



Climate Council is an independent, crowd-funded organisation providing quality information on climate change to the Australian public.

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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Cover images

Top: (from left to right) presenter Andrew Günsberg, Board Chair Carol Schwartz AO, Councillor Professor Tim Flannery, CEO Amanda McKenzie, Councillor Greg Bourne, and Councillor Greg Mullins AO, AFSM conduct a panel discussion at Climate Council's 10th Anniversary Melbourne event.

Bottom left: (from left to right) Councillor Professor David Karoly and Dr Martin Rice celebrate with a cupcake.

Bottom right: (from left to right) Councillor Greg Bourne, Head of Strategic Communications Dinah Arndt, Councillor Dr Kate Charlesworth, Councillor Professor Tim Flannery, Board Chair Carol Schwartz AO, Councillor Greg Mullins, AO, AFSM, and presenter Andrew Günsberg attend Climate Council's 10th Anniversary Melbourne event.

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Thank you for your support

Over the past 11 years, Climate Council has united Australia's foremost experts in climate science, economics, media, communications, policy, and advocacy to drive significant, society-wide change – and it's working.

From our inception - immediately after the decision to abolish the Climate Commission - Climate Council was established as an independent, community-funded organisation that's gone from strength to strength, thanks to your support.

In celebrating our 10th anniversary earlier this year, we had the opportunity to come together at community events in Sydney and Melbourne and reflect on our shared achievements. Your support has been crucial in enabling all of our wins – from the founding of our organisation in 2013, to the establishment of the Climate Media Centre (CMC) in 2015 which empowers a chorus of influential voices, and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) set up in 2019 that has completely changed Australians' understanding of the impacts of extreme weather on our lives, communities and well being.

Thank you for being an important part of our story.

We truly appreciate having such a dedicated community behind us. Being 100% community funded ensures our independence. It allows us to keep climate change at the forefront of the political agenda, no matter who is in power. Together, we will continue to push for the policies needed to cut climate pollution faster this decade.

Image 1: Climate Council team and supporters attend the City2Surf 2024. **Image 2:** Cartoonist Megan Herpert awarded the inaugural Climate Award at the Australian Cartoonists Association Stanley Awards. **Image 3:** Climate Council Team Lunch. **Image 4:** Recording of Climate Council digital campaign featuring comedian Dave Hughes. **Image 5:** (from left to right) Head of Strategic Communications Dinah Arndt, Councillor Greg Bourne, Councillor Dr Kate Charlesworth, Councillor Greg Mullins AO, AFSM, and Board Chair Carol Schwartz AO conduct a panel discussion at Climate Council's 10th Anniversary Sydney event. **Image 6:** Presentation at Digital Team Strategy Day 2024. **Image 7:** Dr Simon Bradshaw interviewed for Studio 10. **Image 8:** Participants at Climate Awards 2023 event.

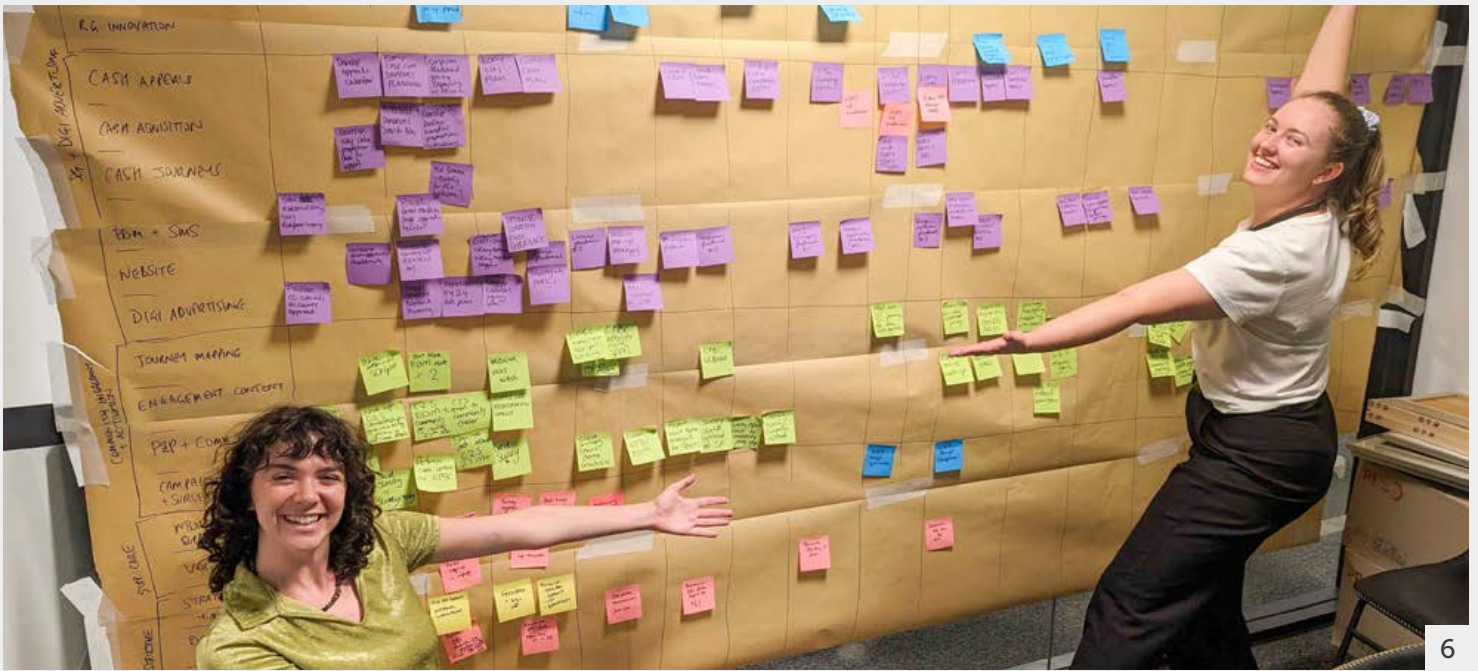




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A message from the Chair

It is my pleasure to share Climate Council's 2023-24 Impact Report.

Over the past 12 months, Australians have experienced the switch to becoming a clean-energy powered nation in real time, while simultaneously adapting to and dealing with worsening impacts of the climate crisis.

The Australian summer – which for many conjures memories of joy, warmth and relaxation – we liken it to climate whiplash, as millions of us experienced a rapid cycle between flooding rains, heatwaves, fierce fires and back again. At the same time, Australia's clean energy shift is gaining momentum; most notably due to big policy wins that will limit transport pollution and double the amount of clean energy in Australia's grid that Climate Council played a key role in.

As Australia's own community-funded and independent climate organisation, our focus this year has been on shaping and winning national debates about how to respond to climate change and socialising our roadmap for how to cut climate pollution by 75% this decade. Our dedicated Councillors and staff authored 15 influential reports on gas exports, clean transport, our warming oceans, the need to reform our national environment law to account for climate pollution, and many more. Climate Council and Climate Media Centre (CMC) provided journalists with accurate information about climate solutions and climate impacts to improve coverage. More than 90 climate spokespeople were trained and quoted in over 27,000 pieces of media secured by Climate Council and CMC media teams. Thanks to the ongoing support of our dedicated community, Climate Council was actively involved in policy wins for our climate, our health and our future economic prosperity.

While Australia's nation-shaping clean energy revolution takes place, we cannot ignore the forces seeking to obstruct progress. We are in the 'mis-information era', where trusted and respected voices, like those of our experts, are more important than ever. More than ever we see two visions for Australia's future when it comes to our energy sources: one based on renewable energy like solar and wind, backed by storage, and the other a scheme that can only lead to more coal and gas pollution as we wait for nuclear power stations that may never arrive.

I wish to extend my gratitude to our staff for their dedication over the past year, to my fellow Board Directors and, in particular, to our CEO Amanda McKenzie for her outstanding leadership.

Above all, I would like to thank Climate Council's community, whose passion and generosity powers all the work we do. None of it is possible without you.

As we chart the path towards the upcoming federal election, it's thanks to your support that Climate Council is actively shaping how quickly we can scale up climate action in Australia so we slash climate pollution and help secure a safer future for our children. Thank you.



Carol Schwartz AO
Climate Council Chair

A message from the CEO

I am proud to present Climate Council's Impact Report for Financial Year 2023-24.

With your support, this year we have led the national conversation about climate pollution and our warming world, participated with fantastic partners in the major climate policy fights, and celebrated hard-fought wins on renewable power and EVs. Did you know Australia is now powered 40% by renewable energy? A major achievement in a highly contested environment!

In this report we dive a little deeper into our campaigns to:

- › Win a New Vehicle Efficiency Standard. After two decades of campaigns against well resourced vested interests, finally Australia will join much of the world in regulating climate pollution from vehicles.
- › Show the community that climate change is harming Australians now. Our phrase "climate whiplash" perfectly describes the horrible experience of communities swinging from flood to fire. This long-term work helps to elevate climate on the national agenda when there are many issues also top of mind.
- › Raise the bar for the next wave of climate action. Our *Seize The Decade* report shows how we can slash climate pollution this decade and protect all we hold dear from worsening climate change.

Our profile in the 23/24 financial year has been significant, which is critical for all our campaigns. Between July 2023 and June 2024 we secured 17,899 media items and engaged with the community more than 500,000 times through our social media content. This phenomenal reach demonstrates the expertise and dedication of our communications team to get climate stories and compelling, evidence-based information in front of people. Our team has also

supported hundreds of everyday Australians – doctors, firefighters, vets, renters, energy sector workers and more – to share their stories and reach new audiences via our Climate Media Centre (CMC). This generated another 10,000 items of media coverage, and supports the growing profile of a diverse range of communicators. We have built a powerful chorus of voices all singing from the same song sheet!

As you will see through the report, it has been a very impactful year and I am thankful for the strategic guidance of our Board, leadership of our Councillors, dedication and expertise of our staff, and the incredible support of our strong Climate Council community. Much of our work is achieved with deep and lasting partnerships, from other climate organisations, to policy makers and donors. It has been an honour to work with all these fabulous and dedicated people who are so committed to tackling the climate crisis.

It wasn't long ago that Climate Council's influence was on full display in the lead up to the 2022 federal election, when we helped create a wave of momentum for stronger climate policies. Millions of Australians rejected climate denial and delay, and demanded stronger action. With another important election campaign on the horizon, you can be sure we will be relentlessly focused on accelerating cuts to climate pollution so that we hand a safer future over to our kids.

Thank you for all your support. Onwards!



Amanda McKenzie
CEO

Climate Council Impact Summary

It has been a turbulent year in the energy and climate debate. Climate Council's work has been at the fore, shaping the national conversation about climate solutions, driving critical steps forward and holding decision-makers to account for bad decisions.

For the first time, Australia legislated a national fuel efficiency standard to curb transport pollution – our fastest rising source of climate pollution – and we can at last feel confident that our national shift to a bigger, cleaner energy system is well under way. These are signs of genuine progress after the former government wasted many valuable years rejecting credible advice from climate scientists and dismantling climate programs.

This year has also seen the emergence of more sophisticated and widespread misinformation campaigns. A noisy and well-funded minority has formed to disrupt the deployment of necessary and readily-available solutions, like electric vehicles, electric appliances, wind farms and transmission lines.

As we prepare for the next federal election, Climate Council's work to bring accurate information to decision-makers, journalists and the community through a diverse range of channels will be critical.

WHAT'S OUR FOCUS BEEN?



Growing the good:

To catalyse action from state and local governments, businesses and industries that can be replicated, scaled, and will build momentum for more; prioritising actions that result in plummeting emissions during the 2020s.



Stopping the bad:

Prevent the expansion of gas in Australia and enable a switch away from domestic fossil fuel use.



Transforming the landscape:

Permanently transform the parameters of climate action so that a critical mass of political, business, industry and community leaders want to implement positive solutions to the climate crisis during the 2020s, and avoid being associated with the fossil fuel industry.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS?

- › Keep climate change high on the public agenda and drive a continuous drumbeat for action.
- › Fight the big policy battles of the Parliamentary term to win major policy changes to drive down climate pollution.
- › Identify the next set of policy changes and socialising these with key audiences.

1. Keep climate high on the agenda

Climate Council's communications help to shape the perceptions of Australians about climate impacts and solutions. Our media engagement has transformed how climate change is covered in Australia, and our social media activity connects with hundreds of thousands of people every month.

Extreme weather and unnatural disasters were ever present last year, both in Australia and around the world. As a result, Australians were forced to weather what we coined "climate whiplash", with communities hurtled between flooding rains to heatwaves and fierce fire conditions, and back again. Over summer, during our most intense period for extreme weather, Climate Council released a report on wild swings between severe weather, developed a new interactive online tool to show how cutting climate pollution will limit extreme heat in our neighbourhoods, and maintained a relentless drumbeat of media and online communications to elevate climate change in the minds of people around the country.

In 2023-24, Climate Council was among the most prominent voices leading the campaign for fuel efficiency standards, emphasising the financial and health benefits for Australians, and countering industry pushback. We publicly called out the pollution created by the big auto industry, and connected with target audiences by introducing relatable spokespeople into the debate. The campaign successfully resulted in the passing of new, groundbreaking legislation in May 2024, which will significantly reduce vehicle emissions by 2030 while benefiting our climate and household transport costs.

2. Winning Australia's big climate fights

Climate Council has solidified our role as a credible, constructive, but honest advocate to the Federal Parliament. As a trusted source of achievable, necessary and smart policy solutions, we've built strong relationships across Parliament and played a key role in major policy discussions over the past year.

Harnessing our strong communications engine and deep political expertise, we brought the trusted voice of climate experts to the fore in Canberra on Australia's most important climate policy debates. Here are just a few of this year's highlights, achieved thanks to the commitment of our community and advocacy partners:

- 1. Cleaner transport:** Australia has some of the most polluting vehicles in the world. After helping secure a commitment from the Federal Government in 2023 to design a national fuel efficiency standard, Climate Council's campaign for cleaner transport made a significant contribution towards new laws that passed the Federal Parliament in May 2024 that will more than halve how much climate pollution new cars and vans produce before 2030.
- 2. Stronger national environment laws:** We campaigned relentlessly for Australia's national environmental laws to be overhauled so they embed climate change. Climate Council's analysis, that more than 740 fossil fuel projects have been waved through since national environment laws were first legislated, has been regularly cited by politicians, media and climate movement allies as evidence of the urgent need for reform.
- 3. Getting Australia off gas:** The idea that gas is a "transition fuel" is a furphy. To counter this myth, Climate Council developed an evidence-based energy plan, *Powering Past Gas* as an alternative path to the Federal Government's flawed 'Future Gas Strategy' and to counter the polluting gas industry's relentless push for Australia's continued reliance on fossil fuels.

3. The next wave of critical policy change



This year we were focused on mapping out a clear path to slash climate pollution in line with the science. First we extended the groundbreaking findings of our *Aim High, Go Fast* report by laying out the science in *Mission Zero*.



It finds that it is critically important that Australia's emissions embark on a steep downward trajectory with a 75% cut below 2005 levels by the end of the decade, and reach net zero by 2035. *Mission Zero* found that the choices we

make today will significantly impact the kind of world our kids will inherit. Failure to act fast enough could trigger abrupt changes that overwhelm us.



In *Seize The Decade*, released in March 2024, we spelt out how proven technologies can electrify the nation and cut climate pollution in line with the science to ensure

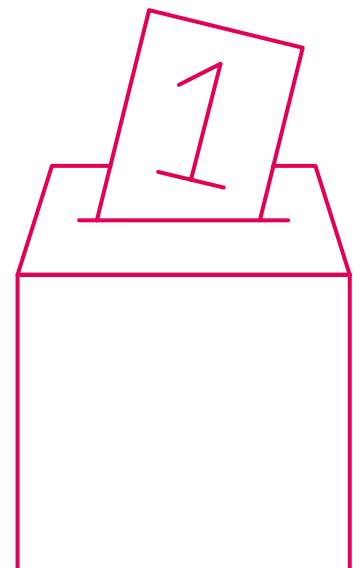
millions of Australians enjoy the benefits of a cleaner, safer future.

These two reports made a significant contribution to the climate solutions conversation in Australia, with hundreds of media hits secured and highly engaging social media content shared across the country. The insights and new policy ideas published in *Seize The Decade* are set to shape Climate Council's advocacy and policy priorities for years to come.

4. Influencing the next federal election

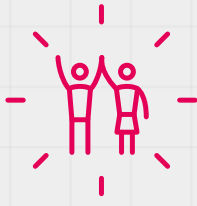
Australia's next federal election will feature different visions for the future of our energy system and our climate. In the face of widespread misinformation and false solutions, Climate Council has an important role to play to accelerate Australia's renewables rollout, and apply our powerful communications machine to demonstrate that Australia is on the right path and already making progress.

As we arrive at the mid-way point in this critical decade for cuts to climate pollution, securing another progressive Parliament with a mandate to speed up Australia's switch to a cleaner, safer future is essential for the health and prosperity of our kids and the protection of all our precious places.



2023-24

ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT



A COMMUNITY OF OVER
558,000
SUPPORTERS



15
CLIMATE COUNCIL
REPORTS LAUNCHED



17
FORMAL SUBMISSIONS
TO INQUIRIES



27,000+
CLIMATE COUNCIL MEDIA HITS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



90+
CLIMATE SPOKESPEOPLE TRAINED

BY CLIMATE COUNCIL & CLIMATE MEDIA CENTRE

Advocacy

Federal Politics

During this year, Climate Council has deepened our role as a trusted adviser to political parties and MPs across the Federal Parliament. We seek to act as an honest friend, speaking the truth about Australia's mixed efforts to accelerate climate progress. Since the election of the most climate-friendly Parliament ever in 2022, climate action has picked up pace nationally.

Throughout 2023-24, Climate Council worked closely with decision-makers and community representatives across the Parliament to help shape outcomes that cut climate pollution – through our major campaigns in the Solutions program and a wide range of other direct advocacy efforts.

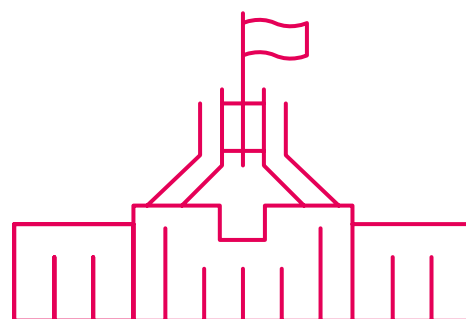
Reflecting our theory of change, we have been positive and proactive in celebrating new national investment, laws and policies rolling out to scale up renewable energy, support cleaner transport and cut climate pollution from heavy industry. There were plenty of these throughout the year – from the announcement of multi-billion dollar federal investments in clean energy and green manufacturing, to energy efficiency and climate resilience initiatives for households and communities. Recognising and celebrating success is an important way to help communities around Australia feel hopeful about the progress we are making together, and create appetite among federal decision-makers to keep doing more.

At the same time, we have been clear and upfront in calling out the Albanese Government for actions that put a safer future for our kids at risk, particularly the approval of new coal and gas projects. Our team of Councillors and staff are skilled at using media and inside-track channels to hold federal political actors accountable for their decisions. Because Climate

Council is backed by the science and our huge community of supporters, they pay attention when we speak out.

Climate Council is now a recognised leader for federal advocacy and political expertise within the Australian climate movement, and we share our expertise broadly to continue building the movement's power. During the year, we supported a range of climate partners to strengthen their federal political engagement by providing advice and sharing knowledge, collaborating on projects and community activations, and developing effective media strategies that engage decision-makers and Press Gallery thought-leaders. We are strongest together and our Climate Council team is grateful for the many collaborations we have been part of.

With the next election coming up in 2025, our federal advocacy work will continue to be an important focus. Securing the election of another progressive Parliament, where a clear majority of members are willing to drive further and faster cuts to climate pollution, is essential for protecting a safer future for our kids. We cannot settle for the progress made to date when there is so much still to do.



Programs

Program Solutions

INTRODUCTION

Climate action in Australia has accelerated in recent years, with governments, businesses, communities and households all embracing renewable energy, cleaner transport and much more.

Because of this dedicated work by so many extraordinary organisations and individuals over the past decade, the public conversation has shifted from *whether* we act on climate change to *how* we can slash climate pollution as far and fast as possible. Climate Council's 'Solutions' program leverages our expertise in advocacy, policy, research and campaigning to guide and shape this important conversation. We help decision-makers, industry leaders and communities understand Australia's pathway to a cleaner and safer fossil fuel-free future.

This year, Climate Council delivered one of the most significant pieces of research, analysis and storytelling we've undertaken in our 10-year history.

Our *Seize The Decade* report provides a practical pathway for Australia to cut climate pollution by 75% by 2030, and get on track for net zero by 2035 – in line with what the science says is necessary now.

For the first time, we precisely mapped out what is possible and must happen across all major sectors of Australia's economy to drive these necessary cuts to climate pollution. And we communicated this work in a way that inspires, excites and spotlights what's at stake: a safer future for our kids.

Seize The Decade makes a major contribution to the climate solutions conversation in Australia, and its insights will continue to shape our advocacy and policy priorities for years to come. This milestone work was only possible with the support of our many generous donors and community members who backed us to develop the research, and are now helping us spread the word right around Australia.

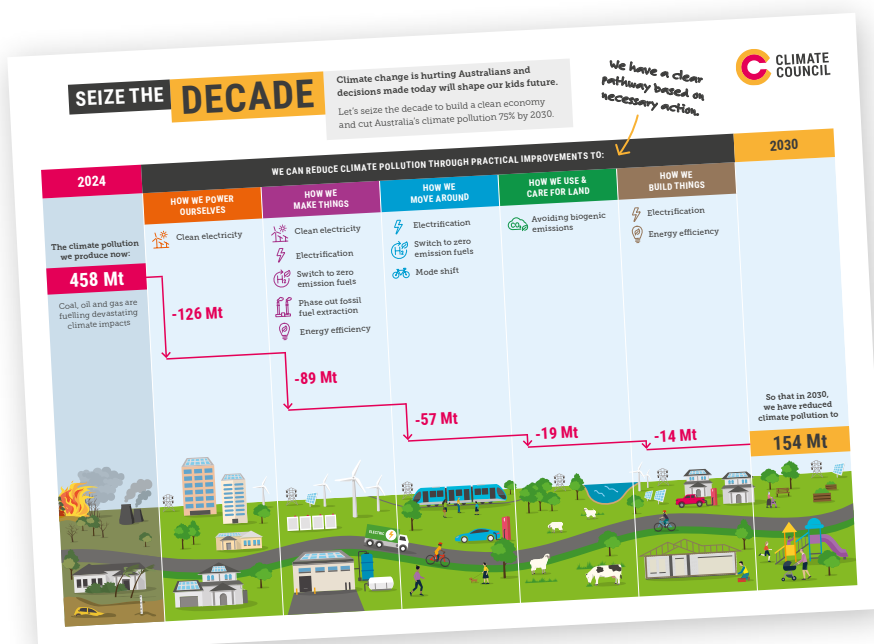


Image: *Seize The Decade* summary table, spanning 2024 to 2030.

RAMPING UP CLEAN ENERGY, SO WE CAN END FOSSIL FUELS

Climate Council's Power Shift work is all about accelerating the scale-up of renewables in our energy and industrial sectors, so we can rapidly phase out fossil fuels. We are strategic in choosing campaigns and interventions which have the greatest potential to drive real change in this make-or-break decade, because there is no time to waste.

That's why in 2023-24 we threw ourselves into the fight to fix Australia's national environment law. This was one of the biggest opportunities to accelerate the delivery of responsible clean energy and industry projects, while saying no to more polluting coal and gas. We also ramped up work on phasing out gas as a polluting fossil fuel that can be just as harmful as coal. This policy and advocacy work built on Climate Council's impactful communications and narrative work to change the public conversation about gas in recent years.



Fighting to fix Australia's broken national environment law

Climate change, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, is the biggest threat facing Australia's precious natural environment. It puts at risk complex ecosystems we depend on for healthy and prosperous lives, damages the habitats of important animal, insect and plant species, and threatens iconic natural places like the Great Barrier Reef.

Yet Australia's national environment law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act), does not deal with climate change – at all. This gaping hole in the law means new coal and gas projects that will release billions of tonnes more dangerous pollution continue to get the green light during a climate crisis. At the same time, projects essential to our move to clean energy – like wind farms, solar farms, and clean industry projects – can spend years tied up in complex approval processes which leave communities and companies in the dark about whether they'll go ahead.

Our research, advocacy and policy experts worked closely together, producing impactful pieces of analysis like *Beating Around The Bush: How Australia's National Environment Law Is Failing Climate And Nature*. This report set out, for the first time, the full scale of climate harm occurring under our national environment law: finding that more than 740 fossil fuel projects have been waved through since it was introduced. This analysis became a regularly-cited example by politicians, media and climate movement allies illustrating the need for reform.

We also partnered with nation-leading experts to debunk industry arguments downplaying the need for change. For example, we worked with leading environmental law scholar Professor Jacqueline Peel to develop a slam-dunk legal opinion, which our team briefed directly to Ministers and MPs and was backed publicly by dozens of other environmental law experts in an open statement widely covered by the media. As a result, Climate Council was invited to join a small group of expert stakeholders in direct dialogue with the federal environment department about the design of new nature laws to replace the flawed EPBC Act. We used this opportunity to lobby for evidence-based recommendations to incorporate climate into these new laws so they can say a clear 'yes' to responsibly-delivered clean energy and industry projects, and a clear 'no' to polluting fossil fuels.

Through our mighty media and digital communications machine, we maintained public pressure on the Albanese Government and Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek to fix this law. Our integrated advocacy campaign ensured we were a leading national voice making the case for climate in our national environment law throughout 2023-24.

This campaign is continuing into the new year, with more inside-track, policy and advocacy work still to do to secure this important reform.

Our work showed that 740 fossil fuel projects had been approved under these laws, highlighting the need for reform.

Image top: 'Why is climate change missing from our nature law?' social media image.

Image right: Delivery of joint petition with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action. Delivered to Tanya Plibersek's office.

Image below: 'Our National Environment Law Is Letting Us Down' social media infographic.



OUR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAW IS LETTING US DOWN

WHAT IS OUR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAW?

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is our national environment law and is meant to protect our unique wildlife, treasured places, species, air and water.

Climate change is the biggest threat Australia's natural environment faces.

As such, a safe and liveable climate should be at the centre of our national environment law.

So the main law would put it right at the heart... right?

Well, it doesn't.

This Government has already approved the building or expansion of three fossil fuel projects, with 22 more in the pipeline.

WHAT'S THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS?

At the moment, these projects get the green light because Australia's national environment law doesn't specifically require the Environment Minister to consider climate change, or its impacts.

So, our environment is suffering.

THE GOOD NEWS:

The Government has a unique opportunity to fix the law this year.

Building the case for powering past gas

The narrative that gas is a 'transition fuel' on our way to clean energy is one of the biggest pieces of misinformation in the climate conversation today. Gas is a fossil fuel that produces a lot of climate pollution throughout its supply chain, which means it is harming us wherever we extract, process and burn it. Gas has been an important energy source for Australia and our international trading partners in the past but it has fueled the climate crisis in the process. The role of gas is shrinking rapidly as we move to renewables backed by storage in our grid, electrify our homes and start to swap gas for cleaner alternatives in our industries.

During the year, Climate Council brought to bear our formidable research, analysis and policy expertise. We laid out how Australia can rapidly slash our use of gas this decade, on our way to a fossil fuel free future. In our *Seize The Decade* report, we mapped out a pathway for Australia to fully phase gas out from our homes and slash the use of gas in heavy

industry by more than a third by 2030. We led loud and coordinated public advocacy against the Albanese Government's flawed 'Future Gas Strategy', which projected gas would be in our system beyond 2050, including by developing and socialising an alternative, evidence-based energy plan – *Powering Past Gas: An Energy Strategy That Works*.

We also continued to shape public narratives and community conversations about the dangers and harms of gas, to contest the wall of industry spin and advertising. Through the year, Climate Council's spokespeople appeared in more than 350 media items making the case against gas, while digital content speaking to the harms of gas had 128,000 engagements. Our team is now a go-to source for expert commentary, analysis and insights about gas for leading media outlets and journalists across Australia. Shaping the national conversation about gas is an essential part of building support for the industry's phase out.

Image: *Powering Past Gas: An Energy Strategy That Works* report.



CLEANING UP TRANSPORT

Transport is Australia’s largest source of climate pollution after energy, so it’s a huge priority for accelerating practical action now.

In recent years, Climate Council has built a reputation as one of Australia’s strongest and most active voices for clean transport solutions, working closely with state and local governments to promote better ways of getting around. In 2023-24, we accelerated our transport advocacy in the federal arena by driving the campaign for Australia’s first vehicle efficiency standard to cut pollution from dirty and expensive fossil-fuelled cars, and accelerate the roll-out of clean and efficient alternatives.

Alongside this successful campaign, we also elevated the conversation about shared and active transport – the most important opportunity to cut climate pollution from transport this decade. Shifting attitudes about the way we move is critically important because electric vehicles alone can’t deliver the deep reduction in pollution we need right now. Shared and active transport also bring huge benefits through safer roads, cleaner air and less congestion.

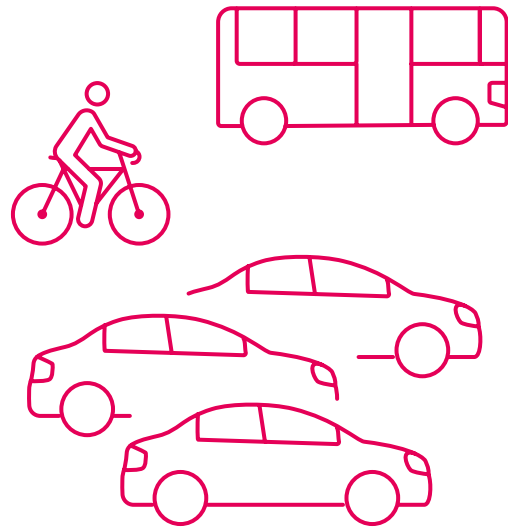
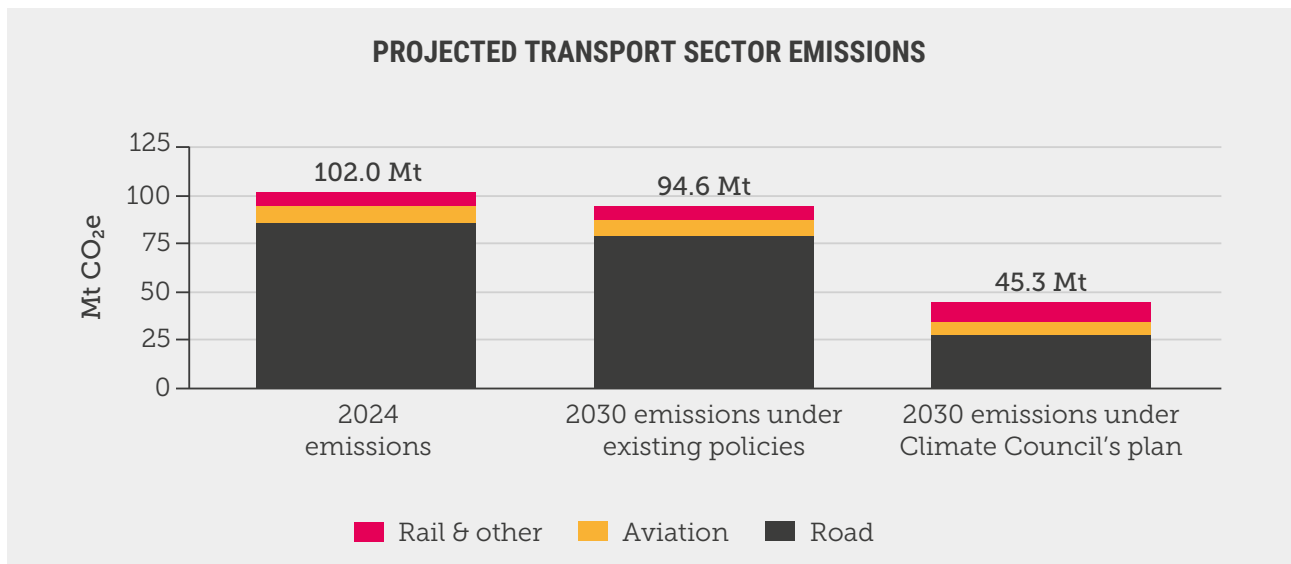


Image: ‘Projected Transport Sector Emission’ table by Climate Council. Comparing 2024 and 2030 emissions under existing policies and Climate Council’s plan.



Cutting climate pollution from cars: a national first

In 2023-24, Climate Council was among the leading organisations driving the campaign to secure Australia's first national fuel efficiency standards. While these standards have been in place in other countries for decades, the big auto industry had successfully blocked this important reform in Australia for more than 20 years. Soon after the Albanese Government's election win, we identified fuel efficiency standards as one of the big climate fights of this term of Parliament.

In 2023-24, we ramped up our campaign with smart and impactful pieces of analysis, like the *Raising Standards*, *Cutting Costs* report that quantified the financial savings fuel efficiency standards could deliver for Australians. We laid out the benefits of fuel efficiency standards for people's cost of living, health and more. We also took the fight directly up to the big auto industry, calling them out for polluting more than big Australian coal mines, and brought relatable spokespeople into the conversation through

a positive digital advertising campaign with popular comedian Dave Hughes and, separately, a cheekier parody video with Dan Ilic and Mark Humphries.

In parallel, our policy and advocacy specialists engaged deeply with the Albanese Government, parliamentary and industry stakeholders on the detailed design of a robust and effective standard. We set a high bar for good policy from the outset, and worked hard to secure it. With dozens of direct meetings and consultation roundtables, multiple detailed policy submissions and direct negotiation with the government and industry. This campaign combined the best of Climate Council's campaigning, advocacy and policy skills to help deliver a very strong policy outcome. In May 2024, the Federal Parliament passed legislation that is set to more than halve how much climate pollution new cars and vans produce before the end of this decade – a huge win!

Image: Climate Council digital campaign featuring comedian Dave Hughes.



Moving more people, in cleaner ways

Electric vehicles are an essential piece of the clean transport puzzle, but simply switching every private petrol or diesel vehicle for an electric one won't deliver the deep cuts to climate pollution we need this decade.

Shifting towards shared and active transport options at the same time will deliver the greatest near-term benefits in cleaner air, safer streets and less climate pollution. That's why Climate Council's clean transport team has worked throughout the year to raise the profile of these other solutions.

Our *Seize The Decade* plan put shared and active transport at the centre of Australia's pathway to cut climate pollution before 2030, highlighting that it's possible to slash transport pollution in half by enabling people in our big cities to use buses, trains and trams, walk and ride more often. Our team elevated these important findings through dozens of inside-track advocacy briefings with federal, state and local governments, peak and industry bodies around the country, to encourage more focus, action and investment in shared and active transport.

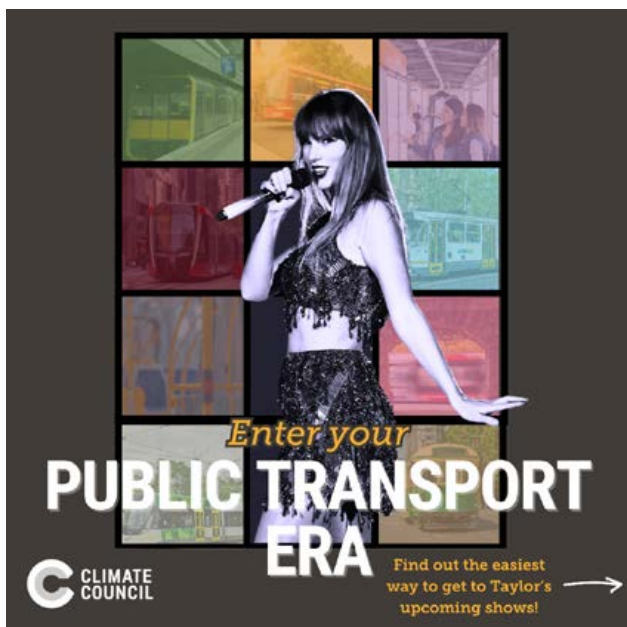


Recognising the need to elevate shared and active transport as a climate solution in the public conversation, we focused on innovative ways to spotlight how Australians are already choosing alternatives to the car. Running over several months, our 'Mode Shift Monday' digital campaign put a spotlight on everyday Australians choosing to use shared and active transport for their daily trips: from buses and ferries, to cargo bikes and even kayaks. We developed engaging original content demonstrating the positive vision of a transport system designed for people, not cars; and explained the climate benefits of using these modes more often. We even turned the online flurry around Taylor Swift's 'Eras' tour in February 2024 into an opportunity to promote this.

These are just a few examples of how our team worked to provide positive role models for mode shift, and propel this to the forefront of the conversation about climate solutions. Our theory of change for accelerating climate action starts with explaining what good outcomes look like and creating the conditions for decision-makers to deliver these.

Image below: Climate Council 'Enter your public transport era' social media post.

Image right: Climate Council social media post from the 'Mode Shift Monday' campaign.



POWERING COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION WITH THE CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

Local councils are at the forefront of climate impacts – fires, heatwaves, drought and floods – and they are also at the forefront of local climate solutions. From putting solar panels on rooftops to rolling out electric vehicle charging stations, councils are making huge inroads accelerating action on climate change and creating healthy and resilient communities.

Climate Council's 'Cities Power Partnership' (CPP) initiative seeks to give local governments the tools, connections and momentum to capitalise on Australia's shift to a clean energy economy and make cuts to climate pollution in local areas right around the country.

This focus on bringing local governments together to celebrate progress, share knowledge and keep building momentum shone through in Climate Council's successful delivery of the 'Climate Summit for Local Government' in September 2023. Over three days, the summit brought together more than 100 elected officials, chief executives and senior decision-makers from councils across the country. Keynote speakers inspired and shared insights from their communities, ranging from local government climate leaders like City of Melbourne Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Australian Local Government Association President Linda Scott, to Mayors and CEOs from councils as diverse as Gladstone, Hobart, Mundaring and Bendigo. This event also included the CPP Climate Awards, which celebrated progress throughout the previous year, and an electric vehicle (EV) showcase and drive day that gave council leaders a chance to try out a range of EVs for themselves.

Transport was a big focus over the past year, as a large and growing source of harmful climate pollution that local councils are well-placed to tackle. We helped more than 120 elected officials join the call for the Federal Government to legislate fuel efficiency standards to supercharge the country's supply of affordable electric vehicles and get more of these into council fleets. The CPP also supported councils in electrifying their fleets through a range of in-person and online information-sharing events, and by developing practical, tailored resources like our 20-step guide. When local governments take practical actions like these, it accelerates Australia's shift to clean energy, and the CPP is proud to have played a role in helping spark such direct change over the past six years.

During the year we made the strategic decision to merge the CPP program into Climate Council's broader advocacy and campaigning team. With climate action now accelerating at all levels of government in Australia, many policy priorities require significant collaboration and coordination. One of the biggest enablers for local governments is funding and support from the federal and state governments.

Bringing all our policy and advocacy efforts together allows Climate Council to work *with* local governments and help advocate *for* them at other levels of government. We thank the many CPP members who informed this strategic update, and celebrate the passionate and energetic team members who have steered and shaped the program this year, and every year since its establishment.

Opposite page images

Image 1: Panel Discussion at Climate Summit 2023 event. **Image 2:** Audience at Climate Summit 2023 event.

Image 3: Presentation at Climate Awards 2023 event. **Image 4:** Participant photo at Climate Awards 2023 event.

Image 5: Award presentation to Shoalhaven City Council, at Climate Awards 2023 event.



Programs

Program Catalyst

INTRODUCTION

Climate Council plays a critical role in influencing the hearts and minds of Australians by reaching millions of people throughout the year with persuasive content delivered by compelling messengers.

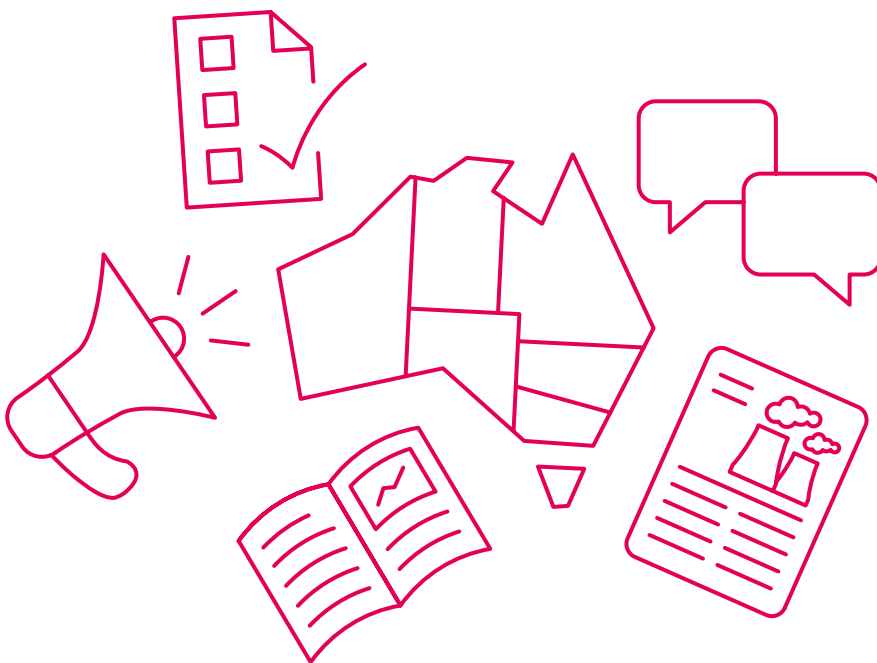
In an age of mis- and dis-information - where the fight for the public's attention and support is fierce - providing content that's accurate, reliable and cuts through the noise has never been more important.

The climate science is clear, but not all Australians are aware of how they are being impacted today in a myriad of ways. Our work on climate impacts highlights specific ways in which our own families, communities and treasured places are being harmed by climate pollution to bring the urgency and priority of our issue home to more people.

We also understand which solutions work best, and what we need more of. However, the public is yet to fully understand the progress that's been made, and the momentum that's underway to power our lives, get around, build and make things in clean and healthy ways. Our momentum work spells out the many benefits of the climate solutions we need for Australians, and the progress we're making all around the country.

It is the public's perception of our issue that will determine what's feasible and durable when it comes to how far and fast we cut climate pollution this decade. Our climate narrative work aims to understand what people need to know, and the most effective ways to communicate this to different audiences. This research and analysis underpins all our communications materials.

Collectively, we are changing hearts, minds and - ultimately - outcomes.



Improving media coverage

We rely on the news to understand what's happening in the world around us - but the media industry is a fast-paced, 24-7 workplace with shrinking newsrooms and resources. Media staff at Climate Council and Climate Media Centre (CMC) work hard every day to equip and enable journalists to cover climate and energy issues accurately.

In 2023-24, we briefed reporters on the summer ahead, explained what a declaration of El Nino might mean for Australian communities and how climate pollution is driving worsening extremes including bushfires and heatwaves.

We also provide background information, images and vision, and connect the media with experts and community members who can speak directly about the impact that climate change is having on their lives, as well as the solutions that are underway to cut climate pollution.

Over the summer, when media attention is focussed on unnatural disasters and extreme weather events but often fails to make the connection to climate pollution, our team secured:

- > **693** pieces of media coverage about worsening extreme weather
- > **89%** of this coverage linked extreme weather to climate change
- > **68%** of this coverage linked extreme weather to climate change and fossil fuels

Image: Climate Media Centre Summer Briefing visual. Created by Jess Harwood.



Bringing climate impacts home to more Australians

Many Australians are painfully aware of the impacts that climate change is having on their families and communities, but others are yet to make the connection between climate pollution and worsening extreme weather.

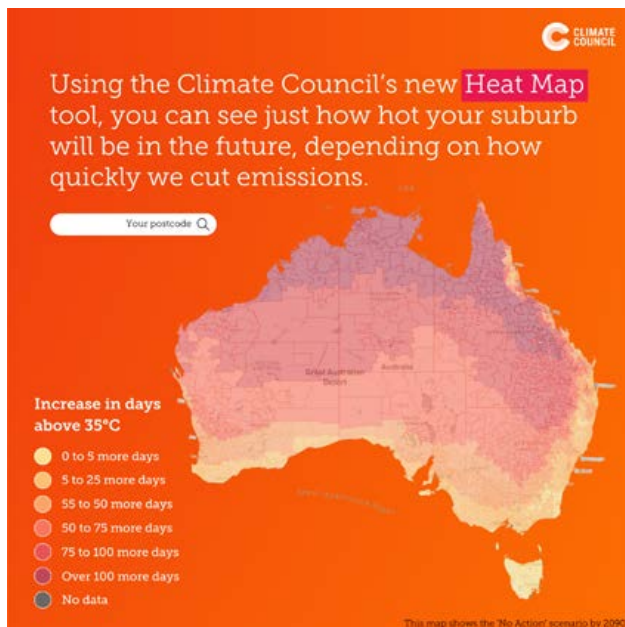
Climate Council has specialised in this work since our inception, and research shows this is a key reason behind increasing levels of concern about climate change in Australia.

In February, we launched our 'Climate Heat Map of Australia' so that every Australian can visualise the impact in their local community and understand how cutting climate pollution further and faster can help protect their family and friends.

We secured 149 media hits upon launching this innovative new tool, including commercial television, radio and an exclusive with Channel 9-Fairfax that ran prominently across their key mastheads, including the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

In the first 48 hours, the climate heat map web page received 21,140 unique page views and 37,824 widget interactions. Our related digital content was viewed 78,000 times, while the tool itself was used by MPs, digital influencers and many other organisations.

Image: Climate Council's 'Heat Map of Australia' tool.



Elevating the voices of First Nations and Pacific peoples

Upon invitation, and in partnership with the Pacific Island Climate Action Network, Climate Council and Climate Media Centre (CMC) staff travelled to Fiji to provide media and communications training to their members ahead of the 2023 Pacific Island Forum.

CMC continues to provide broad media support to Pacific-based climate organisations including 350 Pacific (Pacific Climate Warriors), the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network as well as prominent Pacific Ministers through the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.

CMC is also building an Australian-based network of expert spokespeople who are from the Pacific diaspora - from Elders and religious leaders to academics and those with first-hand experience of climate change. CMC provides both reactive and proactive media support to ensure Pacific perspectives are heard - especially at times of heightened media interest in international climate affairs like the Pacific Islands Forum and COP conferences.

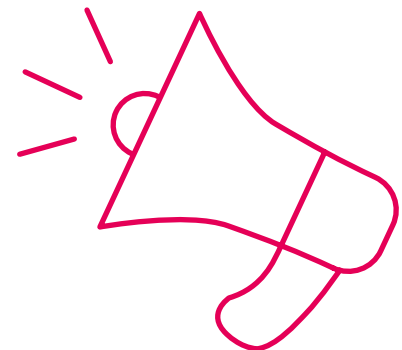
A highlight from 2023 was Vanuatu's Climate Change Minister Ralph Regenvanu speaking at an exclusive media briefing that CMC organised for journalists ahead of the Pacific Islands Forum in August. The briefing was covered widely, including in The Australian news publication.

All this work is critical in building to a Australia/Pacific UN climate conference in 2026 (COP31).

Climate Council actively supported the case for the 'Yes' vote in the 2023 referendum on constitutional recognition of First Nations in Australia through a Voice to Parliament. This included informing our community about the referendum and its importance in the context of Climate Council's vision and values. We will continue to work to elevate the voices of First Nations-led organisations - using our platforms to highlight both the disproportionate impacts of climate change on First Nations communities, as well as the leadership of First Nations people, communities and organisations in driving climate solutions.

A highlight of CMC's work to elevate First Nations voices was The Australian running an 11-page pictorial essay detailing how worsening extreme heat, driven by climate change, is harming First Nations communities, and how they are leading on the development of housing solutions in response.

CMC is supporting Pacific voices in the region and in Australia, critical for COP31.



Digital-first approach

Climate Council has a strong multi-channel social media presence with more than 425,000 followers, and produces the highest volume of posts, comments and shares compared to similar organisations in Australia's climate movement.

In 2023, we launched a partnership with YouTube to create more video content that helps audiences access and stay informed on climate issues. We produced 15 long-form videos on topics ranging from explaining the heat island effect and tipping points, to taking people on a renewables world tour. Together, these videos were viewed more than 23,000 times.

Similarly, partnerships with Tiktok and digital influencers are enabling our content to reach new audiences and inform a larger online audience beyond our own community of supporters.

Using our platform and diverse spokespeople to set the record straight on a range of high profile topics, including why nuclear power stations are inappropriate for Australia (and always will be), why we need to hit net zero in 2035 (not 2050), the impact of record ocean temperatures on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, and what's in Australia's federal budget for climate.



more than
425k
followers on social media

Highlights from the year include:

- Working alongside influential voices to engage diverse online audiences in our work. Climate Council's "cleaner, cheaper transport" campaign collaborated with satirist Mark Humpries and comedian Dave Hughes to persuade Australians to support a national fuel efficiency standard that cuts petrol bills and cleans up climate pollution. Combined, this activity was viewed four million times, with the combination of humour and digital influencers received very positively. As one online user summed up: "This is a really hilarious way to tell us bad news."



- Featuring the voices of young Australians to launch our groundbreaking *Seize The Decade* report. Their message, that we need to slash climate pollution to secure a safer future for future generations, was one of Climate Council's most successful social media posts ever.



generations, was one of Climate Council's most successful social media posts ever.

Empowering a chorus of voices

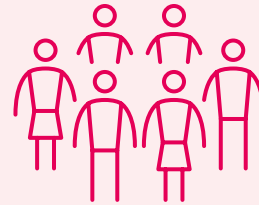
We all pay attention to people we relate to. Climate Media Centre (CMC) builds cohorts of influential voices who can speak publicly with authority on issues in their own communities.

Over the past year, CMC held 29 training sessions for 271 diverse spokespeople in Brisbane, Sydney, Parramatta, New England, Darwin, Perth, Wollongong, and online. These sessions equipped spokespeople with essential media skills, so they can communicate with confidence and persuade key audiences.

Feedback from our training is overwhelmingly positive (with trainees ranking sessions an average of 4.8 out of 5), and the impact of more confident trainees can be immediate and profound. For example, the very next day after our Illawarra training session our new spokesperson (and former coal miner) Daryl Best made his media debut on local television news explaining the need for clean energy. Daryl has continued to speak out publicly about his desire for further action on climate change in a wide range of media appearances with ongoing support from CMC staff.

A key focus of our media training over the past year has been diversifying the voices who are speaking about climate impacts and solutions, so that we are hearing from and seeing a better representation of the Australian community. In the past year, 53% of our trainees were women, 9% were from ethnically diverse backgrounds, 6% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and 3% were gender diverse.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our community we are able to remove financial barriers and provide this training free-of-charge to all attendees.



53% of our trainees were women

9% of our trainees were from ethnically diverse backgrounds

6% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

3% were gender diverse

Expertise you can trust

Climate Council's staff, Councillors and Fellows come with an impressive array of expertise including in the fields of climate science, biodiversity, impacts, health, emergency management, economics, energy and international diplomacy.

We pride ourselves on our ability to simplify and demystify the complex, so that Australians are better informed on the challenges we face, and the solutions we need. In the 2023-24 financial year we released 15 reports.

This expertise is relied on by our community, the general public, decision-makers, partner organisations and the media. For example, we delivered an extreme weather information session ahead of the 2023/24 summer that was attended by more than 50 members of the Climate Action Network of Australia.



Image: Attendees at a CMC Media Training event.

Other highlights include:

- Our *Code Blue* report that brought the story of oceans and, climate change to life and attracted almost 1,000 media items, including coverage on television and other harder-to-reach outlets. Our team invested a lot of effort in securing strong visual content to bring this story to life, including a press conference at Bondi Beach and a boat trip out to the Great Barrier Reef.
- Shaping the national conversation ahead of the 2023-24 bushfire season, with a strong focus on community preparedness and stronger action on climate change. This included an exclusive story on bushfire and climate risks on ABC's flagship 7.30 program with Councillor and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action founder Greg Mullins AO, AFSM.
- Explaining what Australians had experienced over the summer through our *Climate Whiplash* report, which attracted more than 500 media hits on launch day as well as calls for our experts to provide media commentary throughout the summer.





Image top: Councillor Greg Mullins AO, AFSM appears in an ABC 7.30 media report.

Image bottom: (from left to right) Dr Simon Bradshaw, Fellow Dr Dean Miller and Professor Jodie Rummer at the *Code Blue: Our Oceans In Crisis* report launch.



Climate Council Community

OUR SUPPORTERS

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

- › Everyone who attended our 10th Anniversary celebrations in Melbourne and Sydney.
- › Our **14,000 Founding Friends** who played a crucial role in establishing Climate Council in 2013 through our crowdfunding appeal.
- › The **6,600 people** who gave to our fundraising appeals or made a general donation. Your contributions are helping to power our world-class research and analysis, ensuring that we can continue to set the facts straight on climate change in Australia.
- › Our gratitude to the **250 people who contributed \$1,000 or more into our 2030 Action plan**. Your support is helping us drive influential advocacy work and hold decision-makers accountable for delivering meaningful cuts to climate pollution.
- › More than **5,100 people** who made a regular weekly or monthly donation. This ongoing support enables us to maintain a persuasive media and digital drumbeat to keep the pressure on for necessary climate solutions.
- › A huge thank you to **everyone who generously gave their time and energy to fundraise on our behalf** by participating in challenges or hosting events in their communities. Your fundraising initiatives have helped to amplify Climate Council's message and inspire other people to act.

We thank and appreciate all of you for standing with us to help cut climate pollution and keep our kids safe. **We couldn't do it without you.**

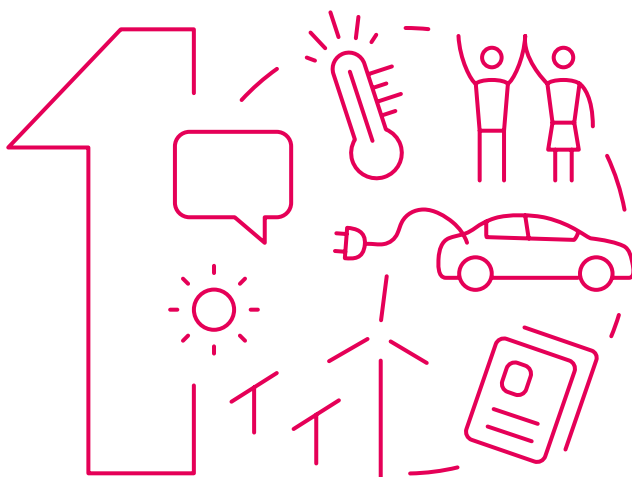




Image top: Attendees view a presentation at a Climate Council Sydney Donor Event. **Image bottom:** Attendees at a Climate Council Sydney Donor event.

Planned giving

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 while helping build a brighter, safer world for future generations.

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.

Climate Council would like to recognise and sincerely thank the anonymous person who left a gift in their Will to us this year.

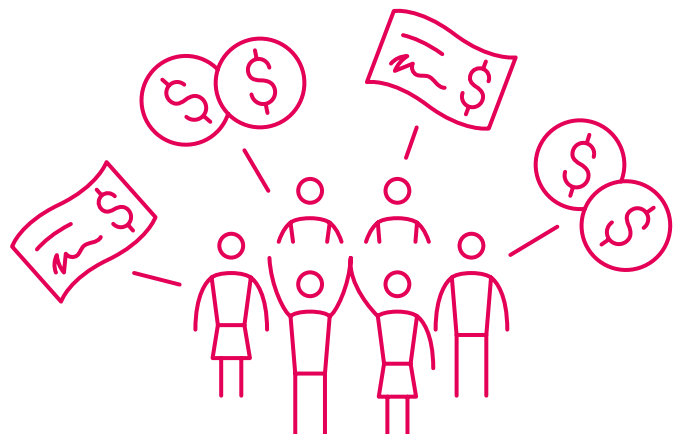
We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Graham Proctor for making the decision to bring his bequest forward with a generous donation this year.

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 supporter care team on 02 9356 8531 or legacy@climatecouncil.org.au.

Partnerships

Climate Council thanks the corporate supporters who share our vision for urgent cuts to climate pollution and accelerated progress towards a clean energy future. In particular, we would like to thank our partners who have powered some high-impact interventions this financial year:

- > Award Force
- > Bank Australia
- > Ben & Jerry's
- > BMG Rights Management
- > Canva
- > Curated with Conscience
- > Finance for Living
- > Gearon Civil
- > Greenstone Drinks
- > Pangolin Associates
- > Quiip
- > Synyati Enterprise Systems
- > TikTok
- > Yatra
- > YouTube





Major donors, philanthropy and grants

The strength and impact of Climate Council comes from our supporters, and our philanthropic community has been there since the beginning. 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.

Thank you to all our major donors, trusts and foundations for your amazing support over the past financial year. Your contributions power our incredible work, and for that we are truly thankful.

The following generous supporters, trusts and foundations have contributed at least \$10,000.

- › ACME Foundation
- › Andrew Rothfield
- › Andy & Jill Griffiths
- › Ann & Geoffrey Long
- › Anonymous x 9
- › Australian Geographic Society
- › Australian Philanthropic Services
- › Besen Foundation
- › Beverley Jackson Foundation
- › Boundless Earth
- › Bowness Family Foundation
- › Caroline Le Couteur
- › Clem Davis
- › Community Impact Foundation
- › Craig Dolman
- › Diversicon Environmental Foundation
- › Dr Rosalie Schultz
- › Eastern Water Dragon Endowment
- › Equity Trustees
- › Ethinvest
- › European Climate Foundation
- › Gordon Smyth
- › Green Eyes Foundation
- › Grow Corp Foundation
- › Highgate Foundation
- › Ian Landon-Smith
- › Jaramas Foundation
- › Jocelyn Luck
- › Kate & Paul Saunders
- › Katrina & Chris Barter
- › Keo Charitable Foundation
- › Koshland Innovation Foundation
- › Kristina Stefanova
- › Krups Family
- › Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- › Michael Williams
- › Morris Family Foundation
- › MRB Foundation
- › Myer Foundation
- › Naylor Stewart Foundation
- › Peter Hayes
- › PK Gold Family Foundation
- › POD Foundation
- › Robert Hicks Foundation
- › Equity Trustees
- › Sharon Willcox
- › The Aethra Project
- › The Hope Family Foundation
- › The Sunrise Project
- › Therese Cochrane & Fred Woollard
- › Trawalla Foundation
- › Vere Initiatives
- › Vicki Olsson
- › Vincent Chiodo Foundation
- › Vine Foundation
- › Virginia Ford
- › Woods5 Foundation

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

COMMUNITY ACTION

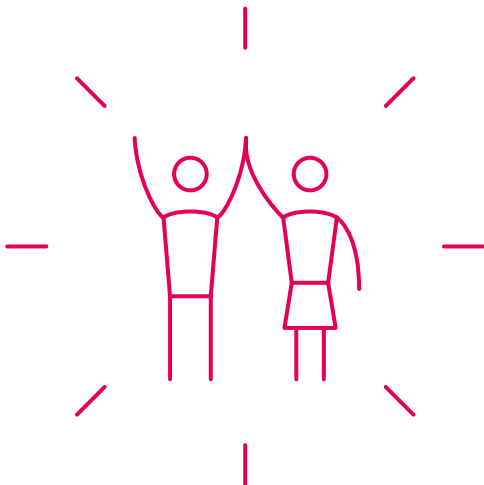
Climate Council's community plays a vital role in amplifying our impact and pushing for urgent action to slash climate pollution. This year, our community have joined our call for change across a wide variety of policy areas, helping dial up the pressure on decision-makers to step up and build a safer, brighter future for Australia. Here are just some the actions our community took part in this year which made a huge difference:

Unlocking clean and active transport

Climate Council's community played an important role in powering and amplifying our push for cleaner transport. 2,549 people emailed their MP, asking them to vote 'Yes' for the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard legislation and show strong community support for this new law - which was then successfully passed in Federal Parliament.

Our community also voiced their support for cutting transport pollution from local government. We had 1,193 people email their local councils asking them to lead the way in cleaning up our transport system, by switching to a 100% zero emissions vehicle fleet, as soon as possible.

Many people in our community took part in Climate Council's 'Mode Shift Monday' campaign, sharing their stories of incorporating shared and active transport into their daily lives. We amplified these stories in our #ModeShiftMonday online campaign across social media to help build momentum for improved public and active transport options.



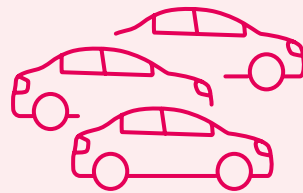
This year, our community have joined our call for change across a wide variety of policy areas, helping dial up the pressure on decision-makers to step up and build a safer, brighter future for Australia.

Community action figures



2,549

people emailed their MP, asking them to vote 'Yes' for the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard legislation and show strong community support for this new law.



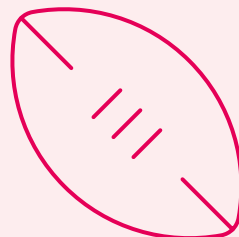
1,193

people emailed their local councils to ask them to lead the way in cleaning up our transport system by switching to a 100% zero emissions vehicle fleet as soon as possible.



11,061

supporters signed on to our joint petition with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action calling on the Federal Government to pause all approvals for polluting new fossil fuel projects.



1,564

supporters emailed senior leaders at 10 sporting and arts organisations, asking them to take our fossil fuel-free sponsorship pledge and commit to ending harmful fossil fuel sponsorships.

Pushing for a stronger national environment law

Thousands of supporters signed on to our joint petition with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action calling on the Federal Government to pause all approvals for polluting new fossil fuel projects (including extensions) until our national environment law is strengthened and able to effectively deal with climate impacts. The joint petition was delivered in full to Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's office with 11,061 signatures in July 2024.

Calling time on fossil fuel sponsorship

This year, our community ramped up the pressure to show the governing bodies behind our favourite sports and arts institutions that their members, fans and the broader Australian community would like them to take climate action seriously. 1,464 supporters emailed senior leaders at 10 sporting and arts organisations, asking them to take our fossil fuel-free sponsorship pledge and commit to ending harmful fossil fuel sponsorships. Our community-led action let these prominent national organisations know Australians are watching, made a significant contribution to a growing national conversation against fossil fuel sponsorship, and encouraged prominent cultural institutions to pursue cleaner partnerships.

Image: 'It's time to #CallTime on fossil fuel sponsorship' social media post.





2023 - 2024

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

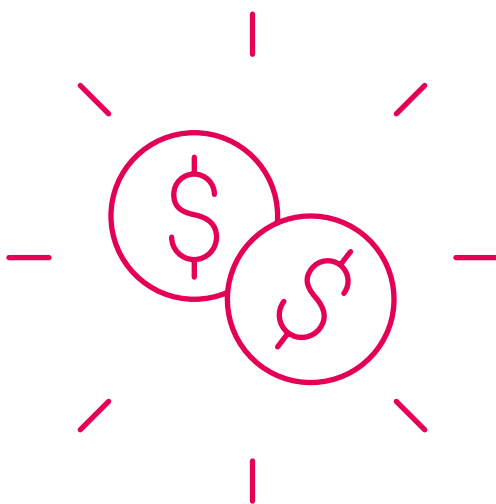
Climate Council's total revenue for the year ending 30 June 2024 amounted to \$7,435,948, a decrease from the previous year. The drop in revenue reflects the reduction in grant funding and donations due to broader economic challenges.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year rose to \$8,930,809, a 9% increase from the previous year, primarily driven by rising operational costs, staff remuneration, and necessary investments in technology and general inflation.

Net loss

The organisation recorded a net loss of \$1,494,861, an increase from last year's loss of \$309,479. This increase is attributed to higher operational costs, including staff salaries and program delivery expenses.

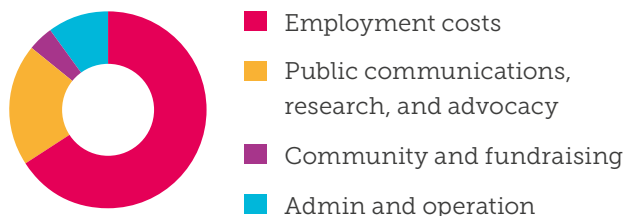


KEY ALLOCATIONS

Climate Council has allocated resources across key areas to maximise impact. Below is the breakdown of expenditures for the financial year:

Key allocations:

- › **Employment costs (66%):**
Employment-related expenses, including salaries and benefits, were the largest area of expenditure, reflecting the essential role of our staff in achieving organisational goals.
- › **Public communications, research, and advocacy (20%):**
Outside of employment costs, the majority of our resources were dedicated to media, advocacy, and research efforts, enabling us to influence decision-makers and raise public awareness on climate issues.
- › **Community and fundraising (4%):**
We invested in engaging supporters and raising funds to sustain our climate action work through fundraising activities and events.
- › **Admin and operation (10%):**
This covered essential operational costs, including office space, travel, and legal services, ensuring the smooth functioning of the organisation.



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT

The Finance and Risk Subcommittee, chaired by Director Leigh Petschel, was formally established to strengthen oversight of financial operations. In addition, Thomas Davis & Co, Chartered Accountants, conducted an audit and issued an unqualified report, confirming that the financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission requirements. This reinforces Climate Council's strong commitment to financial transparency and governance.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

While the financial loss this year presents challenges, Climate Council remains committed to delivering on its mission. With \$4,986,581 in cash reserves, the organisation is positioned to continue its advocacy, research, and public communication efforts in the year ahead.

PRO BONO GOODS AND SERVICES

There are many ways to support Climate Council to make an impact. This year we received pro bono (or discounted cost) goods and services. This included legal and recruiter services. We also received not-for-profit charity discounts for IT services and hardware.



Our Team

Board Members & Councillors

BOARD AND 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, Climate Council and Trawalla Group.

Leigh Petschel

Director and Chair, Finance and Risk Committee



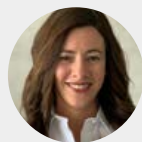
Leigh Petschel is the Chief Financial Officer at Port of Melbourne responsible for financial management and funding, regulation and information technology. Before joining the Port of Melbourne in 2023, Leigh was the Chief

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.

Professor Lesley Hughes

Director & 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.

Professor Tim Flannery

Councillor



Tim Flannery was 2007 Australian of the Year. In 2013 he co-founded 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 have 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 Bourne FAICD

Councillor



Greg Bourne has worked at the nexus of climate change and energy for more than 30 years. When employed at BP he lived and worked throughout the world and was a Special Adviser on Energy and Transport

to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Returning to Australia in 1999 as Regional President, BP Australasia, he worked with business and governments on their climate change and energy transition agendas.

Greg was CEO at WWF Australia for six years. He is the former Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. 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.

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



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).

LEGACY AND RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS AND COUNCILLORS

The Late 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.

Professor Hilary Bambrick

Councillor - retired January 2024



Hilary is an environmental epidemiologist and bioanthropologist researching the health impacts of global heating, especially on more vulnerable

populations, and has expertise in the development, implementation and evaluation of adaptation strategies. She is Professor and Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University, and has consulted for the World Health Organisation on risk assessments and climate adaptation strategies for health, and for governments in Australia and overseas.

Martijn Wilder AM

Councillor - retired December 2023



Martijn is Founder and CEO of Pollination, a global climate change investment and advisory firm. He is recognised as a global leader in climate law and investment

and has advised governments and companies on innovative climate finance investments including the World's First REDD+ Green Bond. He was previously Chair of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), a former Founding Director of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), and he helped to establish and later Chair the Federal Government's Low Carbon Australia finance body.

Simon Corbell

Director - retired July 2024



Simon Corbell was Chief Adviser at the renewable energy advisory and accelerator firm Energy Estate and the independent chairperson of the Clean Energy Investor Group,

representing institutional investors with wind and solar assets worth \$9 billion across the national electricity market.

Simon has more than two decades of senior experience in public policy leadership, governance and implementation. Between 2017 and 2019 he was the Victorian Renewable Energy Advocate, advising the Victorian state government on renewable energy policy and projects, including the Victorian renewable energy auction scheme.

CLIMATE COUNCIL FELLOWS

Andrew Stock (from January 2024)

Cheryl Durrant (from January 2024)

Dr Dean Miller (from March 2024)

Salâ Dr George Carter (from March 2024)

Associate Professor Grant Blashki
(from January 2024)

Dr Joëlle Gergis (from January 2024)

Dr Madeline Taylor (from January 2024)

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 Climate Council, whose unwavering commitment and passion have been instrumental in driving our mission forward this year.

Alex Engel-Mallon
 Alexandra Lederer
 Amanda Schofield
 Annette Zou
 Annika Dean
 Ashleigh Croucher
 Ava Amedi
 Ben Littlejohn
 Ben Manassah
 Ben Mcleod

Ben O’Connell
 Brigitte Johnson
 Cassie Bremner
 Chrissy Grubbs
 Christopher White
 Daisy Doctor
 Dan Payne
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 Sarah Wakeley
 Sean Kennedy
 Sean O’Rourke
 Shaye Skiffington
 Simon Bradshaw
 Sophie Parr
 Tahlia Ludlow
 Victoria Fratin
 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.

Mission Zero: How Today's Climate Choices Will Reshape Australia

Thank you to Dr Pep Canadell for his review and guidance.

Beating Around The Bush: How Australia's National Environment Law Is Failing Climate And Nature

Thank you to Professor David Karoly, Dr Madeleine Taylor and Dr Gerry Bates for their expert review and input for this report. Thank you to Ashleigh Croucher and Louis Mitchell for supporting data analysis on fossil fuel approvals.

Dollars And Sense: Mitigating Climate Risk In A Warming World

Thank you to Nishtha Aggarwal, Greg Bourne, Tim Buckley, Axel Dalman and Nicki Hutley for their inputs and technical guidance.

Underwater Bushfire: Vibrant Great Barrier Reef Fading To A Shadow Of Its Former Glory

Thank you to Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg for his review and guidance.

Seize The Decade: How We Empower Australian Communities And Cut Climate Pollution By 75% By 2030

Climate Council acknowledges the important contribution of Associate Professor Sven Teske and the team at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney in providing foundational modelling and analysis for this report. We also thank and acknowledge John Armitage and QDOS for their communications research that underpinned our public content.

Powering Past Gas: An Energy Strategy That Works

Thank you to Greg Bourne for his review and guidance. Council Council acknowledges the contributions of other specialist advisers and reviewers who provided feedback on this report.

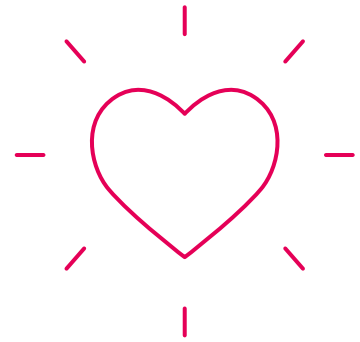
Too Close To Home: How We Keep Communities Safer From Escalating Climate Impacts

Thank you to the following members of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action for lending their knowledge and experience to this report: Major General Peter Dunn AO (Ret), David Templeman, Ewan Waller ASFM, Brenton Keen PSM. Thank you also to Rebecca McNaught and Mark Stafford Smith for their review and guidance.

VOLUNTEERS, CONTRACTORS & ORGANISATIONS

We would also like to thank the following staff, volunteers, contractors and organisations who worked with Climate Council in 2023-24.

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- > Culture Amp
- > Creative Freedom
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- > Gathered Here
- > Good Chat
- > Isentia
- > Jackson Pearse Policy and Communications
- > Lily Murcut
- > Made Visual
- > Mane Collective
- > Marque
- > Medianet
- > Ntegrity
- > Onsite helper
- > Redbridge Group
- > Six Degrees Executive
- > Spade & Arrow
- > Springmount Advisory
- > Stream
- > Tactic Lab






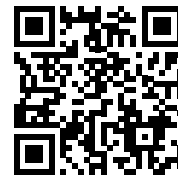


Climate Council is a fearless champion of the climate solutions that Australia needs. People power got us started and we are proudly community-funded and independent.

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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