

# CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

SUBMISSION WRITING GUIDE  
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# Climate Change Bill - Submission Writing

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# Climate Change Bill Overview



# Climate Change Bill Overview

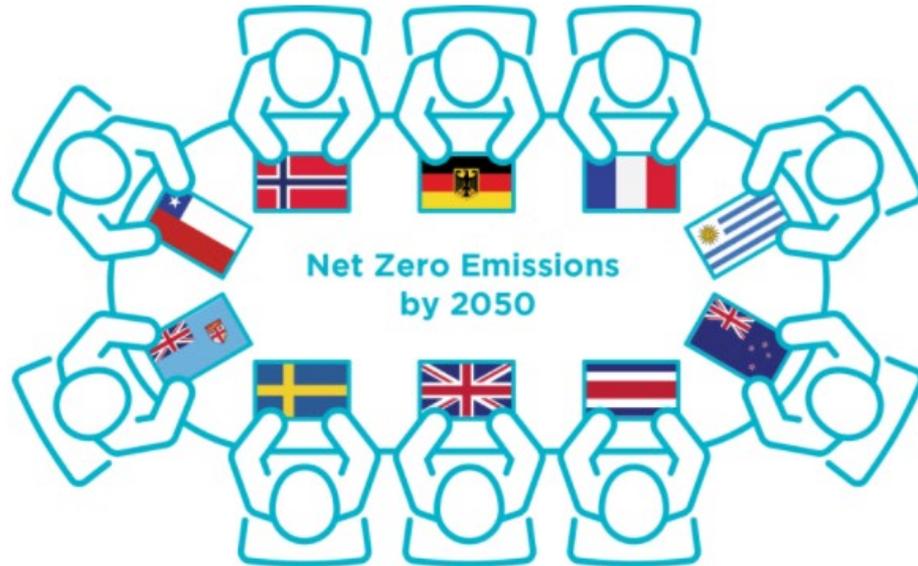
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1. Overview of the Bill: <https://climateactnow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CAN-CC-Bill-Overview.pdf>
2. The Act would ensure Australia has a clear and positive national response to the challenges of climate change. It will ensure Australia has:
  - A Net Zero emissions target by 2050, getting there through emissions reduction plans and emissions budgets
  - Risk assessments and adaptation plans, so that the different parts of our continent and economy know the risks of climate change and can prepare for them
  - Technology readiness assessment, so that we know the existing and emerging ways we can reduce emissions, with the least risk and cost
  - An independent advisory commission (IAC), that can advise the Government, transparently and independently, on our national needs and plans.

In putting this law in place, Australia will be amongst several other countries with effective climate laws in place, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and New Zealand: <https://climateactnow.com.au/>

1. Full Bill: *Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020*: <https://climateactnow.com.au/can-climate-change-national-framework-for-adaptation-and-mitigation-bill-2020-2/>

# Why Legislate Net Zero by 2050?



With many countries adopting the Net Zero target by 2050, Australia risks being left behind by countries with similar economies like the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and the European Union.



# Key Elements of the Bill

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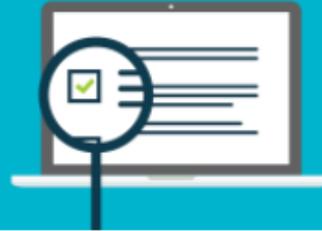
Net Zero emissions by  
2050



Risk Assessments and  
adaptation plans



Technology readiness  
assessment



Independent advisory  
commission



# Key Elements of the Bill

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<b>Guiding Principles:</b>	Effective, efficient & equitable action	Informed decision making (precedence given to sources from IPCC, BOM, CSIRO, AEMO, APRA etc.)	Risk-based, integrated decision making (long, medium, short term environmental, economic & social consequences)
Fiscal responsibility (cost benefit must take account of long term consequences)	Fair employment transition	Community engagement & self-determination	National & international cooperation

# Net Zero by 2050

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- IPCC 1.5 degree Report says that globally we must achieve net zero emissions no later than 2050, *and* that by 2030 annual emissions must be around half what they are today.
- While the Bill does not have an interim target, it does have:
  - 5-yearly reviews of the Net Zero target as things change.
  - 5-year emissions budgets and reduction plans to reduce emissions smoothly through to Net Zero.
  - Principles of fairness and equity to guide those budgets and plans.
  - Independent oversight and recommendations from the Commission.

# Submission Guidance and Sample Content



# Why make a submission?

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Why do you want Australia to have climate law including a binding net zero target?

- ★ What would you tell the Committee, if they asked you?
- ★ Let's include this in your submission.
- ★ Let's see how others have expressed their points.

# What does an effective submission look like?

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## This is our time to be heard

- As long or as short as you like, e.g. a few sentences or paragraphs or more.
- Unique, written in your own words.
- Include things that are relevant to you and reference the key elements of the Bill.
- Avoid unsupported claims or emotive language.
- If you would like to attend the public inquiry to give evidence, say so in your submission. Making a submission does not mean you are required to give evidence, this is optional.

# Instructions and example

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1. New document, can submit as a PDF, DOC, DOCX or TXT
  2. **Subject:** Submission to the House Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy in respect of the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020
  3. **Support** e.g.: “I support the Climate Change Bill because....”
  4. **Personal statement** e.g.: “I am making this submission because: *add your story here e.g.:*
    - *I am a student concerned about growing up in a safe prosperous Australia.*
    - *I am a parent/carer and I am about the impact that climate change will have on our way of life and survival*
    - *I own a business and I’m concerned the Government is missing a huge opportunity to benefit our economy*
    - *I work in a company that needs certainty on Australian law and policy, and on our disclosure requirements*
- 
1. **Key points:** Include aspects relevant to you, with references where needed - *see examples that follow*
  2. **Conscience vote:** Ask that the decision be a conscience vote, to allow MPs to represent their electorate
  3. **Attending the inquiry:** If you would like to attend the public inquiry to give evidence, add this - *this is optional*
  4. **Contact details:** Finish with your name, State, postcode and email address. You can add your Federal electorate.
  5. **Lodge** your submission - *see lodgement steps that follow*

# Include aspects relevant to you and reference the Bill

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You could address one, some or all of the following aspects of the Bill:

- Objectives and long-term emissions reduction commitment
- Why legislating Net Zero by 2050 and regular 5 year budgets is important
- Guiding principles to be applied
- Risk and adaptation assessments for all sectors
- Technology readiness assessment
- Independent climate change Commission and skills needed on the Commission

# General example points

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## “I support the Bill because...”

- Our way of life is threatened by increasingly extreme weather events. We want the target and framework for action set out in this Bill to protect our way of life.
- The Australian Medical Association has formally declared climate change a health emergency, pointing to clear scientific evidence indicating severe impacts for our patients and communities now and into the future.
- First Nations people will face the worst of climate impacts in our country, are most vulnerable to these impacts and have contributed the least to the problem. First Nations people hold many of the solutions to climate change, through listening and engagement federal policies can help enable implementation and better social, health and economic outcomes. The challenge of climate change requires us to draw on the best available information and we cannot accomplish this without the valuable knowledge of the Traditional Owners of this land. The Climate Change Bill includes processes to enable this listening, engagement and implementation process.
- Countries including the UK, France, Germany and New Zealand and major energy corporations including Woodside, BHP, AGL and BP have all committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Australia urgently needs a strong and responsible national plan to address the climate crisis.
- Climate change is a major issue that requires a detailed Australia-wide structural response. This Bill is about planning so we can mitigate climate change risk and take advantage of opportunities that could drive new industry sectors for future generations.
- Many businesses are committing to net zero because they can see climate change risks, and their Boards know they will put long term shareholder value at risk by not acting. Our Government should take the same long term view to protect Australians from the long term negative consequences of insufficient action.

# Example points

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## The Bill will help prevent severe negative economic impact to Australia's economy

- The Deloitte Access Economics Report *A new choice: Australia's climate for growth* (2 November 2020) says:
  - inaction on climate change will cost Australia a \$3.4 trillion loss in GDP and result in 880,000 job losses by 2070
  - the top six industries that are most at risk to the physical damage caused by climate change include manufacturing, trade, agriculture, mining, services (including tourism) and construction
  - if Australia was to take more action on climate change, it would add an estimated \$680 billion to the economy and a 2.6% increase to the GDP by 2070 and add 250,000 extra jobs. [1]
- In a report published in June 2020, more than 60 central banks including the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank of England warned that global GDP could fall 25% below the expected level by 2100 if the world does not act to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. [2]
- The Australia Institute's Report *Cold shower on economics of global warming*, found that avoiding global warming brings major economic benefit, and that inaction on climate change could cost Australia \$131 billion per year, excluding natural disasters that already cost Australia over \$18 billion per year. [3]

[1] <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/articles/new-choice-climate-growth.html>

[2] <https://www.ngfs.net/en/climate-change-and-monetary-policy-initial-takeaways>

[3] <https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/P729%20Cost%20of%20climate%20inaction%20%5BWEB%5D.pdf>

# Example points

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## The Bill will help us rebuild our economy and tackle climate change

- Beyond Zero Emissions' *Million Jobs Plan* shows Australia can create 1 million jobs by becoming a renewable energy super power. [1]
- The Climate Council's *Clean Jobs Plan* says nearly 80,000 jobs could be quickly created through a stimulus plan to rebuild the economy from recession while tackling the climate crisis. It says investment in pilot-scale green hydrogen developments would be of the most benefit to the economy, yielding \$4 of private spending for every public dollar invested. Large solar and windfarms would unlock \$3 for every dollar spent, while electric vehicle infrastructure, improving waste collection and smaller, community-scale energy and storage projects could create \$2. [2]
- An EY Report commissioned by WWF, shows a renewables led economic recovery from COVID-19 (which tackles the recession and climate change) will create almost three times as many jobs as a fossil fuel led recovery. [3]

[1] <https://millionjobs.org.au>

[2] <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/clean-jobs-plan/>

[3] <https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/climate/renewables/renewable-export-covid-19-recovery-package#gs.lhats8>

# Example points

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## The Bill will ensure Australia is doing its part to help reduce the global effects of climate change

- The Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO explain that:
  - we are already experiencing the impacts of global warming through increasingly frequent extreme weather events and increased fire risk, and
  - surface waters around Australia are estimated to have had a 30 per cent increase in acidity since the 1880s, and sea levels have risen by 25cm globally since 1880 as a result of thermal expansion and ice melt. [1]
- The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says:
  - we need to keep global warming below 2 degrees, and we should pursue a limit of 1.5 degrees to avoid the worst impacts, [2] and
  - global emissions will need to reach net zero by around 2050 to be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. [3]

[1] <http://www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/australias-changing-climate.shtml>

[2] UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Special Report, "Global Warming of 1.5 degrees celcius", <https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/>

[3] [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_report\\_HR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_HR.pdf)

# Example points

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## Risk assessments and adaptation plans

- We need a clear plan to work towards the net zero 2050 target. That plan needs to be based on a clear understanding of the risks of inaction and also the opportunities and benefits of action.
- Planning in 5 year increments is a sensible time horizon.
- We need to have adaptation plans to ensure that Australians are looked after, as we determine what is needed for each sector to achieve net zero emissions.

# Example points

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## An independent advisory commission (IAC)

- The core pillars of a net zero target by 2050 (with the ability to be ratcheted up in line with the most recent science), national risk assessments and adaptation plans, technology readiness assessment and an independent advisory commission have been endorsed by peak associations across sectors - *Joint endorsement of climate change legislation by more than 100 leading Australian businesses, industry groups and community organisations.* [1]
- It's important to have an independent expert body, to ensure that the Government has up to date information, and that can advise the Government, transparently and independently, on our national needs and plans.
- The success of working together to solve problems based on science was clearly demonstrated in the Government's response to COVID. The IAC will assist us to take a science-led approach to tackling the climate crisis.

[1] <https://reneweconomy.com.au/mike-cannon-brookes-investors-issue-call-for-climate-change-bill-38982/>

# Example points

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## Businesses face material risk and the Bill provides legal certainty and direction

- Geoff Summerhayes from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority says climate change now constitutes “a legally foreseeable risk facing many different companies in a range of different industries”. [1]
- More than 100 Australian businesses, industry groups and community organisations have endorsed the Climate Change Bill as a critical step in the recovery from the pandemic. [2]
- The Business Council of Australia supports transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050. [3]  
The CEO of the BCA, Jennifer Westacott said *“I reckon if we could get the two political parties to agree to that [net zero emissions by 2050] and legislate it, we would have made a massive advance in this country because we would know where we’re going... For business that does want to take action in this space, that would at least give us a kind of certainty about where are we heading.”* [4]

[1] <https://www.afr.com/companies/financial-services/apra-asic-unite-on-all-pervading-climate-risk-20190508-p5118i>

[2] <https://climateactnow.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Joint-letter-to-Members-of-Parliament.pdf>

[3] [https://www.bca.com.au/energy\\_and\\_climate](https://www.bca.com.au/energy_and_climate)

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/feb/11/qa-recap-business-council-calls-for-legislated-target-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050>

# How to Lodge



# Lodgement steps

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1. Create a My Parliament Account: <https://www.aph.gov.au/Help/Register>
2. Go to the homepage for the Bill:  
[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Environment\\_and\\_Energy/ClimateBills2020](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Environment_and_Energy/ClimateBills2020)
3. Click on the “**Upload Submission**” button in the right-hand column



1. On the next page, under “**Submitted Previously**” click “**Log on**” and sign in
2. Under “**Make your submission**” select the Climate Change Bill if not pre-selected, and click **Next** at the bottom
3. Complete your personal or business details
4. Select your privacy level
5. Upload your document (in one of these formats: PDF, DOC, DOCX, TXT)

# Lodgement assistance

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If you have any problems with lodging your submission, contact the Committee Secretariat:

Phone: +61 2 6277 4580

Email: [Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au)



## Next Steps

# What happens next?

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You are welcome to share these materials with your family, friends and groups. Please let them know you have made a submission, and encourage them to make one, to support the Bill.

Submissions close 5pm, Friday 27 November.

Once submissions have closed, the *House Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy* will meet to review the submissions, discuss learnings and report back to the House.

If you would like more information about the Act, or require further assistance, please contact the Climate Act Now team at [admin@climateactnow.com.au](mailto:admin@climateactnow.com.au)

# Acknowledgements

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Acknowledgement and many thanks to the following individuals and organisations for Climate Change Bill resources, information and examples:

- ★ Ursula Hogben – Climate Reality Presenter responsible for compiling this guide
- ★ Zali Steggall OAM MP: <https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/>
- ★ Climate Act Now: <https://climateactnow.com.au/>
- ★ North Sydney - Climate Act Now
- ★ Citizens' Climate Lobby Australia: <https://au.citizensclimatelobby.org/>

The background of the image is a dense, lush forest of green ferns. The fronds are various shades of green, from a vibrant lime green to a deep forest green, creating a textured and layered appearance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate details of the leaflets.

**Thank you**