

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Emissions need to fall further, faster: Climate Change Authority

### *2024 Annual Progress Report released today*

Australia has made important progress in delivering new policies to reduce emissions, increasing the likelihood of meeting the nation's 2030 target. But there is still work to do to accelerate the roll-out of renewables and get emissions clearly trending down in every sector, according to the Climate Change Authority's 2024 Annual Progress Report.

The authority's independent assessment of Australia's progress on cutting emissions is a key input to Minister Bowen's Annual Climate Change Statement, delivered in Federal Parliament today.

After emissions fell by 3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2023-24, they will need to fall by an average of 15 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e each year for the next 6 years to reach Australia's 2030 target. The authority's report includes 10 recommendations for consolidating and building on the progress to date. These primarily focus on accelerating the roll-out of renewable energy infrastructure to prepare for the closure of coal, clean up emissions from the energy sector, and unlock more emissions reductions in sectors like transport and industry.

The report recognises the significant new policies legislated or commencing this year. These include the expanded Capacity Investment Scheme, the reformed Safeguard Mechanism and the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard.

Authority Chair Matt Kean said these and other policies set up the potential for more cuts to emissions in the years to come. Now Australia needs to nail their delivery to meet the national 2030 target.

"Australia can maintain a strong economy, protect the environment and preserve our way of life by taking decisive action on climate change," Mr Kean said.

"Every additional tonne of emissions adds to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and increases the risk of climate and economic impacts. Cutting emissions now is an urgent priority and investing in renewables is the best way to do it.

"Emissions need to fall faster to reach Australia's 2030 target. Achieving this will require all existing policies to deliver in full, and further government effort to overcome barriers and ensure Australia reaches 82% renewables on schedule. The authority's recommended actions can help the nation get there.

"As a top priority, the authority recommends providing firmer and longer-term foundations for the Capacity Investment Scheme, seizing more of the untapped potential of commercial and industrial solar and storage, and investing in the infrastructure that keeps our grid secure and reliable.

“Increasing the uptake of rooftop solar and battery storage is a particular opportunity to bring more clean electricity into the system quickly, with less need for new transmission infrastructure. Almost 4 million homes and businesses already have solar on the roof today. Larger systems on commercial and industrial facilities can keep boosting Australia’s world-leading uptake.”

The Annual Progress Report flags that emissions are not yet falling across each sector of the Australian economy. Emissions are 28% lower than 2005 levels in total, with this fall having been driven almost entirely by reduced land clearing and new tree planting, together with the growth of renewable energy. Agriculture, built environment, resources, transport, industry and waste emissions combined are 13% above 2005 levels.

“Each sector must do its part to deliver the reductions needed across the Australian economy. Importantly, all sectors already have some technologies available that can reduce emissions,” Mr Kean said.

“The markers of Australia’s success are clear: clean electricity scaling up fast and emissions falling rapidly. Momentum is growing in both these areas – the authority’s recommendations can help to address the barriers and accelerate it even more.”

### **Download the 2024 Annual Progress Report**

The full 2024 Annual Progress Report can be viewed on the [authority’s website](#).

Alongside this year’s report, the authority has updated and expanded the [Climate Policy Tracker](#), bringing together Commonwealth, state and territory government climate policies to assist in monitoring progress and identifying policy gaps.

### **Media inquiries:**

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### **About the Climate Change Authority**

*The Climate Change Authority is a statutory body established under the [Climate Change Authority Act 2011](#) to provide independent, evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on climate change policy. The authority is made up of a [Chair, the Chief Scientist and up to 7 other members](#).*

*The authority plays an important role in the governance of Australia’s climate change mitigation policies, including by providing advice on:*

- *the preparation of the Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament*
- *greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to be included in new or adjusted nationally determined contributions (NDC).*

*The authority also undertakes reviews of the Carbon Credit (Carbon Farming Initiative) ACT 2011 (Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme), the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007, including the Safeguard Mechanism, and other matters as requested by the Minister for Climate Change or the Australian Parliament.*