

**The Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020
and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation)
(Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020**

Submission by Graeme Martin

I am concerned and educated citizen that understands the science of climate change and the consequences of inadequate action to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. I first became aware of climate change through research at university literally 40 years ago. Throughout the last 40 years I have tracked the science of projections and unfolding impacts on global and Australian temperatures and extreme weather events. The science has improved over this time as has the awareness of general citizens. More recently it is heartening to see commercial businesses recognise the threat of climate change and the opportunities that it presents. It seems to me that politicians are the last category of decision makers to get on board.

It is imperative for the future prosperity and safety of Australia that the Australian Government takes serious action to reduce our national carbon pollution output by establishing a goal and policy of Net Zero by 2050. This policy will only be meaningful if backed by financial support and incentives for all industries to reduce their emissions.

Let us be very clear, the current government policies and investments fall way short of effective carbon pollution reduction to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Let's reflect on history, when John F Kennedy made his speech about landing a human on the Moon by the end of the decade, no one knew exactly how it would be achieved. It stimulated enormous innovation that not only achieved the goal but also created technical products and outcomes that we still benefit from today.

The Australian Government Net Zero by 2050 legislation should include regular 5 yearly reviews of outcomes and budgets. Implementation should be overseen by an independent Climate Change Commission that reports openly on actions taken and outcomes.

As the most recent report from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO (13 Nov 2020) highlights, Australia is already feeling the impact of climate change. It is therefore important that we also identify the risks to our country for built, natural and social assets and determine a roadmap of actions to address climate adaption and resilience.

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