

# Annual Progress Report

*At a glance*

2024



The full report is published on the [Climate Change Authority's website](#)



# Key insights



**Climate impacts are hitting home harder and more often for Australian communities. At the same time, major new markets are emerging for low and zero emissions goods as the world works towards net zero.**

Cutting emissions now is vital for minimising future climate damages and will position Australia to seize new economic opportunities.



**The Australian Government's new policies mean it is far more likely Australia will achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target.**

They will need to deliver on time and in full if the target is to be reached, on the pathway to a net zero economy.



**Australia's emissions are falling, but progress needs to accelerate.**

All sectors of the economy need to play their part. Fortunately, every sector has opportunities available now for cutting emissions.



**Accelerating the roll out of renewable energy infrastructure is a top priority.**

Further action is needed to ensure Australia reaches the government's target of 82% renewables by 2030, and has reliable, affordable energy as coal-fired generators continue to close.



**Governments, businesses, investors and communities are all playing a part, learning and innovating in this important national effort.**

A net zero mindset needs to become the new normal.



**The 2024 Annual Progress Report provides 10 recommendations to keep building on Australia's progress in cutting emissions.**

Climate impacts are hitting home harder and more often for Australian communities. At the same time, major new markets are emerging for low and zero emissions goods as the world works towards net zero.

Cutting emissions now is vital for minimising future climate damages and will position Australia to seize new economic opportunities.

The 2024 State of the Climate Report forecasts longer and more dangerous fire seasons, frequent heatwaves, more severe droughts and extreme weather events if the climate continues warming.

The impacts of climate change also reverberate through our economy and household budgets – driving up the price of essentials like food, energy and insurance.

Modelling conducted by the CSIRO has found demand for Australian minerals and low- and zero-emission manufactured goods will grow significantly as our trade partners work to cut their own emissions. Seizing this opportunity will create new, long-term, jobs - including in Australia's regions.



The Australian Government's new policies mean it is far more likely Australia will achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target.

They will need to deliver on time and in full if the target is to be reached, on the pathway to a net zero economy.

Australia has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below the 2005 level by 2030.

The government is making progress, passing laws and delivering policies to deal with emissions from important sectors. Already today, more than 40% of our electricity comes from renewables; a doubling of the share in just six years.

In the past year, the government has expanded the Capacity Investment Scheme, to support further growth in renewables and energy storage, and has introduced the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard to reduce emissions from cars and other light vehicles.

Reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism have set new caps on emissions from big industrial and resources facilities. In the first year of the updated scheme, emissions were down by 2.9 million tonnes (2.1%).



Australia's emissions are falling, but progress needs to accelerate.

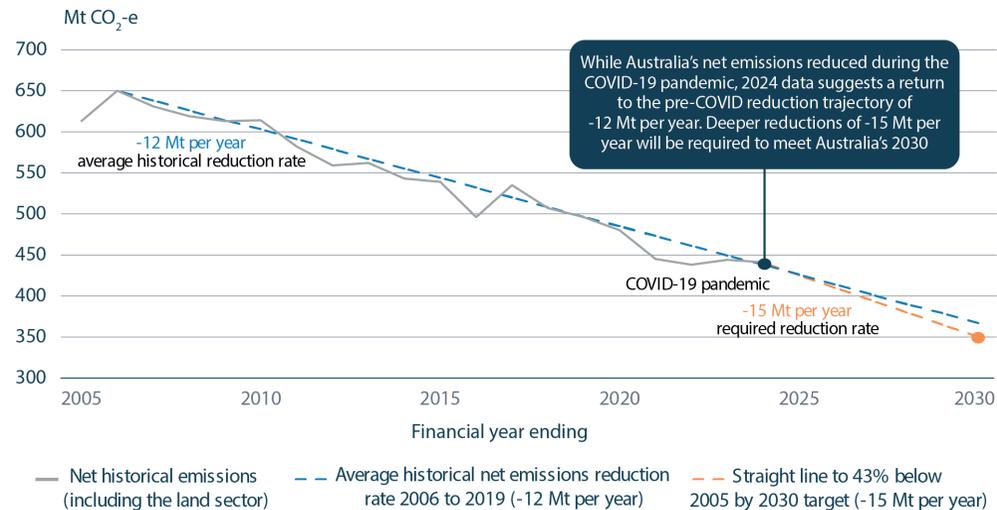
All sectors of the economy need to play their part. Fortunately, every sector has opportunities available now for cutting emissions.

Currently, Australia's emissions are 28% below the 2005 level. This fall has taken place almost entirely in the land sector, together with a decline in the electricity sector as renewable energy has been replacing coal-fired generation.

All other sectors combined are 13% above 2005 levels, meaning we are not yet seeing real change across every sector of the Australian economy. The authority's **Sector Pathways Review** shows there are affordable, available opportunities to reduce emissions in every sector.

Emissions must fall by 15 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year on average to reach Australia's 2030 target; they fell by 3 Mt in 2023-24.

Figure 1: Progress to Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target



Accelerating the roll out of renewable energy infrastructure is a top priority.

Further action is needed to ensure we reach the government's target of 82% renewables by 2030, and we have reliable, affordable energy as coal-fired generators continue to close.

The electricity sector can do much of the heavy lifting on cutting emissions at the lowest cost to 2030 and unlock the potential for emissions reductions in other sectors.

Australia is currently deploying renewable energy infrastructure at about half the annual rate needed to reach the 2030 renewables target. The authority has focused most recommendations in this year's *Annual Progress Report* on addressing barriers so more renewables can be deployed, faster.

More renewable energy will support manufacturers and households to confidently go all-electric, enable businesses and families to switch to cleaner vehicles, and help farmers and resources firms accelerate efforts to cut their emissions.

Other energy options like nuclear won't meet Australia's needs and priorities in the near-term. Most of Australia's coal-fired generators will close in the next 15 years – their power needs to be replaced now to keep energy reliable and affordable for homes and businesses.



Governments, businesses, investors and communities are all playing a part, learning and innovating in this important national effort.

The Climate Change Authority's [Climate Policy Tracker](#) highlights the significant amount of work underway across all levels of government to drive down emissions across the country.

Sales data for items like electric vehicles and efficient heat pumps (which can replace gas appliances), show that Australians are increasingly taking up these technologies.

Together with new investment in the decarbonisation of the industry sector and emerging solutions in agriculture, these forward-looking indicators point to further progress to come on reducing emissions in the next few years.

A zero-carbon mindset needs to become the new normal, so that decisions by governments, businesses and households appropriately take account of the need to reduce Australia's emissions.



The Climate Change Authority is Australia's expert advisory agency providing independent, evidence-based advice on climate science, impacts, policy and solutions.

Under the Climate Change Act 2022, the authority must provide the Minister for Climate Change and Energy with annual advice on progress towards Australia's emissions reduction targets.

The 2024 Annual Progress Report is the authority's third such report, assessing Australia's progress over the last 12 months.

It includes 10 recommendations to keep building on Australia's progress in cutting emissions. These primarily focus on accelerating the roll-out of renewable energy infrastructure to prepare for the closure of coal, clean up emissions from the energy sector, and unlock more emissions reductions in sectors like transport and industry.

The authority provides advice on Australia's pathway to net zero through this annual advice and a range of other reviews, reports and analysis.

**To find out more about the authority's work, visit:**  
**[www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au](http://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au)**





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