

State and Federal Labor’s Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Policies

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Federal Labor Party

Climate Change Action Plan

On 27 November 2015, the leader of the Australian Labor Party, Bill Shorten, announced that a Labor government would pursue:

- an indicative pollution reduction target of at least 45 per cent by 2030; and
- net zero emissions by 2050.

It was also announced that Australian Labor Party (ALP) has committed to a consultation process to determine the final target. This consultation will involve business and their representative organisations, community groups, unions and other organisations.

The consultation will consider matters such as the impact of the targets on the broader decarbonisation agenda, sectoral strategies to reduce emissions, and the consequence for jobs and particular regions and impacts on households.

The 2030 goal is to be confirmed in March 2016.

The Climate Change Action Plan also contains commitments by an ALP government to five-yearly reviews and the establishment of a 2025 goal within 12 months of being elected.

More information on the ALP’s Climate Change Action Plan is available [here](#).

The ALP’s emissions target is based on recommendations from the Australian Climate Change Authority. Their Final Report on Australia’s Future Emissions Reductions Target is available [here](#).

The ALP’s Climate Change Action Plan builds on their announcement in July that a Shorten government would commit to 50% of Australia’s electricity being generated from renewable sources by 2030.



The ALP have also committed to maintaining the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

ALP National Platform on Tackling Climate Change and Environmental Challenges

Two new resolutions with regards to climate change policy were incorporated into the National Platform at the 47th National Conference of the Australian Labor Party, in July 2015.

The National Conference meets every three years and is critical in shaping Federal Labor's future policy and organisation. The National Platform is not designed as a policy document but rather forms a statement of beliefs, aspirations and objectives of the Labor Party.

The two new resolutions that were passed and incorporated into the National Platform are;

- A Shorten Labor Government will work with the Industry unions and stakeholders to develop an electricity modernisation strategy that;
 - is consistent with economy wide emissions reduction targets
 - minimises cost impact on business and household incomes
 - covers options for delivering on Labor's goal of 50% of Australia's electricity being generated from renewable sources small and large scale by 2030
- Labor will advocate for Australia to adopt an emissions reduction target and Labor will adopt a target before the next federal election that reflects the UNFCCC commitment and advice from the Climate Change Authority and other such independent bodies.

Chapter 4 of the National Platform is the platform on Tackling Climate Change and Environmental Challenges. In addition to the new resolutions there are 11 key areas through which Labor plans to tackle climate change and deal with environmental challenges. These areas, as outlined in Chapter 4 are listed below.

- Creating a Clean energy future
- National Environmental Law
- National and World Heritage
- Securing the Health of the Great Barrier Reef
- Protecting Bio diversity and Natural recourses
- A cleaner environment for Living
- Energy Capacity and New Technologies
- Preparing primary industries for climate change and future drought
- Managing our water assets
- Marine and coastal protection
- Environmental diplomacy

The 47th National Platform is available [here](#).

Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on the 47th National Conference is available [here](#).

Australian Capital Territory

In October 2010, the Stanhope Labor government passed [The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010](#) for the introduction of greenhouse gas reductions targets.

In November 2013, the Gallagher Labor Government legislated a 90% renewable energy target for 2020 under the Act.

On the 22 August 2015, the ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, announced plans for a new 100% renewable energy target by 2025.

In addition to containing greenhouse emission targets the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emission Gas Reduction ACT 2010*;

- mandates regular reporting to the Legislative Assembly on the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions;
- establishes a Climate Change Council to provide independent advice on climate change issues as they affect business and the wider community.

The ACT does not claim RET credits under its plan.

More information on the Australian Capital Territory government's climate change policy is available [here](#).

Solar Auction

In January 2012 the ACT Government issued a Request for Proposals to support the development of up to 40 megawatts of large-scale solar generation capacity in the ACT.

In September 2012, it was announced that FRV Royalla Solar Farm had been successful in the Solar Auction and would be awarded a grant of entitlement for their 20 megawatt proposal to be located at Royalla in the ACT. The Royalla Solar Farm was officially opened on 3 September 2014.

In August 2013, the Minister announced that Zhenfa Canberra Solar Farm One and OneSun Capital 10MW Operating had been awarded grants for their 13 and 7 megawatt proposals respectively.

More information on the ACT solar auction is available [here](#).

Wind Auction

Under the ACT's 90% renewable energy target, additional wind power investments will meet around 45% percent of Canberra's electricity needs by 2020. This will be achieved by using the Territory's reverse-auction Feed-in Tariff process as used in the ACT's first Solar Auction, with an initial 200MW wind auction held in 2014.

In March 2014 the Minister for the Environment, Simon Corbell MLA, announced a 200MW Wind Auction to be conducted by a competitive process. There were three successful proponents.

On 10th August 2015, the ACT Government invited interested parties to participate in Wind Auction II.

More information about the ACT wind auction is available [here](#).

South Australia

The [Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007](#), introduced by the Rann Labor Government, made South Australia the first Australian state to legislate targets to reduce greenhouse emissions. The legislation set out targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the proportion of renewable electricity generated and consumed.

The legislation also commits the state government to work with business and the community to develop and put in place strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions and adapt to climate change. Resulting initiatives include Climate Change Sector Agreements and the Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia.

A new Climate Change Strategy for South Australia was released by Premier Jay Weatherill and Minister for Climate Change Ian Hunter on 29 November 2015.

The Strategy sets a framework for:

- the adoption of a target of zero net emissions by 2050 in South Australia; and
- the commitment to make the City of Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city.

More information on South Australia's Climate Change Strategy: *South Australia's Climate Change Strategy 2015-2050 – Towards a low carbon economy*, is available [here](#).

Low Carbon Investment Plan

On 1 December 2015, the South Australian Premier released South Australia's Low Carbon Investment Plan. The Plan outlines the Government's intention to achieve \$10 billion of investment in low carbon energy generation by 2025 and 50 per cent of electricity production to be generated by renewable energy by 2025.

For more information see Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on South Australia's Low Carbon Investment Plan available [here](#).

Climate Change Sector Agreements

Sector agreements are formal cooperative agreements between the state government and specific business entities, industry sectors, community groups and regions. The agreements typically encourage actions to reduce greenhouse emissions and adapt to climate change and may include commitments to:

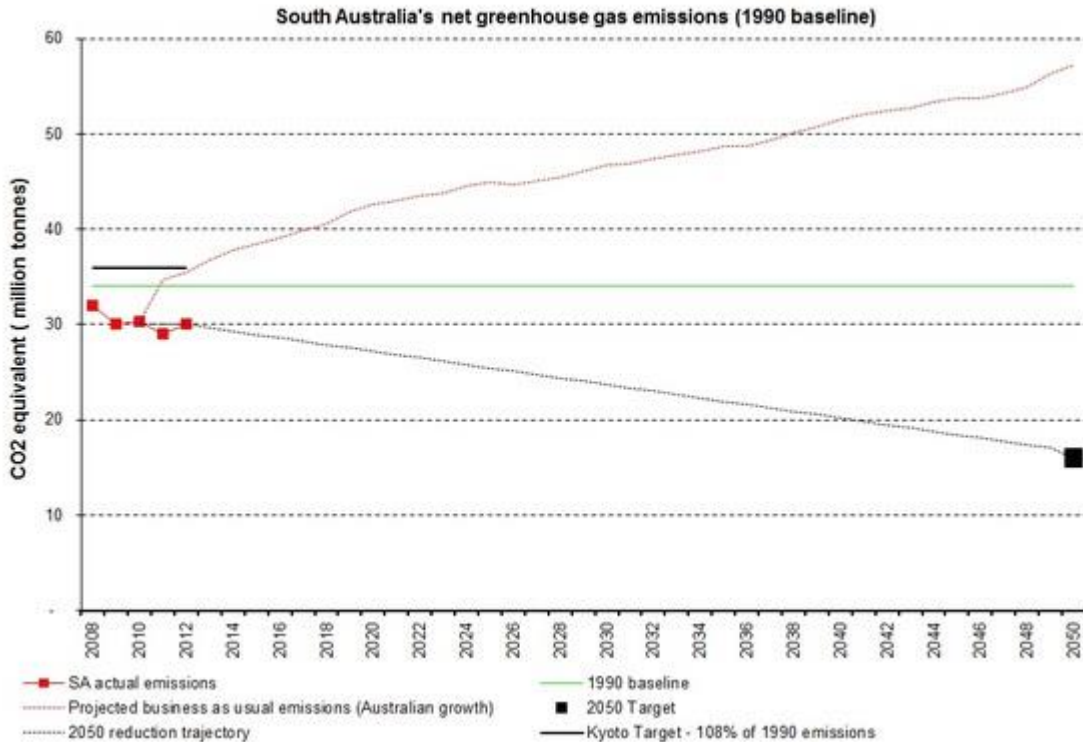
- reducing emissions;
- improving energy efficiency;
- reducing energy consumption; and
- promoting the use of renewable energy.

South Australia's Climate Change Adaptation Framework

The Climate Change Adaptation Framework for South Australia will guide action by business, the community, non-government organisations, the research sector, local governments and state government agencies to develop well-informed and timely adaptation responses. So far two action plans have been formed under the framework.

- The Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan was launched on 8 August 2013.
- The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Eyre Peninsula was launched in February 2008.

More information on the South Australian Government’s climate change policy is available [here](#).



This graph has been extracted from the SA Government’s Strategic Plan Website available [here](#).

Nuclear Fuel Cycle Review

On 8 February 2015, South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill, announced a Royal Commission to investigate the future of South Australia’s storage and use of nuclear energy.

The Royal Commission is the first of its kind in Australia and seeks to explore the opportunities and risks associated with the nuclear sector including mining, enrichment, energy and storage phases and the potential to develop a nuclear waste deposit in the remote parts of South Australia.

The Royal Commission will also explore the future energy needs for South Australia and potential economic benefits the sector could bring as South Australia has experienced a downturn in manufacturing in recent years.

The Terms of Reference require the Commission to conduct its inquiries and report to the South Australian Governor by 6 May 2016.

The Terms of Reference for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission can be located [here](#).

Queensland

The Queensland Palaszczuk Labor Government has made a number of commitments signaling a revitalization of the state's climate change agenda. Commitments include both adaptation to climate change impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as:

- Developing and implementing a Queensland Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Q-CAS) to ensure the state, its people, environment and economy are best positioned to adapt to current and future climate impacts.
- Establishing a Climate Change Coastal Hazard Adaptation Program (CHAP) over three years to help councils address current and future coastal hazards.
- Reinstating world class coastal planning laws.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting greater use of renewable energy through A Solar Futureplan.

In furtherance of these commitments the Queensland Government is investing \$15 million from 2015 to 2018.

Q- CAS

The Queensland Government is investing \$3 million to support the development and implementation of a Q-CAS. Central to Q-CAS is the notion that to adequately consider the complex issues that climate change brings, strategy must be developed in partnership with those who carry the risk.

The establishment of the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy Partners aims to properly identifying risks, needs and opportunities across the state. Over the next twelve months, the Queensland Government will work with Partners, government organisations and the public to in furtherance of this aim. The first meeting was held on 23 July 2015.

CHAP

The Queensland Government will invest \$12 million through the Local Government Association of Queensland to help coastal communities plan and prepare for storm tide, coastal erosion and rising sea levels from climate change. The aim of the Program is to support coastal councils in their progression from identifying coastal hazards and climate change risks through to the decision-making and implementation phases.

To assist councils prepare a coastal hazard adaptation strategy, the Local Government Association of Queensland, Townsville City Council and the Queensland Government finalized a pilot coastal hazard adaptation strategy for Townsville. The project mapped and identified both potential impacts and subsequent strategies to manage the projected effects of climate change to the year 2100.

More information on the Queensland Government's Climate Change policy is available [here](#).

Queensland Reef Water Quality Protection Plan

The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan is a collaborative program of coordinated projects and partnerships designed to improve the quality of water in the Great Barrier Reef through improved land management in reef catchments.



The plan is a joint commitment of the Australian and Queensland Governments. Its primary focus is diffuse source pollution from broadscale land use.

Reef Plan sets targets for improved water quality and land management practices and identifies actions to improve the quality of water entering the reef. Initially established in 2003, the plan was updated in 2009 and 2013. It details specific actions and deliverables to be completed by 2018 when Reef Plan will be reviewed.

More information on the Queensland Reef Water Quality Protection Plan is available [here](#).

Victoria

Victoria's [Climate Change Act 2010](#) was passed by the Brumby Labor government in September 2010 and came into effect on 1 July 2011.

The Act provides key statutory tools to support climate policy, including the State's adaptation planning framework. The Act requires:

- the Victorian Government to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan every four years; and
- decision makers in government to take climate change into account when making specified decisions under other Acts.

On the 25 of August 2015 the Victorian Andrews Labor Government announced an independent review into the *Climate Change Act 2010* by an independent committee. The committee will provide its recommendations by 31 December 2015.

More information on the review of the *Climate Change Act 2010* is available [here](#).

On 21 August 2015, the Victorian Andrews Labor Government released its *Renewable Energy Roadmap*. The *Roadmap* outlines the Victorian Government's plan to attract and accelerate renewable energy investment and jobs in Australia, including the commitment to produce at least 20 per cent of the State's electricity by renewable sources by 2020.

The *Roadmap* was released in addition to the Victorian Government's previous announcements, including:

- Re-directing the responsibility from local Councils to the Minister for Planning to processing new wind farm applications in April;
- The release of the *Saving energy, growing jobs: Victoria's energy efficiency and productivity statement* in June; and
- The introduction of the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Environmental Upgrade Agreements) Bill 2015* that proposes to implement council-rates based financing to help businesses fund building works to improve energy efficiency and cut water use.

On 25 August, the Victorian Government released its Victorian Energy Efficiency Targets between 2016 and 2020.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Andrews's Government Climate Change Policy is available [here](#).

Community Owned Power Projects

Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Lily D'Ambrosio, launched The Guide to Community-Owned Renewable Energy for Victorians on 7 November 2015. The guide covers the commercial, technical, governance and regulatory aspects of establishing renewable energy projects.

The Government has so far supported two community-owned renewable energy projects in the form of:



- A \$200,000 grant to a community group in Newstead to develop a master plan for transitioning the town to 100 per cent renewable energy; and
- \$100,00 grant for the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group to build a solar farm at the Black Forest Timber Mill in Woodend.

More information on Victoria's community owned power projects is available [here](#).