

The Australian Ambition:

A National Agreement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in 2020

As part of the Recovery from Covid-19 and in the spirit of collaboration created through the National Cabinet, we have created The Australian Ambition for Federal and State Governments in Australia. It sets us on a path to creating a new economy consistent with the science of climate change and our international obligations.

1. We must work to make 2020 the year in which the Australian nation and all Australian states and territories commit to do what science tells us is necessary to reach carbon neutrality in 2050 and to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C.¹

2. In recognition of the harm that climate change causes (as evidenced in our 2020 bushfires), the clear economic rationale for a green recovery that transitions Australia to a low-carbon economy based on full employment, and the necessity for collective national and international action to achieve substantial greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030, we ask the Prime Minister and the Premiers and Chief Ministers of the states and territories to implement a ***National Agreement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions*** in 2020.

3. The ***National Agreement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions*** would:
 - (a) adopt a **long-term emissions target** for Australia of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
 - (b) adopt a **2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target** consistent with the Paris Agreement, noting that global reductions need to be 45% below 2010 levels by 2030;
 - (c) communicate an **updated Nationally Determined Contribution** (NDC) under the Paris Agreement with the highest possible ambition for 2030;
 - (d) establish an **Australian emissions budget** for the period 2021-2050 with five yearly budgets (2021-2025, 2026-2030, etc) consistent with achieving the 2030 reduction target;
 - (e) allocate a **share of the Australian emissions budget** to 2050 to each State and Territory; and
 - (f) provide for a science-based five yearly **review of the Australian emissions budget**, synchronised with the five yearly NDC update cycle for Paris Agreement, and the share allocated to each State and Territory.

4. Implementation of a ***National Agreement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions*** in 2020 would demonstrate Australia's highest possible ambition in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ahead of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021.

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Source: Dr Hugh Finn, Professor Peter Newman, Professor Bill Hare, Professor Ursula Fuentes Hutfilter

¹ Statement by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the Outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid: <https://unfccc.int/news/statement-by-the-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-on-the-outcome-of-cop25>