

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cooperation, technology and investment will determine Australia's net zero future

Sector Pathways Review published today

The Climate Change Authority has today released its review of the potential technology transition and emissions pathways for the Australian Government to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The review considers the pathways for six sectors – agriculture and land; built environment; electricity and energy; industry and waste; transport and resources – to decarbonise. It identifies barriers and proposes strategies and actions to address them.

Requested by the Australian Parliament, the review will inform the Australian Government's Net Zero Plan which will lay out and extend Australia's action on climate change.

"The authority has charted a course for how Australia can decarbonise by 2050," said Matt Kean, chair of the authority.

"Good progress is being made on decarbonising the energy sector and rolling out firm renewables. But to achieve a rapid and orderly transition to net zero, all sectors of the economy, along with all levels of government, must plan and act together.

"By overcoming the barriers to reducing emissions we can make the Australian economy more prosperous while creating new industries and jobs, improving our energy security, protecting the environment, and reducing the cost of living."

The authority's review found there are many pathways to achieving emissions reductions with existing, mature technologies, such as solar and wind for electricity generation and batteries for energy storage getting Australia much of the way to net zero. Opportunities also exist with the rapid development of emerging low emissions technologies, such as hydrogen and engineered carbon removals.

Mr Kean said developers of renewables projects need to engage with regional communities about infrastructure's role in the energy transition, and better explain the sharing of benefits from the rollout.

The authority's review proposes six strategies that can be incorporated in the Net Zero Plan for addressing the challenges and enabling Australia's transition to a prosperous, net zero economy.

Suggested actions for the Australian Government include working with local, state and territory governments, businesses, communities and households to build on existing climate change policies, reform development approval processes and address mounting workforce shortages.

Mr Kean said technology uptake, investment and cooperation were critical success factors.

“We need to seize this once in a generation opportunity to ensure Australia’s rapid and orderly transition as the world transforms to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

“This requires a major reorganisation of supply chains, production systems, industrial zones, energy sources, public and private finance, infrastructure and workforces,” Mr Kean said.

Read more on the Sector Pathways Review including the full report [here](#).

Notes to editors

The Sector Pathways Review was provided to the Climate Change Minister on 1 August 2024 in accordance with the referral from the Australian Parliament.

Under the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011*, the authority must publish the review on its website as soon as practicable. The Minister is also required to table the report in each House of Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving it.

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About the Climate Change Authority

The Climate Change Authority is an independent statutory body established under the [Climate Change Authority Act 2011](#) to provide expert advice to the Australian Government on climate change policy. The authority is made up of a [Chair, the Chief Scientist and up to 7 other members](#).

The authority plays an important role in the governance of Australia's climate change mitigation policies, including by providing independent advice related to:

- *the preparation of the Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament*
- *greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to be included in new or adjusted nationally determined contributions (NDC).*

The authority also undertakes reviews of the Carbon Credit (Carbon Farming Initiative) ACT 2011 (Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme), the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007, including the Safeguard Mechanism, and other matters as requested by the Minister for Climate Change or the Australian Parliament.