



Australia: Long Way to Go

On December 31, 2020, Australia submitted its Updated NDC to the UNFCCC.

The Australian NDC has not increased mitigation ambition, presenting exactly the same target of 2015 although mentioning that this is a floor and Australia is committed to overachieving it.

Considering modest advances on a few of the items of the NDCs We Want, the lack of enhanced mitigation targets and the responsibility and capacity of Australia, we conclude that its 2020 NDC has a Long Way to Go to become the NDC We Want.

Advances

Regarding adaptation, the 2020 NDC mentions domestic investments in natural resource management, water infrastructure, drought and disaster resilience and recovery, including climate science and adaptation research and services and informs that an adaptation communication will be presented before COP 26.

The updated NDC also presents national financial commitments to achieve a low carbon economy through Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap, the Emissions Reduction Fund and the Climate Solutions Package.

Australia's system of National Greenhouse Accounts, according to the NDC, has been designed to be among the most comprehensive, transparent and timely emissions reporting systems in the world. The Federal Government also has a discussion paper on its intention to have companies report on their Net Zero progress.

Gaps

The main gap is the lack of enhanced ambition. Both NDCs present the same target although the updated NDC mentions that the target "is a floor" and that the nation "is aiming to overachieve it". The NDC also states it won't count on past overachievement but does not explicitly rule out the use of Kyoto carryover credits.

WWF's NDC rating grades

 **NDC We Want**

 **Short Way to Go**

 **Some Way to Go**

 **Long Way to Go**

 **NDC We Don't Want**

WWF checklist for Australia's 2020 NDC assessment

Mitigation

Adaptation

Finance

Fostering system change

Inclusiveness and Participation

Contribution to Sustainable Development

Tracking progress

Australia's rating grade after assessment:  Long Way to Go

For more information

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