

## 1. What has been your advice, to the Government, if any, on the goal of net zero by 2050 or the achieving of that goal?

In February 2014 the Authority published a [Targets and Progress Review](#), recommending emissions reduction goals that would provide a clear course for action to 2020 and guidance beyond. For the period 2013–2050, the Authority recommended a national emissions budget of 10,100 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, based on what might be considered Australia's fair share of a global emissions budget. This emissions budget is broadly consistent with Professor Garnaut's 2008 review, which suggested that Australia should take on reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 90 per cent by 2050 below 2000 levels, in the context of global action giving an even (50 per cent) chance of staying below 2 degrees.

In March 2020, the Authority released [Prospering in a low-emissions world: An updated climate policy toolkit for Australia](#). This report outlines how Australia can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet its 2030 Paris Agreement target and subsequent, more ambitious targets; and prosper in a world transitioning to global net zero emissions. It includes 35 recommendations to that end, including that the Government:

- Develop a long-term climate change strategy that secures Australia's contribution to the achievement of the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement and ensures we make the most of the opportunities arising from the transition to a low-emissions global economy.
- Develop a trade and investment strategy that leverages Australia's competitive advantages in a net-zero emissions world.

In July 2020, the Authority released another report, [Economic recovery, resilience and prosperity after the coronavirus](#), which explores how economic stimulus measures could also reduce emissions, build future resilience and increase competitiveness in a global transition to net zero emissions.

This year the Authority is undertaking further self-initiated research and analysis into the trade and investment opportunities for Australia in a world transitioning to net zero emissions.

## 2. When was your last systematic review of Australia's climate goals and targets?

Prior to amendments made by the Parliament in 2015, the Authority was required to review, among other things: greenhouse gas emission caps, indicative national emissions trajectory and national carbon budget; and progress being made to reduce Australia's emissions to meet national targets.

The Authority's work now takes three main forms:

- regular reviews of legislation, as required under the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* (Cth) and the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (Cth);
- special reviews on matters relating to climate change requested by either the Minister responsible for climate change or by the Parliament (requiring a resolution agreed by both Houses); and
- self-initiated research on climate change matters.

In December 2014, the then Minister for the Environment requested a Special Review (under Part 3 of the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011* (Cth)). The Minister requested that the Authority consider, among other things, "what future emissions reduction targets Australia should commit to as part of an effective and equitable global effort to achieve the objective of the UNCCC (Article 2) or subsequent agreement to which Australia is a party". The Authority released its [Final Report on Australia's Future Emissions Reduction Targets](#) on 2 July 2015. This was followed by the final Special Review report, [Towards a climate policy toolkit: Special Review on Australia's climate goals and policies](#) in August 2016.