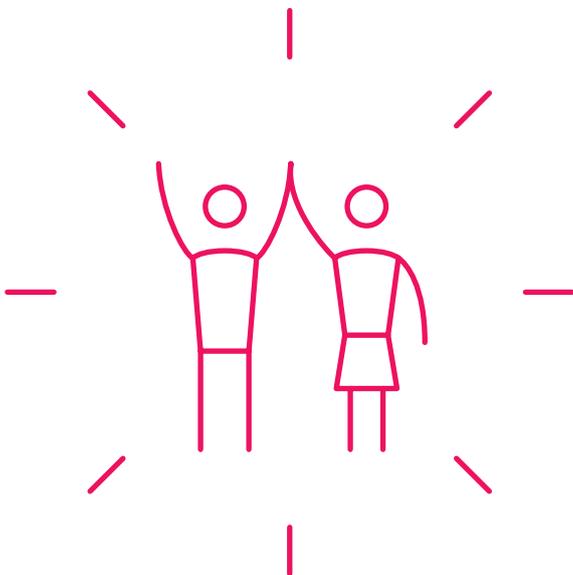
Climate Council's Legacy Circle

Gifts in Wills to Climate Council are a profound commitment towards solving the climate crisis and can make a difference for years to come - helping protect the people and places we love into the future.

Thank you to those who have already joined Climate Council's Legacy Circle, our growing community of phenomenally generous people who have decided to leave a gift to Climate Council in their Will. By being part of Climate Council's Legacy Circle you will receive bespoke communications on the work you support, behind the scenes opportunities to meet with staff and other like minded donors, invites to special events, and much more.

This year we welcomed dozens of new generous people to our Legacy Circle, and celebrated a number of special events together.

If you'd like to have a confidential chat with us about supporting climate action by leaving a gift in your Will, you can contact our Planned Giving Coordinator on 02 9356 8531 or legacy@climatecouncil.org.au.



Major donors, philanthropy and grants

Philanthropists, trusts and foundations have continued to provide generous support, powering our core work as well as strategic projects. Climate Council is fiercely independent, and values the support of the philanthropic community.

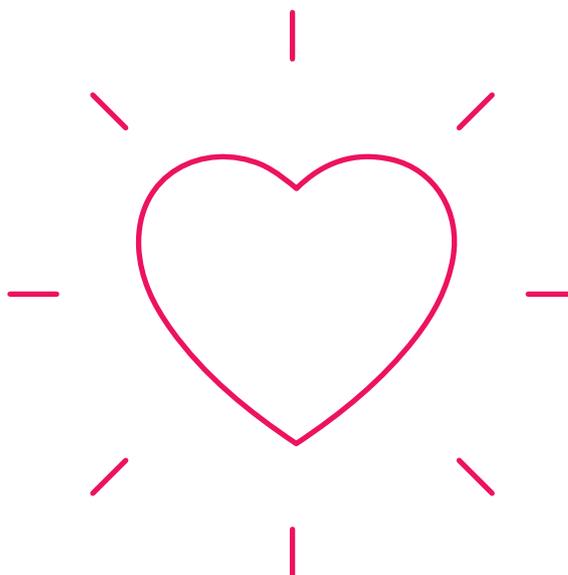
We would like to specifically thank the following major donors, trusts and foundations for your amazing support over the past financial year.

- › Andy & Jill Griffiths
- › Besen Family Foundation
- › Beverley Jackson Foundation
- › Boundless Earth
- › Bowness Family Foundation
- › Capricorn Foundation
- › Clement Davis
- › Digger & Shirley Martin Environment Fund
- › Diversicon Environmental Foundation
- › European Climate Foundation
- › Gordon Smyth
- › Green Eyes Foundation
- › Groundswell
- › Grow Corp Foundation
- › Ian Landon-Smith
- › In memory of Rima Muir
- › Jaramas Foundation
- › Jocelyn Luck
- › John and Kaye
- › John and Liz Baker
- › Kimberley Foundation
- › Knights Family Jabula Foundation
- › Koshland Innovation Foundation
- › Margaret and Michael Williams
- › Minderoo Foundation
- › Morris Family Foundation
- › MRB Foundation
- › Mutual Trust Foundation
- › Myer Foundation
- › Naylor Stewart Foundation

- › Optiver
- › P.K. Gold Family Foundation
- › Sharon Willcox
- › Robert Hicks Foundation, managed by Equity Trustees
- › Therese Cochrane
- › Trawalla Foundation

Join our philanthropic community:

For information on how you can become part of this incredible philanthropic community, joining like-minded people through events, tailored stewardship and opportunities to deepen your knowledge and impact, with donations of more than \$10,000, please contact our philanthropy team at: philanthropy.info@climatecouncil.org.au



2024 - 2025

Annual Financial Summary

Climate Council maintained its focus on financial sustainability amidst a challenging economic environment. The organisation's governance was supported by the Finance and Risk Subcommittee, which played a critical role in ensuring prudent financial management and compliance throughout the year.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Revenue

Total revenue for the year ended 30 June 2025 increased to \$9,005,959, up from \$7,435,948 in the previous financial year. This growth was driven by strong support from our donor community, including an uplift in major gifts and bequests. The increase reflects the continued confidence of individuals and philanthropic partners in the organisation's mission and impact.

Expenditure

Total expenditure decreased to \$7,993,735, compared with \$8,930,809 in the previous year. This reduction reflects disciplined financial management and ongoing efforts to use donor funds efficiently, while continuing to deliver high-impact advocacy and programs. Key cost areas included staff wages, advertising, and program delivery which all directly supported our core impact work.

Net Surplus

The organisation recorded a net surplus of \$1,012,224. Importantly, this is not an accumulation of unused funds. Rather, it reflects a necessary rebalancing that ensures the organisation can plan ahead responsibly, meet commitments with confidence, and maintain the momentum and impact expected by our donors and philanthropic partners. This strengthened footing allows us to utilise every contribution effectively and remain ready to respond to emerging challenges.

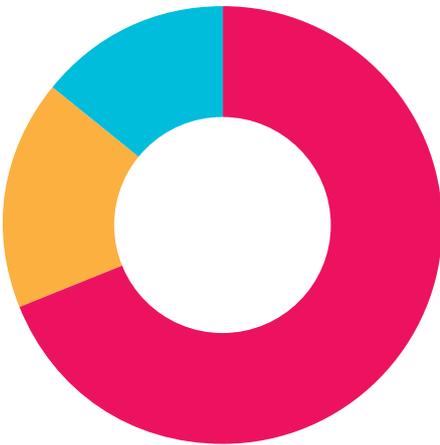


RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Resources were directed strategically to maximise the organisation's mission impact across operations, advocacy, and engagement:

Key allocations:

- Employment: 69%
- Fundraising and Administration: 17%
- External research and additional costs for campaigns and advocacy: 14%



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT

Strong financial oversight remained a priority this year, with the Finance and Risk Subcommittee, led by Director Leigh Petschel, continuing to guide governance, risk management, and compliance processes. An independent audit conducted by Thomas Davis & Co, Chartered Accountants, resulted in an unqualified report, confirming that Climate Council's financial statements meet all Australian Accounting Standards and ACNC requirements. This outcome reflects the organisation's ongoing dedication to transparency, accountability, and sound financial management.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, Climate Council remains focused on financial resilience and expanding the reach of its work across research, policy advocacy, and public communication. The surplus achieved this year provides a stable foundation to continue advancing climate action initiatives in 2025–2026.

Our Team

Board Members & Councillors

Carol Schwartz AO

Director and Chair



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

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

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

Leigh Petschel

Director and Chair, Finance and Risk Committee



Leigh Petschel is the Chief Financial Officer at Port of Melbourne responsible for financial management and funding, regulation and information technology.

Before joining the Port of Melbourne in 2023 Leigh was the Chief Financial Officer of Monash University and was previously a General Manager and Vice President with Transurban in Australia and North America.

He has held executive roles in a range of large organisations and brings a global perspective to the Climate Council Board, having worked in the US, Canada and the UK.

Kirsty Gold

Director



Kirsty is an investor, project accelerator and philanthropist focused on climate solutions in Australia.

She is Co-founder of Assembly Climate Capital, which brings together people and capital to accelerate companies, teams and ideas for significant climate impact. Kirsty is a Director of her Family Office and Foundation and an alternate Director of New Course Energy. She previously worked in business within Qantas' management team and as a chartered accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Kirsty is involved in various community climate projects and initiatives focused on climate engagement and solutions in Australia.

Natalie Walker

Director



Natalie Walker is a Kuku Yalanji woman from the Daintree Rainforest who lives and works on Gadigal land in Sydney. Professionally, Natalie has more than 20 years' experience across various leadership and non-executive

roles in the human services and Indigenous economic development sectors. Natalie has tackled every role with her social purpose spirit – always being driven by the desire to make the world a better, fairer, more equitable place.

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

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

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

Mark Wakeham

Director



Mark Wakeham is an experienced board director, CEO and changemaker. Mark has held leadership roles in the Australian environment and union movements including as CEO of Environment Victoria,

Australian Program Director for The Sunrise Project and as a Senior Policy Advisor on Climate and Energy for the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

He is currently running a successful consultancy focussed on climate and energy strategies for purpose-based organisations.

As well as being on the Board of the Climate Council he is a Board Director of the Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria and Sustainability Victoria. Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts (History) and Commerce (Economics) and a Graduate Diploma in Adult Education. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2020 to study successful energy transitions.

Professor Lesley Hughes

Director and Councillor



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

Macquarie University. Her research has mainly focused on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems.

She is a former federal Climate Commissioner and former Lead Author in the IPCC's 4th and 5th Assessment Reports. She is a founding Councillor with the Climate Council of Australia, a former Director for WWF Australia, and a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. In 2022, she was appointed as a member of the Climate Change Authority.

Greg Bourne

Director and Councillor



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

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

Greg was CEO WWF Australia for six years and later a non-executive director of Carnegie Wave Energy and Chair of Granville Harbour Wind Farm. He is the former Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

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

Professor Tim Flannery

Councillor



Tim Flannery was 2007 Australian of the Year. In 2013 he co-founded the Climate Council, Australia's largest and most successful crowdfunded Organisation.

Professor Flannery has taught at Harvard University, and has advised governments in Australia and Canada. In 2007 he established and co-chaired the Copenhagen Climate Council, and in 2011 was appointed Australia's first Climate Commissioner.

He serves on the board of the Prince Albert II Foundation, has been a board member of WWF International and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, an advisor to the National Geographic Society, a founding director of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, and board member of the Kelp Blue Foundation. He has published more than 140 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has named 25 living and 50 fossil mammal species, many of which are from PNG. His 32 books include *The Future Eaters* and *The Weather Makers*, which has been translated into over 20 languages. He has made numerous documentaries and regularly writes for the *New York Review of Books*.

He serves on the Queensland Land Restoration Fund, a \$100 million fund which focuses on carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection.

Greg Mullins AO, AFSM

Councillor



Greg Mullins is a renowned expert in bushfire and disaster response with more than 50 years in fire and disaster management. He served as Commissioner of Fire & Rescue New South Wales for

almost 14 years before retiring in 2017 and rejoining the rural fire brigade as a volunteer. Greg has held several significant roles, including president of the Peak Council for Fire and Emergency Services in Australia and New Zealand, Chair of the NSW Ambulance Service Advisory Board, member of the NSW Bushfire Coordinating Committee, and member of the Nature Conservation Council's Bushfire Advisory Committee. He founded Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) in 2019 to highlight climate change's impact on extreme weather. ELCA repeatedly tried to warn the Morrison Government early in 2019 of an approaching bushfire catastrophe, but was ignored.

Dr Kate Charlesworth

Councillor



Kate Charlesworth is a public health doctor with expertise and experience in climate pollution and health. After working as a hospital doctor in Australia, she trained in public health medicine in

the UK and Australia. She now works in the NSW public health system, leading the transition to high quality, low carbon and climate resilient health systems. As a mother, she is particularly concerned about climate-health impacts on children – one of the groups most vulnerable to climate pollution.

Nicki Hutley

Councillor



Nicki is Chief Economic Adviser to the Customer-Owned Banking Association, a member of the Financy Women's Index Advisory Committee and runs her own economic consulting practice. Over her

career, Nicki has worked in financial and investment markets and was most recently a partner at Deloitte Access Economics. She is particularly interested in the intersection of economy, society and environment.

Nicki is a member of the Australian Business Economists' executive committee and a longstanding council member of the Economics Society of Australia (NSW branch).

Professor David Karoly, FAA

Councillor



David Karoly is an internationally recognised expert on climate change and climate variability and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He is a Professor Emeritus at the University

of Melbourne, having retired from the CSIRO Climate Science Centre in January 2022. He is heavily involved in communication of climate science, impacts and solutions to business, governments at all levels and community groups.

Professor Karoly was Leader of the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub in the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program, based in CSIRO, from 2018-21.

Dr Tim Nelson

Councillor (until Nov 2024)



Tim is the Executive General Manager, Energy Markets at Iberdrola Australia. In this role, Tim leads the wholesale and retail energy markets functions, firming and smart solutions. He is also a Climate

Councillor, a member of the Westpac Stakeholder Advisory Council and a fellow of the Centre for Policy Development.

Tim is an Associate Professor at Griffith University. He holds a PhD in economics for which he earned a Chancellors Doctoral Research Medal and a first-class honours degree in economics. Tim is also a fellow of the Governance Institute (FGIA FCG CS CGP) and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Associate Professor Joel Gilmour

Councillor (from Nov 2024)



Joel is an energy expert with over 15 years' experience in the energy market and the integration of renewable energy and green fuels into the grid.

Joel is currently the General Manager Regulation & Energy Policy at Iberdrola Australia, supporting the development of efficient markets and policy. He is also an Associate Professor at Griffith University's CAEEP centre and is widely published on renewable energy, green fuels, and firming technologies.

LEGACY COUNCILLORS

Professor Will Steffen

(June 1947 - January 2023)



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

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

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

From 1998 to 2004, Professor Steffen served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change.

Will Steffen was active on the climate change science-policy interface for three decades and played a leading role in the development of Earth System science internationally.

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

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

CLIMATE COUNCIL FELLOWS

Associate Professor Grant Blashki

Health

Salā Dr George Carter

Climate Diplomacy, Climate Science & Impacts, Climate Security, Indigenous Knowledge, International Relations

Dr Dean Miller

Climate Science & Impacts, Climate Solutions, Coral Reef Management

Cheryl Durrant

Security

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Climate Science & Impacts

Andrew Stock

Climate Solutions, Energy, Gas

Dr Madeline Taylor

Climate Policy, Energy, Gas

Dr Wesley Morgan

Climate Policy, International Relations

Lauren Streifer

Climate Policy, Climate Solutions, Transport

Dr John Stone

Climate Policy, Climate Solutions, Transport



We would like to sincerely thank the Board, Councillors and Fellows for their immense contribution to the Climate Council.

Climate Council Staff

Amanda McKenzie

CEO



Amanda is one of the most well-known public commentators on the climate crisis in Australia. Previously, Amanda co-founded the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and has served on renewable energy expert panels for the Queensland and Northern Territory governments. Amanda was the founding Chair of the Centre for Australian Progress and is a former Board Director at Plan International Australia and the Whitlam Institute. She holds an Honours degree in Law from Monash University and an Arts Degree from Melbourne University. Amanda has won numerous awards, including being recognised as one of Westpac's 100 Women of Influence and a finalist in Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year Awards.

OUR EMPLOYEES

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

Alex Engel-Mallon

Amanda Schofield

Annette Zou

Dr Annika Dean

Ava Amedi

Bec Gredley-Porteous

Ben Littlejohn

Ben Manassah

Ben McLeod

Brittany Wilson

Cassie Bremner

Daisy Doctor

Dan Payne

Danielle Veldre

David Hanrahan

Dinah Arndt

Emily Bakker

Emily Watkins

Gemma Howe

Gemma Osborn

Genevieve Stewart

Genevieve Henderson

George Hyde

Georgia Summerfield

Hannah Kadi

Heather Fisher

Isabella Lamshed

Izzy Lyndon-James

Jacqueline Street

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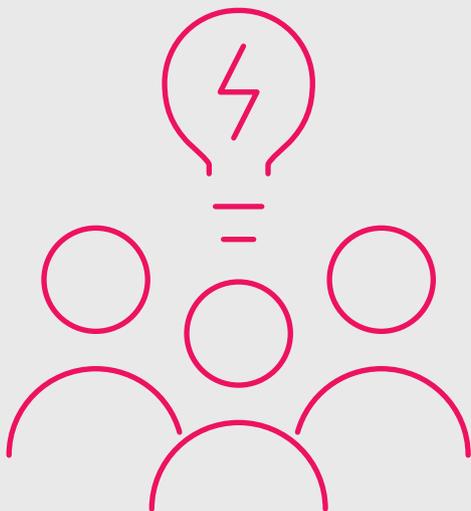
Tahlia Ludlow

Tori Levy

Victoria Fratin

Dr Wesley Morgan

Zerene Joy Catacutan





Appreciation

AUTHORS, CONTRIBUTORS & REVIEWERS

We would like to thank the many individuals and organisations that contributed to the development and review of Climate Council reports released this year.



Next Stop Suburbia: Making Shared Transport Work for Everyone in Aussie Cities

Thank you to Greg Bourne (Climate Councillor), A/Prof Alexa Delbosc, Liam Davies and Dr John Stone for their inputs and technical guidance. Next Stop Suburbia: Making Shared Transport Work for Everyone in Aussie Cities was proudly supported by Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.



Dangerously Overlooked: Why We Need to Talk About Methane

We are very grateful to the following reviewers for generously sharing their time and expertise: Dr Pep Canadell (CSIRO), Tim Baxter (Sunrise Project), Charlotte Hanson (Environmental Defense Fund), Anne Knight (Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis), Prof. Richard Eckard (University of Melbourne), and Prof. David Karoly (Climate Council).



Winning Bid: The Pacific Partnership That Can Power Our Security and Prosperity

We appreciate the expert contributions of Prof Tim Flannery (Councillor), Dr Wesley Morgan (Climate Council Fellow), Salā Dr George Carter (Climate Council Fellow), Richie Merzian (International Director, Smart Energy Council), Tishiko King (Marine Scientist, Climate Justice Advocate), and Bob Phillipson (International Adviser, Smart Energy Council).



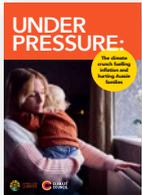
State of Queensland: Disaster Ground Zero

We are grateful for the expert contributions of ELCA members Lee Johnson and Greg Mullins (Climate Councillor) as co-authors of the report.



Airborne Hazard: How Air Pollution Harms Our Kids

We are very grateful to the following reviewers for generously sharing their time and expertise: Dr Kate Charlesworth (Climate Councillor), Professor Melissa Haswell School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology, and Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Services, University of Sydney.



Under Pressure: The Climate Crunch Fueling Inflation and Hurting Aussie Families

Climate Council thanks Parents for Climate for their joint partnership, and Nicki Hutley (Climate Councillor) and Tim Nelson (Climate Councillor) for their expert technical reviews.



Lights Out: Ageing Coal and Summer Blackouts

The original analysis commissioned from Baringa informed this briefing paper.



Electric Shock! Australia's Light-Bulb Moment

We are very grateful to Greg Bourne (Climate Councillor) for generously sharing his time and expertise.



Eye of the Storm: How Climate Pollution Fuels More Intense and Destructive Cyclones

We are very grateful to the following reviewers for generously sharing their time and expertise: Professor Liz Ritchie-Tyo (School of Earth Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University / ARC Centre of Excellence for Weather of the 21st Century) and Associate Professor Andrew Dowdy (School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Melbourne).



At Our Front Door: Escalating Climate Risks For Aussie Homes

We are grateful for the joint partnership of Climate Valuation.



Battery Boom: Supercharging Australia's Renewable Rollout

We are very grateful to the following Climate Councillors for generously sharing their time and expertise - Dr Joel Gilmore (Climate Councillor) and Greg Bourne (Climate Councillor).

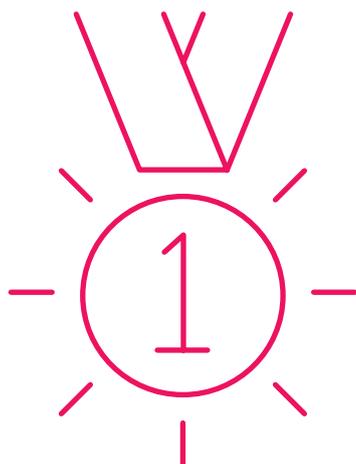
VOLUNTEERS, CONTRACTORS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Climate Council would also like to thank the following staff, volunteers, contractors, organisations and corporate partners who worked with Climate Council in 2024-25.

Our partners share our vision for urgent cuts to climate pollution and accelerated progress towards a clean energy future.

Together we have powered some high-impact interventions this financial year:

- › Acacia Connection
- › Animal Happiness Vet
- › Australian HR Institute
- › Auto-UX Management
- › Balanced Effect
- › Baringa Partners
- › Ben Raue
- › BMG Rights Management
- › Cobalt Engagement
- › Centre For Accessibility Australia
- › Climate Action Network Australia
- › Climate Valuation/XDI
- › ConnectingUp
- › Connector-Tech ALS
- › Conquest Recruitment Group
- › Copyright Agency
- › Cornucopia PO
- › Creative Freedom
- › Culture Amp
- › Curated with Conscience
- › Employment Hero
- › Essential Media Communications
- › Ethical Jobs
- › FCM Travel Solutions
- › For Purpose Talent
- › Fundraising Institute Australia
- › Fusion Digital
- › Gathered Here
- › Gayle Partridge
- › Gearon Civil
- › Good Chat
- › Google Australia
- › Gus Goswell Media
- › Hub Australia Pty Ltd
- › Humanitix
- › Inside Out Accounting
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- › Not A Real Media Company
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- › Pangolin Associates
- › Philanthropy Australia
- › Quiip
- › Redbridge Group
- › Richard De Nys Award Force
- › Salesforce
- › Scott & Broad
- › Sentiment Agency
- › Six Degrees Executive
- › Spade and Arrow
- › Spatial Vision (Veris)
- › Stage Addiction
- › Strem Pty Ltd
- › Synyati Enterprise Systems
- › Tactic Lab
- › The Benchmarking Project
- › The Clever Contacts Group
- › The Fundraising Agency
- › Thomas Davis & Co
- › Workplace Wizards
- › Yatra
- › Yirranma Place
- › YouGov Galaxy





Climate Council is a fearless champion of the climate solutions that Australia needs. People power got us started and we are proudly community-funded and independent.

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

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