

#CLIMATE ACTNOW

Myth	Reality
<p>“Will putting a plan in place for Net Zero by 2050 limit economic growth?”</p>	<p>The CSIRO in their ‘outlook vision’ has estimated that limiting emissions to net zero by 2050 amongst other factors could result in 2.75-2.8% GDP growth annually.¹ As opposed to 2.1% under less ambitious scenarios.</p> <p>The Climate Act will mandate that there are plans to get to net zero by 2050.</p>
<p>“Why are we aiming to get to Net Zero by 2050 as Australia is only responsible for 1.3% of global emissions?”</p>	<p>Australia is the world’s 14th largest emitter out of 210 countries and has the highest per capita emissions in the OECD.² Added to that, we are only 0.3% of the world’s population.³ We are already not pulling our weight.</p> <p>Moreover, 201 countries emit less than 2%. If we all took that attitude, we would fail to limit warming to a safe level.</p> <p>According to the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia is also warming faster than the global average⁴ and therefore especially vulnerable to climate change. It is simply in our national interest to lead.</p>
<p>“Australia does not need the Act as the Climate Change Authority is already advising the government on targets that put Australia on a path to net-zero emissions”</p>	<p>The current Climate Change Authority only reviews the functioning of certain legislation and is tasked to review policy and pathway to lower emissions only by referral from the minister. This means it’s function are limited and historically it has not been utilised effectively.</p> <p>The new independent advisory commission will review policy and report publicly on progress yearly without referral by the minister.</p>
<p>“Will having an Act limit the government’s policy making ability?”</p>	<p>The Act does not limit policy making and leaves policy making in the hands of our elected Government.</p>
<p>“Is this Act supported by the constitution?”</p>	<p>This Act relies on the ‘external affairs’ power in s 51(xxix) of the constitution which allow laws to enact obligations under international treaties.</p> <p>The Climate Act will go to the heart of Australia’s obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement and other international agreements.</p> <p>This is written explicitly at Paragraph 3 (1) (g) in the Objects of the Bill.</p>

¹ <https://www.csiro.au/en/Showcase/ANO>

² https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P667%20High%20Carbon%20from%20a%20Land%20Down%20Under%20%5BWEB%5D_0_0.pdf

³ <https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=booklet2018>

⁴ <https://www.statista.com/chart/20404/mean-annual-temperature-anomaly-in-australia-and-the-world/>

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