

# The Climate Institute



**What should Australia's target be?  
Australia's post-2020 emissions target**

March 2015, ANU Crawford School, Erwin Jackson, Deputy CEO

# The Climate Institute

*The Climate Institute has been tracking international climate change negotiations since 2005*

- + Staff have expertise in international processes dating back to before the development of the UNFCCC
- + Strong international network with other think tanks, NGOs and government advisors
- + Play an ongoing role in publishing papers, and commentary of what matters internationally (and what does not)



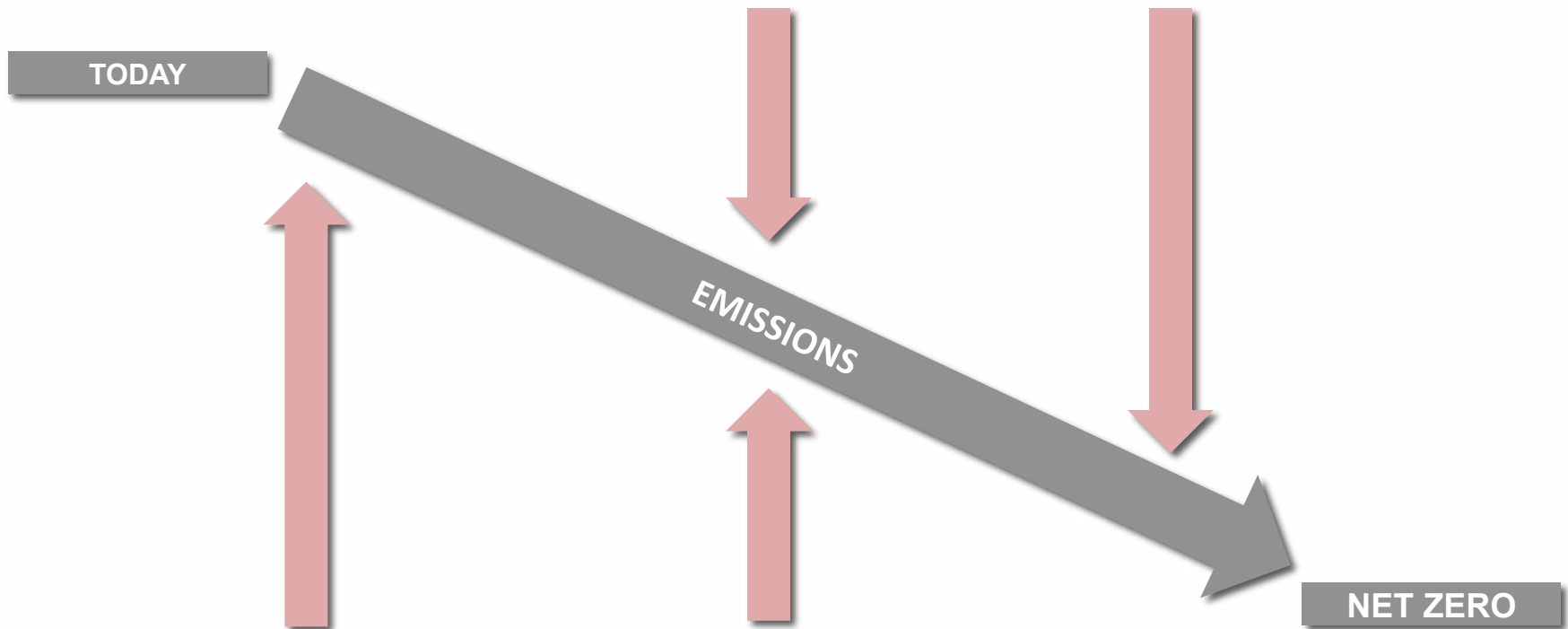
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# International context

- + Avoiding 2°C key benchmark for action
- + Binding to commit with international review
- + Cycle of growing ambition: No backsliding and ongoing process to increase ambition (“progression”)
- + Supported by binding domestic policies
- + Opportunity for Australia to define emission pathway consistent with national interest in avoiding 2°C

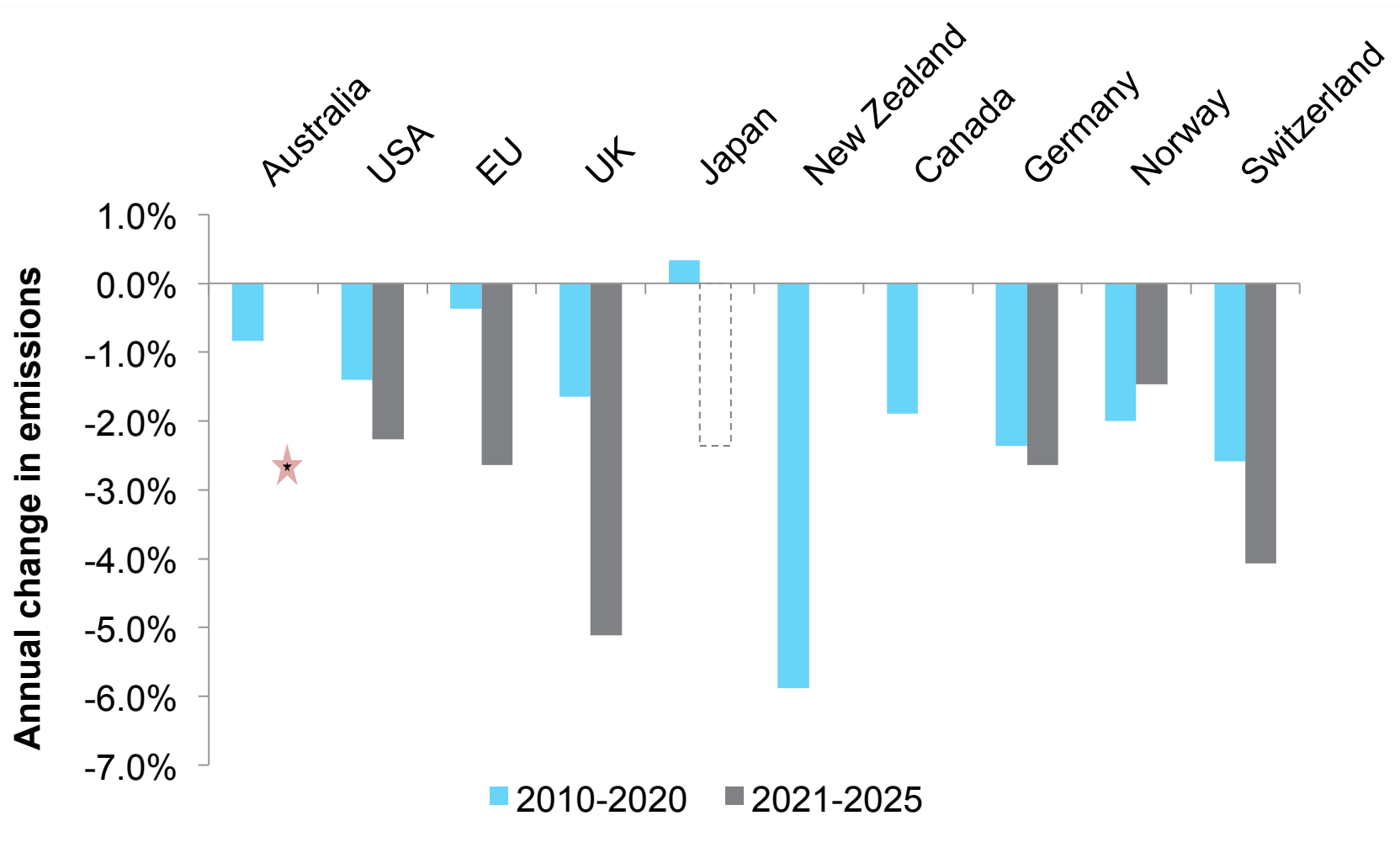
# Top down pressure – bottom up action

2°C, progression, and not just special pleading



Domestic actions build ambition, trust and confidence

# Progression towards 2°C



# Key considerations

Consideration	Implications
Vulnerability to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Participation <u>and ambition</u> matter</li><li>+ Below 2°C in national interest</li></ul>
Top-down expectations + bottom up contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Norms created by national contributions</li><li>+ Below 2°C needs to be norm not exception</li></ul>
Economic costs and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Not determined by national target</li><li>+ Domestic policy design influenced by trade and the actions of other countries</li></ul>
Decarbonisation inevitable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Climate, political, technological trends heading (too slowly) in one direction</li><li>+ Credible signal for decarbonisation the only way to create policy stability</li></ul>

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# Conclusions

*Discussion of national targets an opportunity to focus on the national interest and strategic policy objectives.*

**Targets defined by the national interest in limiting warming to less than 2°C can:**

- + Support international norms consistent with participation and ambition
- + Balance short term action with strategic goals
- + Provide greater policy stability by reinforcing the inevitable

# More information



[www.climateinstitute.org.au](http://www.climateinstitute.org.au)



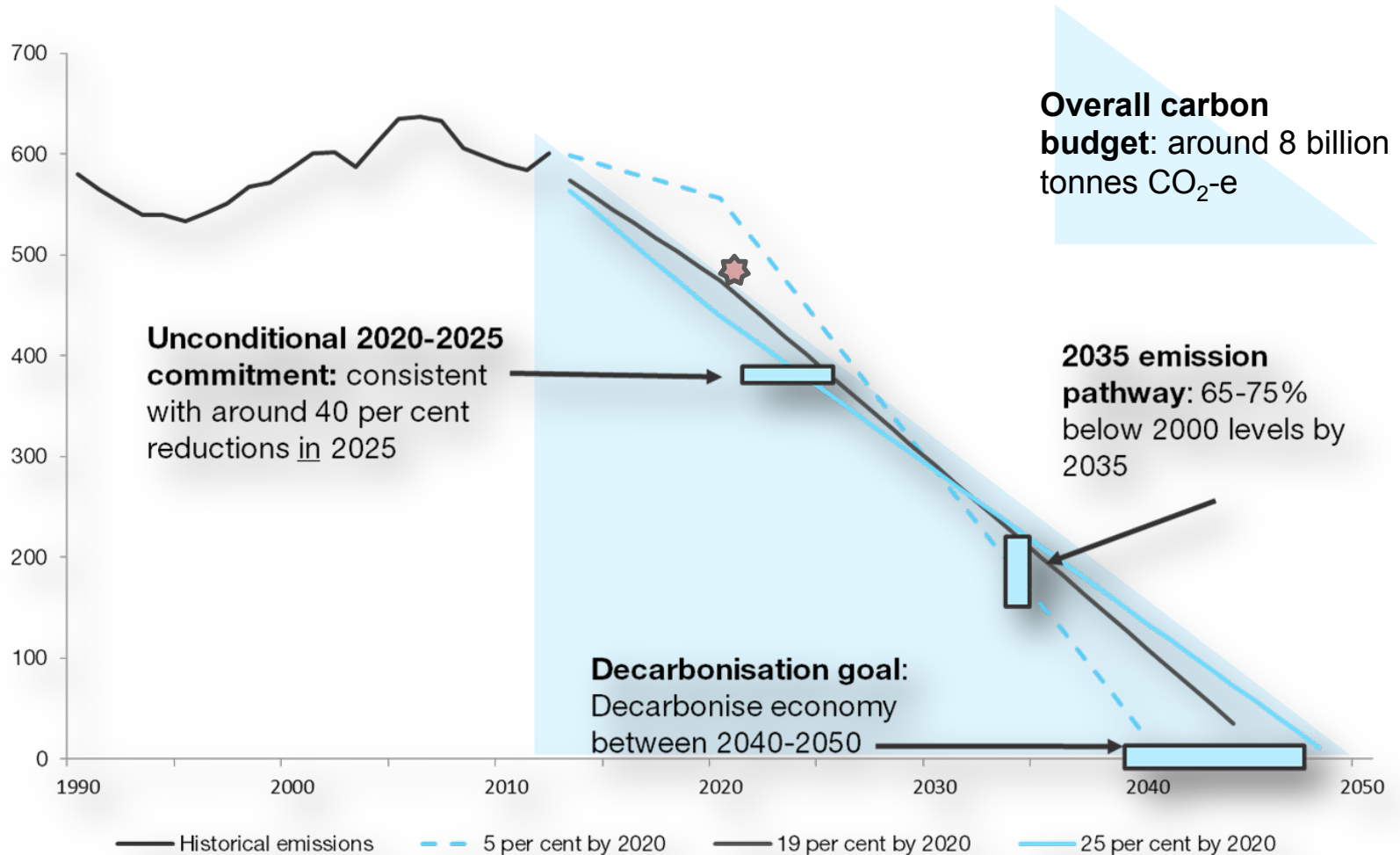
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# Australia's new post-2020 targets



# Back up slide –GDP and emissions

