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)
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

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<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Implications</th>
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<td>Vulnerability to climate change</td>
<td>+ Participation and ambition matter</td>
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<td>+ Below 2°C in national interest</td>
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<td>Top-down expectations + bottom up contributions</td>
<td>+ Norms created by national contributions</td>
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<td>+ Below 2°C needs to be norm not exception</td>
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<td>Economic costs and benefits</td>
<td>+ Not determined by national target</td>
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<td>+ Domestic policy design influenced by trade and the actions of other countries</td>
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<td>Decarbonisation inevitable</td>
<td>+ Climate, political, technological trends heading (too slowly) in one direction</td>
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<td>+ Credible signal for decarbonisation the only way to create policy stability</td>
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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

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Australia’s new post-2020 targets

Overall carbon budget: around 8 billion tonnes CO$_2$-e

Unconditional 2020-2025 commitment: consistent with around 40 per cent reductions in 2025

2035 emission pathway: 65-75% below 2000 levels by 2035

Decarbonisation goal: Decarbonise economy between 2040-2050
Back up slide – GDP and emissions

Source: TCI calculations based on ABARE 2006; Allens Consulting 2006; The Climate Institute 2007; Treasury 2008, 2011; Climate Change Authority 2014; ClimateWorks, ANU, CSIRO 2014