



A strategic 100-day roadmap for accelerated energy transition



Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water

Climate Change and Energy

Government of Australia



Powering Australia's climate leadership: A strategic 100-day roadmap for accelerated energy transition

The second term of the Albanese led Labor government begins under heightened international and domestic scrutiny in the climate and energy portfolio. Australia is contending for a leadership role at COP31 alongside the Pacific, and investors expect policy certainty and ambitious action. Foundational legislation, including the Climate Change Act 2022, the Powering the Nation Plan, and the Capacity Investment Scheme, has been established, setting the stage for scaling up delivery and ambition

Key priorities include meeting the 82% renewable electricity target by 2030 and beginning to chart a course toward an ambitious 2035 emission reduction target, which Australia is due to set under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) this year. This effort builds on complementary frameworks such as the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and The Australian Safeguard Mechanism (SGM), which together provide guardrails for both adaptation and mitigation.

Following Labor's re-election, the government faces unprecedented domestic and international pressure to accelerate Australia's decarbonisation efforts. With strong prospects of co-hosting COP31 in 2026 alongside the Pacific Islands, Australia must demonstrate climate leadership while managing the complex transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The investment community has welcomed Labor's continuity. Still, it expects accelerated progress, particularly as economic damages from extreme climate events pose the most significant risk to sustainable returns for Australia's 15 million superannuation members.

Priority actions for first 100 days

1. Announce Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target

Set a target of 82% below 2005 levels by 2035, aligning with investor and OECD expectations to position Australia as a climate leader. Launch comprehensive consultations with states, industry, and civil society to ensure legitimacy and broad support for this ambitious target that will provide long-term policy certainty.

2. Fast-track grid transformation via rewiring the nation

Accelerate transmission investments in key interconnecting regions to support the 82% renewable energy target. This should be aligned with the objectives outlined in the National Energy Performance Strategy, which aims to reduce energy demand and improve system efficiency. Fast-track permitting and approval processes while maintaining social license through meaningful local community engagement and ensuring benefits flow to regional areas.

3. Expand the capacity investment scheme

Call for new competitive bidding rounds with priority focus on storage, firming, and grid-balancing technologies essential for grid stability. Prioritize First Nations-led renewable projects and community battery pilots to ensure equitable participation in the energy transition.

4. Refine the vehicle efficiency standard

Close existing regulatory loopholes in the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard and announce clear phase-out timelines for internal combustion engine vehicles. Coordinate implementation with expanded EV incentives and fuel efficiency benchmarks to accelerate transport sector decarbonisation.

5. Establish a "Net Zero by 2050" sector pathway blueprint

Finalise the six net zero sector plans for energy, transport industry, resources, the built environment and agriculture and land. These will build on the Climate Change Authority 2024 Sector Pathway Review and should include detailed interim targets and implementation roadmaps. Address technology development challenges including green iron production and practical barriers such as agricultural emissions reduction. These efforts should be integrated with Australia's circular economy initiatives and national waste reduction policies to ensure resource efficiency and cross-sectoral coherence.

6. Launch a national clean hydrogen investment roundtable

Reinvigorate Australia's green hydrogen pipeline by attracting public-private capital partnerships and addressing project development delays. Focus on leveraging Australia's renewable energy advantages to establish a globally competitive hydrogen industry.

7. Legislate climate reporting for major emitters

Strengthen the January 2025 mandatory climate disclosure regime with clear emissions-reduction obligations and accountability mechanisms. Ensure major emitters have transparent pathways to contribute to national emissions reduction goals while maintaining competitiveness.

8. Develop a just transition strategy for fossil fuel workers

Through the Net Zero Economy Authority and other mechanisms support worker retraining, redeployment opportunities, and regional economic diversification in coal-dependent communities. Ensure no worker or community is left behind in Australia's transition to clean energy.

9. Announce Australia's vision for COP31 co-hosting with the Pacific

Signal global climate leadership by outlining Australia's Pacific-centric climate diplomacy strategy for the 2026 conference. Use this platform to strengthen regional partnerships and demonstrate Australia's commitment to supporting Pacific Island climate resilience.

10. Coordinate with treasury on climate risk and budgeting

Begin systematically integrating climate risk assessment and adaptation metrics into federal budget planning processes. Address investor concerns about economic damages from extreme weather events by embedding climate considerations into all major government investment decisions.

This 100-day roadmap represents a critical juncture for Australia's climate leadership ambitions. By implementing these priority actions, the government can establish the momentum needed to achieve Australia's renewable energy targets while positioning the nation as a credible co-host for COP31.

Success will depend on balancing ambitious policy settings with practical implementation challenges, ensuring that workers and communities are supported through the transition, and maintaining the investor confidence necessary to finance Australia's clean energy transformation.

The roadmap's emphasis on grid modernisation, sectoral decarbonisation pathways, and international climate diplomacy reflects the interconnected nature of Australia's energy transition. With coordinated action across these ten priority areas, Australia can demonstrate that ambitious climate action and economic prosperity are compatible and mutually reinforcing in the race to net zero.