



NDC CHECKLIST

Australia Analysis

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

		2015 NDC	2020 NDC	Analysis
AMBITION				
MITIGATION				
1	Strengthened mitigation targets	The Australian Government intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. It is mentioned that the country will implement the 28 per cent target should circumstances allow, taking into account opportunities to reduce emissions and factors such as the costs of technology. The NDC mentions that this target is a significant progression beyond Australia's 2020 commitment to cut emissions by five per cent below 2000 levels (equivalent to 13 per cent below 2005 levels). The target approximately doubles Australia's rate of emissions reductions, and significantly reduces emissions per capita and per unit of GDP, when compared to the 2020 target.	The Australian Government intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. The updated submission mentions that this target is a floor on Australia's ambition and that the country is aiming to overachieve on this target, as newly-released emissions projections show Australia is on track to meet and beat its 2030 target without relying on past overachievement.	Both NDCs present the same mitigation target. Therefore, Australia has not raised its ambition although the updated NDC mentions that the target "is a floor" and that the nation "is aiming to overachieve". The updated NDC has also been deemed "insufficient" by the Climate Action Tracker, which means it's not aligned with 1.5°C.
2	An economy-wide absolute 2030 target	The NDC presents an economy-wide absolute 2030 target to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels. The absolute economy-wide emissions reduction by 2030 is to be developed into an emissions budget covering the period 2021-2030	The NDC presents an economy-wide absolute 2030 target to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.	Both NDCs present an economy-wide absolute 2030 target.
3	A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C	No carbon budget mentioned.	The NDC presents the reference indicator of an emissions budget for the period 2021-2030. The current indicative value of the emissions budget is 4832 – 4764 mt CO ₂ -e, corresponding to the 26 – 28 per cent target range, as published in Australia's emissions projections 2020.	A carbon budget was presented in the 2020 NDC. However, the respective 2030 target is not aligned with the a 1.5C trajectory, according to CAT (2021).

4	<p>NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net-Zero Long-term Strategy</p>	<p>It is mentioned that the Government will consider a potential long term emissions reduction goal for Australia, beyond 2030, taking into account international trends and technology developments.</p>	<p>The Australian Government mentions the ambition to achieve net zero emissions as soon as possible. The government claims that the Australia's Long Term Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy is under development, and will be submitted to the UNFCCC ahead of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).</p>	<p>The updated submission mentions the commitment to submit the LTS in 2021, before COP26. It does not present a net-zero target but it mentions an ambition to achieve net zero emissions as soon as possible. CAT (2021) informs that In August 2020, a forum comprised of business, farming, investment, union, social welfare and environmental sectors issued an extraordinary statement calling for the government to adopt a target for net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>
<p>ADAPTATION</p>				
5	<p>Clear adaptation objectives</p>	<p>The NDC mentions that the Australian Government is working to build climate resilience and support adaptation to climate change. Australia will develop a National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy during 2015.</p>	<p>The NDC states that the Australian Government is investing in climate adaptation to build resilience and adapt to the challenges of a changing climate, both domestically and in the region. At time of submission, the domestic investments include over \$15 billion in natural resource management, water infrastructure, drought and disaster resilience and recovery, including \$369 million in climate science and adaptation research and services. Australia is committed to developing an adaptation communication ahead of COP26 on our ongoing action and progress to the UNFCCC.</p>	<p>The 2020 NDC informs hat the country has been investing in climate adaptation domestically and also in the region; and that Australia is committed to presenting an adaptation communication before COP26.</p>

FINANCE				
6	Finance Commitments	<p>Australia's target is unconditional.</p> <p>It is mentioned that Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund supports Australian businesses to reduce emissions while improving productivity. The first auction under the Fund was held in April 2015, and successfully purchased over 47 million tonnes of abatement at an average price of AU\$13.95.</p>	<p>The NDC mentions several climate investment mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap, that will guide the deployment of an estimated \$18 billion of Australian Government investments over the period to 2030 and leverage a further \$50 billion of investment from the private sector, research institutions and the States and Territories. -Emissions Reduction Fund, that has been driving low-cost emissions reductions in all sectors of the economy has already delivered 60 million tonnes of abatement. -The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package to expand investments in clean energy generation projects, energy efficiency and other economy wide emissions reductions measures. It includes an additional \$2 billion for a Climate Solutions Fund to continue investment in low-cost abatement through the Emissions Reduction Fund and to support new and emerging low emissions technologies in relatively hard-to-reach sectors. <p>The NDC adds that The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) will continue to support investments in renewable energies while also expanding their focus to support emission reductions from hard-to-abate sectors Australia will continue to support reliable integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid. The CEFC will administer a \$1 billion Grid Reliability Fund to ensure sufficient reliable energy capacity is available to meet periods of high demand in the National Electricity Market.</p>	<p>The updated NDC presents national financial commitments to achieve a low carbon economy. However, no financial commitment to support developing countries is mentioned. In addition, the Technology Investment Roadmap Discussion Paper published in May 2020 advocates for natural gas and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, without ruling out support for coal and nuclear (CAT, 2021)</p>
7	Clear conditional targets	N/A	N/A	Australia's target is unconditional.
8	Moving from conditional to unconditional targets	N/A	N/A	Australia's target is unconditional.

FOSTERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

9	Increased sectoral coverage	Economy-wide sectoral coverage, including the sectors of energy; Industrial processes and product use; Agriculture; Land-use, land-use change and forestry; and Waste.	Economy-wide, including energy, Industrial processes and product use; Agriculture; Land-use, Land-use change and forestry (UNFCCC classifications); Waste.	Both NDCs present an economy-wide sectoral coverage.
10	Quantitative Sectoral targets	<p>It is mentioned that under Australia's Renewable Energy Target scheme, over 23 per cent of Australia's electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020.</p> <p>In addition, the Australian Government is commencing the development of a range of policies that will reduce emissions into the post-2020 period, including a National Energy Productivity Plan with a National Energy Productivity Target of a 40 per cent improvement between 2015 and 2030, the investigation of opportunities to improve the efficiency of light and heavy vehicles, and the enhanced management of synthetic greenhouse gas emissions under ozone protection laws and the Montreal Protocol. Australia has additional policy measures in place to promote the deployment of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency. Under Australia's Renewable Energy Target scheme, over 23 per cent of Australia's electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020.</p>	<p>The NDC states that in 2020 Australia is forecast to match or exceed the record 6.3 gigawatts of new renewable capacity installed in 2019; and that the National Energy Productivity Plan is on track to ensure energy productivity improves by 40 per cent over the period 2015 to 2030.</p> <p>In addition, the updated submission mentions a new Technology Co-Investment Fund to support businesses in the agriculture, manufacturing, industrial and transport sectors to adopt technologies that increase productivity and reduce emissions.</p>	Australia's NDCs presents quantitative sectoral targets for the energy sector.
11	Key structural sectors included	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not mention key structural sectors.
12	Just transition policies	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not provide information related to social and just transition policies.
13	Cross-sectoral approaches	The NDC mentions Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund, created to support Australian businesses to reduce emissions while improving productivity; and that the Government is finalising a Safeguard Mechanism to ensure emissions reductions purchased under the Fund are not offset by significant rises in emissions elsewhere in the economy.	The NDC mentions the Safeguard Mechanism, which establishes a legislated obligation for Australia's largest emitters to keep emissions below their baseline emissions limit. This extends to facilities across a broad range of sectors, accounting for about half of Australia's emissions.	Both NDCs mention the Safeguard Mechanism, focused on Australia's largest emitters to keep emissions below their baseline emissions limit; and that this extends to facilities across a broad range of sectors. However, the mechanism does not provide incentives for emissions reductions in the industry sector.

INCLUSIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION

14	Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design	It is mentioned that the Australian Government will in 2017-2018 undertake consultation to determine further post-2020 domestic emissions reduction policies. The Government will ensure that policies used in the post-2020 period are efficient and complementary with one another, and are appropriately calibrated towards achieving Australia's 2030 target.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not provide any information about processes to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design.
15	Disclosure of information	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not address disclosure of information in the NDC design and review process.
16	Reporting back on process	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not report back on inputs received in the NDC design and review process.
17	Participatory Climate governance structures	Not mentioned.	The NDC mentions that a Technology Investment Advisory Council comprising experts from business, investment and the research community will advise the development of annual Low Emissions Technology Statements, which will be tabled in Australia's Federal Parliament.	The 2020 NDC mentions a Technology Investment Advisory Council. However, it's not clear if civil society will be participating or how this body connects to the overall implementation of the NDC.

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18	Linkages with SDGs	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not present linkages with SDGs.
19	Measurable Nature-based Solutions	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not mention measurable nature-based solutions.

TRACKING PROGRESS

20	A transparent national system to track implementation	It is mentioned that Australia intends to apply 100 year Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) as contained in inventory reporting guidelines, currently IPCC Fourth Assessment Report 100 year GWPs, or as otherwise agreed; and that it intends to account based on UNFCCC inventory reporting categories using a net-net approach.	<p>The NDC mentions that Australia's system of National Greenhouse Accounts has been designed to be among the most comprehensive, transparent and timely emissions reporting systems in the world. Each year, Australia's national emissions are published disaggregated to the sub-national level (state and territory) and by industry. National emissions estimates are updated every quarter in the Quarterly Update of the Australian national greenhouse gas inventory. This is in addition to submitting its national greenhouse gas inventory to the UNFCCC. These data are made publicly available via an interactive database known as the Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System to promote transparency and encourage public scrutiny.</p> <p>The Federal Government has a discussion paper on its intention to have companies report on their Net Zero progress through the Clean Energy Regulator's Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency Report which will start in FY21.</p>	Australia's system of National Greenhouse Accounts reports annually the national emissions disaggregated to the sub-national level and by industry in a timely and transparent manner.
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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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