

A climate ready Australia 2030

STRATEGIC VISION 2021–24



CLIMATE READY
INITIATIVE

Shaping a climate ready future

 **Griffith** UNIVERSITY

Queensland, Australia

Climate Action Beacon

A landscape photograph showing a paved road that curves through a hilly, wooded area. The hills are covered in dense vegetation, and the sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is somewhat muted, with a focus on the natural environment.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we reside and pay respect to the Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Climate Ready Initiative

We are a social impact initiative established by the Griffith Climate Action Beacon, working with society to shape a climate ready future. We are responding to the growing need to transition towards a low carbon and climate resilient society.

Our aim is to advance this transition by facilitating agenda setting, empowering critical partnerships, progressing transformative actions and championing the capability needed to secure a prosperous and just future for all.

THE STRATEGIC VISION

Advancing a climate ready Australia.

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Ambitious for our future

Climate change is happening around us. The need for action is urgent and each of us has a significant role to play.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change paints a clear picture: our planet has warmed due to human influence and there is no safe level of further emissions. Their reports make concrete the devastating impacts we are experiencing and can expect from more severe heat waves, rising sea levels and decreasing winter rains, from more dangerous bushfires and more frequent and extreme storms.

We can limit future impacts and risks if we act decisively now. The time for transitional measures and increments has passed. Transformative action is required to make quantum leaps forward and avert further irreversible global warming. The choices we make over the rest of this decade will shape the future.

The world is moving: valuing climate action and making commitments. Australian industry, businesses and communities can do the same; many have started. We urge governments and policy makers at all levels and across the political spectrum to work with us in partnership.

Australians are resilient and can rise to this challenge. We are positive and ambitious about the future for our beautiful country and for future generations.

With the right plan and approach, we can advance this transformation. This will require deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing our resilience to the impacts of a changing climate. Together we can create solutions, new industries and the quality jobs of the future. Together we can remain competitive in a zero-carbon economy as well as sustain our unique, beautiful landscapes. Together we can work with neighbouring countries in the region that are among the most vulnerable.

The Climate Ready Initiative hosted by the Griffith Climate Action Beacon seeks to add to and build on the efforts of many across Australian society committed to climate action. It responds to what we have consistently heard across communities and industries, that people want tangible guidance to inform better decisions and to shape a coherent national program of climate action.

We encourage all Australians to join together in leadership and action to get Australia climate ready.



ROSEMARY ADDIS AM

Chair and Social Impact Adviser

Rosemary is a globally recognised leader and strategist at the forefront of innovation and investment for impact. She has an international portfolio of board and advisory roles.



PROF BRENDAN MACKEY

Deputy Chair and Climate Change Adviser

Brendan is the Director of the Climate Action Beacon and Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC Australasian chapter. He brings decades of experience and impact to our initiative.



JOHN HEWSON AM

Sustainable Finance Adviser

Dr Hewson is a Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU and an Adjunct Professor at Griffith University. He has worked for The Australian Treasury, the IMF, the Reserve Bank, the UN, and often advises senior public servants.



TONY MCAVOY SC

Law and Justice Adviser

Tony McAvoy SC is a Wirldi man from the central Queensland area around Clermont. He is a barrister practising from Frederick Jordan Chambers, Sydney and chairs professional committees in NSW and nationally.



ANN SHERRY AO

Corporate Sustainability Adviser

Ann is one of Australia's leading business executives with a career that spans Government, Banking and Cruise Tourism. Ann is the Chair of UNICEF Australia and ENERO.



HELEN SZOKE AO

Equity and Inclusion Adviser

Dr Helen Szoke's career has spanned community, health, education, regulation and international development. She is a strong advocate for human rights and has extensive experience in management and advocacy. She is a non-executive Director.



SOPHIA HAMBLIN WANG

Innovation and Technology Adviser

Sophia Hamblin Wang is a carbon technologist and circular economy expert. She is COO of Mineral Carbonation International and was featured on ABC TV's Q&A, The New York Times and the World Economic Forum 2020.



SAM MACKAY

Executive Director

Sam is a leader in the areas of sustainable development and climate action. He is Head of Practice for Climate Action at Griffith University and non-executive Director of Live and Learn.



A climate ready Australia

Vision: We are a strong, prosperous and just country in a low carbon and climate resilient world.

We share an ambitious—yet achievable—vision for Australia.

In Australia, we embrace climate action as an opportunity to advance a sustainable development pathway. People, communities and organisations lean into this challenge and take bold action. We have confidence in our agenda and collaborate to shape a thriving economy. New partnerships, future-fit industries, innovation, quality jobs and effective action mean our communities and ecosystems flourish.

Leadership on climate action reinforces our competitive strengths and enhances our role as a valued neighbour and partner. We make a significant contribution towards helping the world address climate change and give future generations the greatest chance of success.

BY THE END OF 2024 WE ASPIRE TO HAVE:

A NATIONAL PLATFORM

*that enables climate action
and delivers sustainable
development*

**A SHARED
AGENDA**

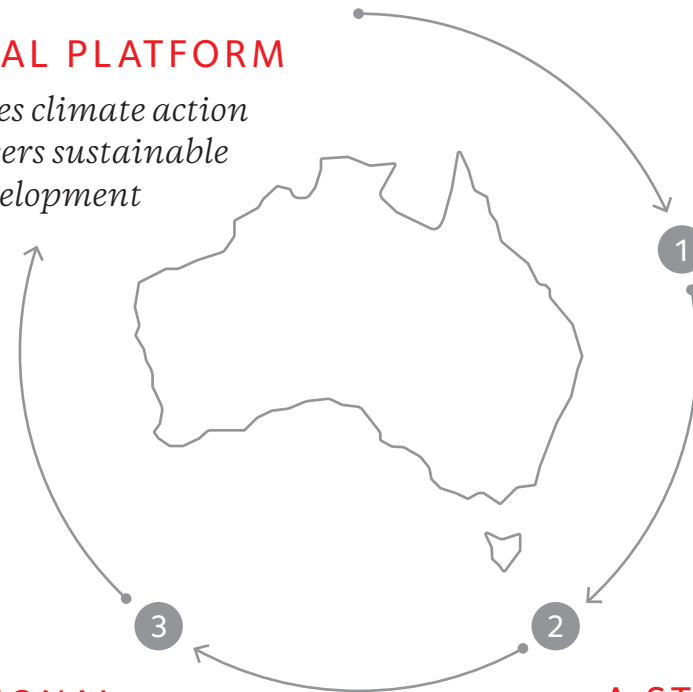
*for national
climate action that
can be translated
into real action.*

A STEP CHANGE

*in collaboration and
co-investment to meet
challenges requiring
collective action.*

**NATIONAL
CAPABILITY**

*to drive strategic
and coordinated
climate action.*





Meeting the challenges head on

Mission: We work together on strategic, coordinated, effective and just climate action.

Australia needs a collective plan to become climate ready. We need strong objectives that everyone will support and that motivate ambitious and decisive action. And we need to remove the barriers to collaboration, to realise what is possible when we work together.

Real progress depends on commitment and participation from everyone. It involves coalescing and amplifying existing efforts via a common purpose, activities and enablers. We need more people and organisations to participate, and participate more effectively.

Creating the right enabling environment gives us the best chance to progress strategic, coordinated, effective and just climate action.

UNITING PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS TO PROGRESS:

1. AGENDA SETTING

Setting a robust agenda for national climate action.

Starting points:

- Establish a board of diverse and trusted leaders to help steer Australia towards being climate ready.
- Assemble and convene an alliance of peak bodies that represent sectors critical to society to coalesce the key issues and needs for Australia to be climate ready.
- Develop common priorities for a climate ready Australia.

2. TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS

Transforming the need to act on climate change into tangible opportunities for collective action.

Starting points:

- Scope and develop projects that progress collective action.
- Share successes and lessons to further accelerate progress.
- Increase collaboration on climate ready projects in Australia and our region.

3. NATIONAL CAPABILITY BUILDING

Developing an enabling environment that can deliver more strategic and coordinated climate actions.

Starting points:

- Launch a national program that supports our targets.
- Champion a national fund to attract co-investment for climate ready projects that can transform Australia and our region.
- Champion a national facility to guide investment towards climate ready projects that can transform Australia and our region.

An initial pathway

A bold workplan to initiate actions that progress a climate ready Australia.

2020

Establish and convene a board of trusted community leaders
DONE

2021

Develop an initial Strategic Vision for a Climate Ready Australia 2030
DONE

Assemble Alliance of Peaks for a climate ready Australia
UNDERWAY

Consult on key needs and issues for climate action

Convene a first meeting of Alliance of Peaks for a climate ready Australia

2022

2023

2024

Coalesce common priorities
for a climate ready Australia

Deliver inaugural national convention
Climate Ready Australia 2030

MILESTONE 1

A shared and robust agenda
for climate action in Australia

Scope transformative climate ready projects,
and oversight and learning arrangements

Launch a National Climate Ready Program

Start implementing transformative
climate ready projects

MILESTONE 2

Greater collaboration on
transformative climate actions

Develop investment framework
for a National Climate Ready Fund

Develop a business case and plan
for a National Climate Ready Facility

Champion the National Climate
Ready Facility and Fund

MILESTONE 3

National capability for strategic
and coordinated climate action

Deliver second national convention
Climate Ready Australia 2030

Values to guide success

Realising a climate ready Australia needs actions underpinned by strong values. Guiding our actions will be a focus on integrity, leadership and outcomes.

INTEGRITY

Climate action that fosters an Australia that is just and better for all.

We value the need for:

- all Australians to engage with and participate in climate action
- First nations people to be leaders and decision-makers of the climate action that occurs on their country.
- the next generation to influence the country they will inherit
- the vulnerable and those less represented to have a voice, so they aren't left behind
- solidarity with our regional neighbours and international partners.

LEADERSHIP

Diverse, representative and legitimate leadership on climate action.

We value the need to:

- convene legitimate, credible, diverse and motivated leaders to work together on shaping climate action
- broker honest, independent, and motivated networks for progressing climate action
- align research and practice leaders to co-create and co-deliver practical and evidence-based climate action
- instil confidence within society to participate in collaborative climate action.

OUTCOMES

Climate action that delivers positive and tangible outcomes for society.

We value the need for:

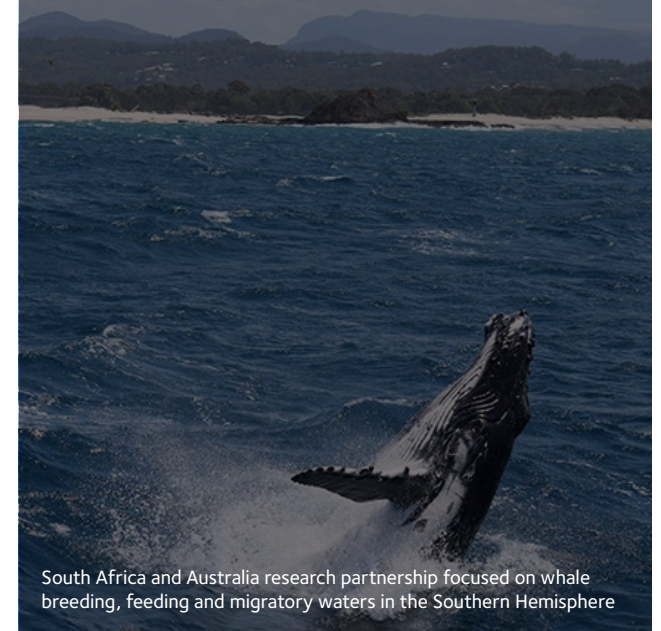
- government that prepares itself and society to succeed in a low carbon and climate resilient world
- an economy that values and drives effective and just climate action
- business and industry that confidently invests in a low carbon and climate resilient future
- people and communities who participate in designing and delivering climate action
- a natural environment that thrives in a low carbon and climate resilient world
- collective climate action with our regional neighbours and international partners.



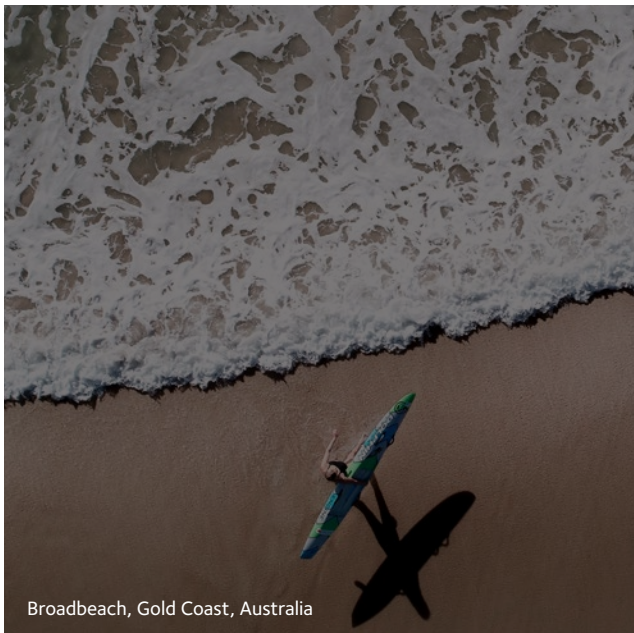
Dancers from the Kombumerri-Nunukal and Moondarewa Dance troop perform at the welcoming ceremony for Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans



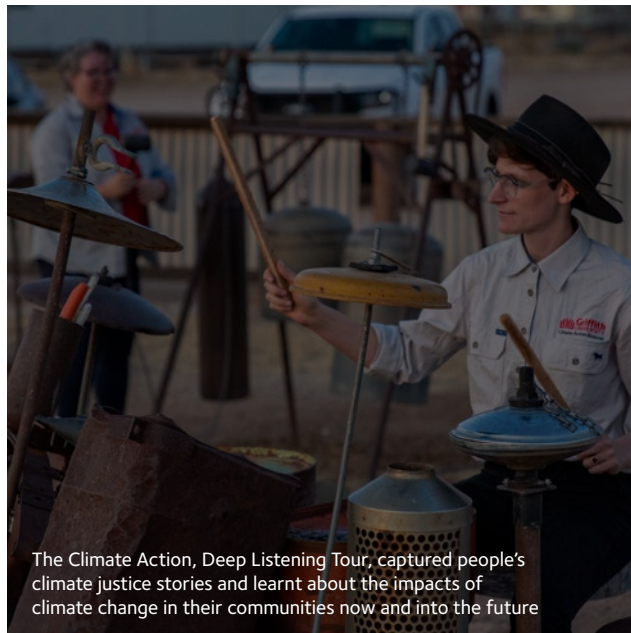
Central Business District, Sydney, Australia



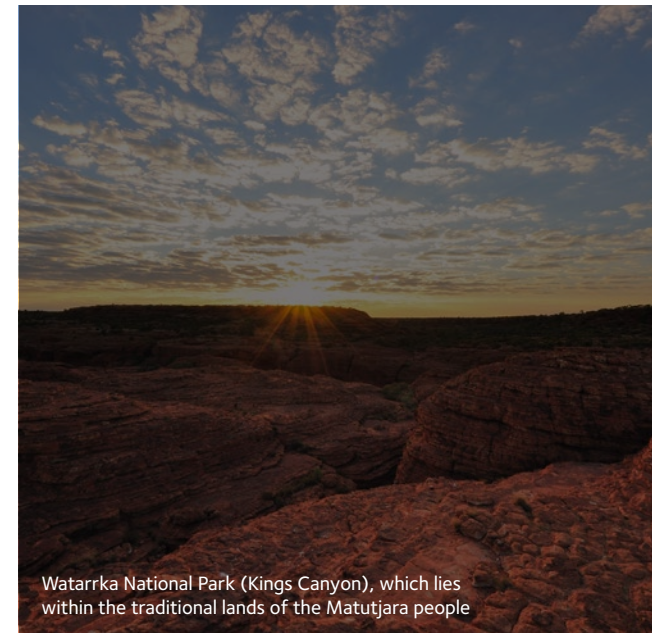
South Africa and Australia research partnership focused on whale breeding, feeding and migratory waters in the Southern Hemisphere



Broadbeach, Gold Coast, Australia



The Climate Action, Deep Listening Tour, captured people's climate justice stories and learnt about the impacts of climate change in their communities now and into the future



Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon), which lies within the traditional lands of the Matutjara people

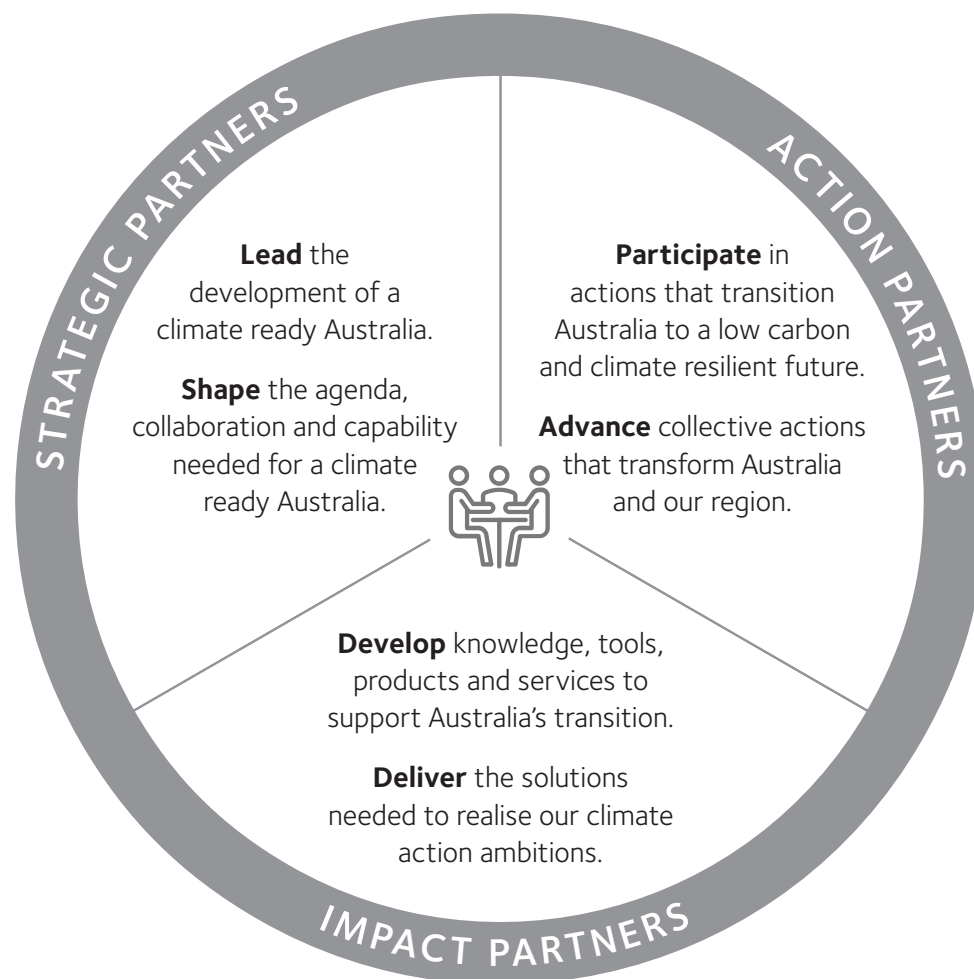
Everyone has a role

Collaboration is key to shaping, advancing and delivering a climate ready Australia.

Diverse and widespread commitment and contribution to climate action is essential. A climate ready Australia is possible only by combining the efforts of people, communities and organisations. We are the vehicles for change.

That's why we're looking for leaders from industry, research, the community and government who can work together to meet this great challenge.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REALISE THIS VISION





CLIMATE READY INITIATIVE

Shaping a climate ready future

*It's time to advance a
climate ready Australia.*

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