

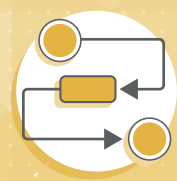
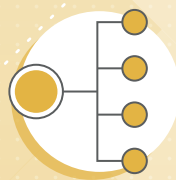
NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK



AUSTRALIA

MAKING AUSTRALIA'S 2020 NDC
UPDATE MORE TRANSPARENT

December 2020



CONTENTS

1**INTRODUCTION TO THE 'NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK' 3****2****SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4****3****DETAILED ASSESSMENT 8**

The NDC Transparency Check provides recommendations on what information countries should provide in their 2020 NDC Update to ensure its clarity, transparency, and understanding.

This is done by evaluating existing NDCs, and assessing information provided in the NDCs in terms of the information requirements for NDCs listed in Annex 1 of decision 4/CMA.1, under Article 4.8. of the Paris Agreement.

01

INTRODUCTION TO THE 'NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK'

The Paris Agreement was agreed in 2015 at the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 21), and came into force a year later¹.

The objective of the NDC Transparency Check is to provide a robust reference to assess whether the communication of Parties on the proposed mitigation in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is clear, transparent and understandable, in terms of the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement, its accompanying decision (1/CP.21) and the Annex to decision 4/CMA.1, which sets out the “information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding”.

Legally, the Annex is only binding from the second NDC onwards. However, Parties are “strongly encouraged” to apply the Annex to updated NDCs, due in 2020.

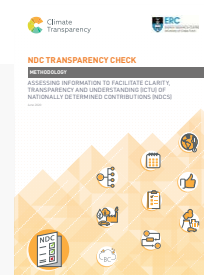
The Paris Agreement calls on all parties to submit updated and enhanced NDCs by 2020 in relation to the Paris Agreement's long-term goals, under the country's specific circumstances.

In this context, this assessment aims to provide methodological information to support this process, especially in relation to the clarity of the proposed mitigation outcomes. This could help not only to provide additional clarity on Australia's mitigation goals and their underlying policies and measures, but also provide clarity on the likely collective outcome of mitigation efforts committed to NDCs.

While the approach taken for this assessment is based on conformance with the Annex, this 'NDC Transparency Check' aims to assess both:

- i. Conformance of a country's NDC with the Katowice Rule Book, and;
- ii. The extent to which a country has provided additional information in relation to each element of the Annex which enhances clarity, transparency and understanding.

The detailed methodology as well as other assessment are available on: www.climate-transparency.org



¹ A possible exception is the United States of America, which is currently a signatory, but has started the withdrawal process from the Agreement, and is expected to withdraw formally in November 2020. Yet, president-elect Joe Biden announced that under his presidency the US will re-join the Paris Agreement.

02

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Australian government has expressed its intention to not revise its NDC target. It is also communicating the intention to use what it calls “overachievement” of the Kyoto Protocol targets over the first (2018-2012) and possibly second (2013-2020) commitment periods towards achievement of its target, in absence of policies consistent with achieving the targeted reduction, intending to use “carry over” surplus emission units from the Kyoto Protocol towards its Paris Agreement target. A number of other countries with such carry overs have explicitly rejected such a move which is considered not to be legitimate or defensible under the Paris Agreement. Carryover would significantly lower the actual emissions reductions.

Australia's 2015 NDC target consists of a reduction target of 26-28% of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

This assessment provides a detailed methodological analysis on the existing NDC and highlights the opportunities for a transparent and enhanced new NDC in 2020. It does not

provide an assessment of the level of ambition of the NDC, due to many analyses focused on it, including the Climate Transparency Report.

Analysis of the effect of the NDC on likely fossil fuel and industrial GHG emissions is made difficult by the fact that the NDC target includes LULUCF emissions, which have been substantial in the past and fluctuate significantly. In its NDC, Australia states it reserves the right to adjust its target “should the rules and other underpinning arrangements of the agreement differ in a way that materially impacts the definition of our target.” This adds high uncertainty to Australia's contribution to the Paris Agreement.

To assess the quality of the target communicated through the NDC, the Paris Agreement requires transparency of the NDC (decision 4/CMA.1). Australia is required to provide information about 7 categories to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding.

Based on this assessment, it is urgently needed that Australia provides more transparency with its upcoming NDC update, due end 2020 to enhance the conformance with ICTU elements required in terms of decision 4/CMA.1 of the Paris Agreement.

An assessment of the NDC target can be found in the Climate Transparency Report: www.climate-transparency.org
A detailed analysis is provided by the Climate Action Tracker: www.climateactiontracker.org

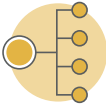



Australia's 2015 NDC target






26-28%

reduction of greenhouse gasses by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

To enhance the transparency of its 2020 NDC Update, Australia should implement the following key recommendations (further information on the recommendations can be drawn from the detailed assessment below):

ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update 2020
 Reference point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base year emissions are not specified in the NDC. The 2005 reference indicator is therefore only indirectly related to the target against which Australia will account. The NDC specifies that the target will “be developed into an emissions budget covering the period 2021-2030” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify base year emissions, given they are revised frequently with updated inventories, leading to changes in the quantification of the ambition level. Specify the budget approach.
 Time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeframe stated as 2021-2030. No specific implementation period stated. The NDC specifies that the target will “be developed into an emissions budget covering the period 2021-2030” 	Specify implementation period and budget approach with periodic milestones targets for emissions reductions.
 Scope and Coverage	Australia's NDC will cover all categories etc in their national inventory report, which includes seven gases, and all sectors. Specific detail is not provided on coverage of the land sector.	Provide details on the land sector.
 Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's NDC does not report on the planning process for developing its NDC, nor on any public engagement or stakeholder processes. Little information on policies and measures to implement the NDC. Limited information is included on national circumstances relevant to the NDC target, including that Australia as a growing population and economy and is a “leading global resource provider”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details on planning process and public engagement in developing NDC Update, ensuring buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders. Exclude/rule-out use of carry-over units from Kyoto-Protocol, as this would not be legitimate under the Paris Agreement and would lower the level of ambition, where it needs to be ratcheted up. Additionally, provide more details on how Australia will meet the target with policies and implementation measures. Provide additional background on national circumstances, including opportunities for becoming a leading global renewable energy provider. Provide information on how to address a just transition towards decarbonisation.

ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update 2020
 Assumptions, and methodological approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited information on land sector accounting is provided. • No information on the use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the PA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide detailed information on land sector accounting. • Preferably define a target for energy/industry emissions excluding LULUCF. • Provide clear information on use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6.
 Fairness and ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia provides no substantive grounds for the assertion that their target is fair and comparable to those of other advanced economies. • There is no reference to a mitigation potential analysis, or the provision of other grounds to substantiate this • The target is placed within the context of a 2 degree global target, but there are no grounds provided to demonstrate this, and this is not consistent with the Paris Agreement Long-Term Temperature goal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional ground for the assertion that their target is fair and comparable to those of other advanced economies including (or linking to) mitigation potential analysis and details on links between 1.5 temperature limit of the Paris Agreement/Long-Term Temperature Goal of the Paris Agreement and own contribution. • The level of ambition clearly needs to be ratcheted up to be in line with the Paris Agreement Long-Term Temperature Goal, and in line with consistent scientific advice. <p>(The target was set against the scientific advice received at the time by the Climate Change Authority established by the Australian Government).</p>
 Contribution to UNFCCC Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC refers to the objective of the Convention but then links this to the former “stay below 2 degree C” goal, which is not consistent with the Paris Agreement. • Australia states in its NDC that it is a “contribution” to “global efforts toward meeting the objective of the UNFCCC with the goal of limiting global average temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius”, but does not provide any further information to substantiate this. • There is no reference to a net zero emissions goal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide reference to Article 2 and link this to the Paris Agreement Long-Term Temperature goal. • Provide further details to substantiate contribution to global temperature goals in the Paris Agreement and in the UNFCCC. • Provide references to net zero GHG emissions goal. “Set a net zero emission goal”, with references to a sustainable strategy to achieve goal, with policies and implementation measures. Zero emissions goal should similarly be in line with the 1.5 degrees global target. Include a timeframe for implementation.

03 DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Note: The following assessment has been done on the basis of the Annex to 4/CMA.1, but it needs to be noted that Australia's NDC assessed below was submitted before the Annex was agreed.

Australia's NDC was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016. The NDC assessed is Australia's NDC as contained in the UNFCCC's interim NDC registry, as submitted on 9 November 2016: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Australia%20First/Australias%20Intended%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20to%20a%20new%20Climate%20Change%20Agreement%20-%20August%202015.pdf>

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 1. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year):			
(a) reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Reference year(s) – including for reduction against a baseline <input type="radio"/> Base year(s) <input type="radio"/> Reference period(s) <input type="radio"/> other starting point(s)	Australia's NDC target is a reduction of 26-28% of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. Hence a base year of 2005. The NDC also states that the target is type is "absolute economy-wide emissions reduction by 2030, to be developed into an emissions budget covering the period 2021-2030". It is implied but not stated that Australia will account for its NDC against this emissions budget rather than against its NDC target for 2030. It is not clear how this development of a budget will occur. The 2005 reference indicator is therefore only indirectly related to the target against which Australia will account.
(b) Quantifiable information on the reference indicators, their values in the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s), and, as applicable, in the target year; (If 1 (c) is completed, this is not applicable)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Quantified – in CO ₂ or CO ₂ -eq or in other emissions units <input type="radio"/> Quantified – other units <input checked="" type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in CO ₂ or CO ₂ -eq <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in other units <input type="radio"/> No quantifiable information	Base year emissions are not specified in the NDC. It is implied in its NDC that Australia will use an inventory-based approach to estimate emissions for the base year.
(c) For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or policies and measures as components of nationally determined contributions where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties to provide other relevant information; (If 1(b) is completed, this is not applicable, unless a country has provided policies and measures as well)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference points for relevant quantified goals for specific PAMs. <input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference point for qualitative goals for PAMs with non-quantified goals.	Not applicable to Australia's NDC.
(d) Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example in percentage or amount of reduction;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> % reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> % reduction from BAU <input type="radio"/> % intensity reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> Other	Australia's NDC target is defined as a 26-28% reduction against 2005 emissions levels by 2030, with the provisions listed above.
(e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	Source: <input checked="" type="radio"/> GHG inventory <input type="radio"/> Reference to underlying data sources <input type="radio"/> Other studies Enhanced conformance – traceability: <input type="radio"/> Source readily found	The NDC specifies that an inventory-based approach will be used.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(f) Information on the circumstances under which the Party may update the values of the reference indicators.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	GHG inventory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> How values may be updated <input type="radio"/> When Baseline projections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the baseline will be updated, when and why. Intensity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> If, whether and how the country will update its intensity reference indicator. 	No information is provided on this, but since the base year value will be sourced from the NIR, recalculations will result in updating of the reference indicator. See also the note above on converting the target into an emissions budget. Australia also "reserves the right to adjust our target and its parameters before it is finalised under a new global agreement should the rules and other underpinning arrangements of the agreement differ in a way that materially impacts the definition of our target."



2. Time frames and/or periods for implementation:

(a) Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date, consistent with any further relevant decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA);	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 5 years <input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 10 years <input type="radio"/> Other stated time frame <input checked="" type="radio"/> Start date: 2021 <input checked="" type="radio"/> End date: 2030	Timeframe stated as 2021-2030. No specific implementation period stated.
(b) Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Single-year target <input type="radio"/> Multi-year target	Australia's NDC states that the target is a single-year target, which may be "developed" into an emissions budget corresponding to the period 2021-30.



3. Scope and coverage:

(a) General description of the target	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Key goals of the target – emissions reduction/limitation, intensity, BAU reduction, PAMs, mitigation co-benefits, in quantitative or qualitative terms. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Time frame, period of implementation, target year(s).	Australia's NDC target is a reduction of 26-28% of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. Hence a base year of 2005. The NDC also states that the target is type is "absolute economy-wide emissions reduction by 2030, to be developed into an emissions budget covering the period 2021-2030".
---------------------------------------	--	--	--

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(b) Sectors, gases, categories and pools covered by the nationally determined contribution, including, as applicable, consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	Sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy IPPU AFOLU – specified separately for land use and agriculture LULUCF (if specified separately from above) Agriculture (if specified separately from above) Waste Other Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Categories and sub-categories used for each sector above in the NDC Gases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide: CO₂ Methane: CH₄ Nitrous oxide: N₂O Perfluorocarbons: PFCs Hydrofluorocarbons: HFC Sulphur hexafluoride: SF₆ Nitrogen trifluoride: NF₃ Pools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboveground biomass Belowground biomass Dead wood Litter Soil organic matter 	Australia's NDC will cover all categories etc in their national inventory report, which includes seven gases, and all sectors. Specific detail is not provided on coverage of the land sector.
(c) How the Party has taken into consideration paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21; ("(c) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it"; (d) Parties shall provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded");	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison of categories of anthropogenic emissions and removal included in previous NDC and current NDCs. Explanation for the omission of any categories. 	Australia's previous commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol covered all categories (in different ways). This is not explicitly stated in the NDC.
(d) Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	Economic diversification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Efficiency Renewable energy Carbon Capture and Utilization/Storage Utilization of gas Methane recovery and flare minimization Other Adaptation actions with mitigation co-benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and waste-water management Urban planning Marine Protection Reduced desertification Other Mitigation co-benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated – yes / no Quantified In t CO₂-eq 	Not applicable.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 4. Planning processes:			
(a) Information on the planning processes that the Party undertook to prepare its nationally determined contribution and, if available, on the Party's implementation plans, including, as appropriate:			
(i) Domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Domestic institutional arrangements: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided Public participation and engagement: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided Information on stakeholder engagement: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Information on engagement with local communities provided <input type="radio"/> Information on engagement with indigenous peoples provided <input type="radio"/> Information on other stakeholder engagement provided Does the country report on whether the NDC process was conducted in a gender-responsive manner?: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided	Australia's NDC does not report on the planning process for developing its NDC, nor on any public engagement or stakeholder processes.
((i).cont.) ..if available, information provided on a Party's implementation plans;		Implementation plans: <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided Enhanced conformance: <input type="radio"/> Detailed information on how implementation plans will achieve the objectives of its NDC.	Australia's NDC provides a little information on policies and measures to implement the NDC without quantifying how these support achieving the 2030 target.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) Contextual matters, including, inter alia, as appropriate:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<p>a. Inclusion of relevant national circumstances, such as geography, climate, economy, sustainable development and poverty eradication</p> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided	Limited information is included on national circumstances relevant to the NDC target, including that Australia as a growing population and economy and is a "leading global resource provider". No information is provided on experiences and best practices in developing the NDC.
(b) Specific information applicable to Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of the agreement, in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p><input type="radio"/> Terms of the agreement to act jointly.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Emission level allocated to each Party within the relevant time period</p> <p>Enhanced conformance:</p> <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of the basis for burden-sharing within the REIO.	Not applicable to Australia.
(c) How the Party's preparation of its nationally determined contribution has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<p>Information on how the previous global stock-take (GST) informed the NDC:</p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	No information included on this.
(d) Each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement to submit information on:			
(i) How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the NDC.	Not applicable.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) Specific projects, measures and activities to be implemented to contribute to mitigation co-benefits, including information on adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover, but are not limited to, key sectors, such as energy, resources, water resources, coastal resources, human settlements and urban planning, agriculture and forestry; and economic diversification actions, which may cover, but are not limited to, sectors such as manufacturing and industry, energy and mining, transport and communication, construction, tourism, real estate, agriculture and fisheries.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p>The NDC contains information on specific projects, measures and activities for adaptation which mitigation co-benefits in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Energy resources <input type="radio"/> Water resources <input type="radio"/> Coastal resources <input type="radio"/> Human settlements <input type="radio"/> Urban planning <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and forestry <input type="radio"/> Other <p>Specific projects, measures and activities for economic diversification actions in sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Manufacturing and industry <input type="radio"/> Energy and mining <input type="radio"/> Transport and communication <input type="radio"/> Construction, tourism <input type="radio"/> Real estate <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and fisheries <input type="radio"/> Other 	Not applicable.



5. Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals:

(a) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals corresponding to the Party's nationally determined contribution, consistent with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, and accounting guidance adopted by the CMA;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A general description of the accounting approach. <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of how the country will account for the land sector in its NDC.	<p>Australia states in its NDC that it will use an UNFCCC inventory-based approach for accounting for emissions and removals using a net-net approach. No further detail is provided on the land sector, other than i) Australia "will apply IPCC guidance for treatment of natural disturbances and variation", and will use IPCC 2006 guidelines and IPCC 2013 Good Practice Guidance.</p> <p>Australia's NDC assumes that accounting provisions under the Paris agreement will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the integrity of the agreement by ensuring claimed emissions reductions are genuine and are not double counted; and • Recognise emissions reductions from all sectors.
(b) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures or strategies in the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided	Not applicable.
(c) If applicable, information on how the Party will take into account existing methods and guidance under the Convention to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 14, of the Paris Agreement, as appropriate;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will use existing methods and guidance. <input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will not use existing methods and guidance. <input type="radio"/> The country has not provided any information on this.	No information provided on this.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(d) IPCC methodologies and metrics used for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The country has specified in their NDC whether they have used 1996 or 2006 IPCC guidelines for estimating emissions and removals, and/or other IPCC guidance. ● The country has specified which GWP values it is using (from which IPCC assessment report). ● The NDC target is not expressed in GHG emissions terms, and contains no relevant information on GHG emissions (not applicable). 	Australia's NDC states that it will use IPCC 2006 guidelines and IPCC 2013 Good Practice Guidance, "or as otherwise agreed", and GWPs from the IPCC's AR4 "or as otherwise agreed".
(e) Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approaches consistent with IPCC guidance, as appropriate, including, as applicable:			
(i) Approach to addressing emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to addressing emissions and removals on managed lands reported in the NDC. ● No information included in the NDC. 	"Australia will apply IPCC guidance for treatment of natural disturbance and variation". No more detail is provided.
(ii) Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to harvested wood products reported. ● No information included in the NDC. 	No information on this.
(iii) Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to age-class structure in forests reported. ● No information included in the NDC. 	No mention of age class structures in forests.
(f) Other assumptions and methodological approaches used for understanding the nationally determined contribution and, if applicable, estimating corresponding emissions and removals, including:			
(i) How the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including, where applicable, sector-, category- or activity-specific reference levels, are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No ● n/a 	<p>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a reference level, including emissions reference levels, base years, intensity targets etc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Method for estimating the reference level. ● Sources of data, as applicable. <p>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a baseline scenario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Base year ● Key assumptions (GDP, population, etc) ● Methodology (analytical tool) and ● Resulting projection at least up to the end year ● Data sources 	Australia's reference level will be calculated on the basis of its GHG inventory. No further information on land sector accounting is provided other than this.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) For Parties with nationally determined contributions that contain non-greenhouse-gas components, information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components, as applicable;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	Assumptions and methodologies for non-GHG components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Quantified in a manner where mitigation outcomes are clear. <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable, but requiring assumptions to understand mitigation outcomes. <input type="radio"/> Not quantifiable. 	Not applicable.
(iii) For climate forcers included in nationally determined contributions not covered by IPCC guidelines, information on how the climate forcers are estimated;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The NDC includes black carbon, and includes information on how it is estimated. <input type="radio"/> The NDC includes other short-lived climate forcers, and information on how these are estimated. 	Not applicable.
(iv) Further technical information, as necessary;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	Further information provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Applicable 	Not applicable. Australia's NDC would be sufficiently transparent if information specified in other provisions were provided.
(g) The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to participate in Article 6 activities during the NDC implementation period. <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to use ITMOs to achieve its NDC. Enhanced conformance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The extent to which the target depends on use of ITMOs. 	No information in the NDC on this.



6. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances:

(a) How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances;	Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Ambitious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is fair. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is ambitious. 	Australia asserts that its NDC is "an ambitious, fair and responsible contribution to global efforts toward meeting the objective of the UNFCCC with the goal of limiting global average temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius". The grounds it provides for this are that the target provides for rapid reductions in emissions per capita and emissions intensity, that the reduction rate will be twice what was required in its previous target, and "...across a range of metrics, Australia's target is comparable to the targets of other advanced economies". No further grounds (or any of the metrics in question) are provided.
---	---	---	--

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
b) Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No 	<p>The country has provided in its NDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● References to equity analyses by international experts. ● References to equity analyses by in-country experts. ● References to indicators found in equity literature. ● References to the application of preferred equity indicators to other countries. 	Australia provides no substantive grounds for the assertion that their target is fair and comparable to those of other advanced economies. References to equity indicators such as emissions per capita are made only in reference to relative improvement for Australia. Australia does appeal to its "unique national circumstances" – having a growing population, "role as a leading global resource provider", and its existing energy infrastructure.
(c) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement; ("Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.");	<p>Progression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No <p>Ambition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No <p>CBDRRRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No 	<p>Progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NDC contains a statement that the mitigation target in NDC is more stringent than the country's previous NDC or emissions target under the Convention or Kyoto Protocol. ● If a developing country, the target type has changed to an economy-wide absolute emissions target, and/or more sectors have been included in the target. ● An assessment of progression is provided, with reference to mitigation potential analyses. <p>Highest possible ambition, referring to 6 (a) above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A reference to ambition in terms of the 1.5 °C limit. ● A reference to ambition in terms of the "well below 2 °C" limit. ● A reference to a national mitigation potential analysis. ● An explanation in terms of national circumstances for the level of ambition chosen, with reference to the national mitigation potential analysis. <p>Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances (CBDRRRC-ILONDC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explanation of ambition in terms of common but responsibilities and respective capabilities. ● Explanation of ambition in terms of national circumstances. ● None. 	Australia states that its NDC target is significantly more stringent than its previous targets (under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol), but there is no reference to a mitigation potential analysis, or the provision of other grounds to substantiate this. The target is placed within the context of a 2 degree global target, but there are no grounds provided to demonstrate this.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(d) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement; ("Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances");	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Developed country NDCs – reference to leadership via economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. <input type="radio"/> Developing country NDCs – reference to enhancing their mitigation efforts. <input type="radio"/> Developing country NDCs – timing to move to an economy-wide emission reduction or limitation target indicated.	No reference to this.
(e) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement. ("The least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions developing reflecting their special circumstances");	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	NDCs of LDCs and SIDS: <input type="radio"/> Fairness addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. <input type="radio"/> Ambition addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. <input type="radio"/> Neither of the above.	Not applicable.



7. How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:

(a) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> The NDC refers to Article 2 of the Convention in relation to mitigation ambition. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how it contributes to the reduction of emissions in terms of Article 2 of the Convention. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how natural sinks are being maintained and enhanced.	No reference to Article 2 of the Convention.
(b) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to the peaking year – either when it occurred or when it is projected to be. <input type="radio"/> For countries whose emissions have peaked, the NDC provides grounds for the NDC target being consistent with "rapid reductions thereafter". <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to a national policy goal of net zero emissions, and by which year. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains a clear link between the Paris Agreement's Article 2.1(a) and the country's NDC.	Australia states in its NDC that it is a "contribution" to "global efforts toward meeting the objective of the UNFCCC with the goal of limiting global average temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius", but does not provide any further information to substantiate this. There is no reference to a net zero emissions goal.

For questions, please contact

Ursula Fuentes

Climate Analytics, Australia Office
ursula.fuentes@climateanalytics.org

Sebastian Wegner

International Secretariat of Climate Transparency
swegner@governance-platform.org

Acknowledgements

A particular thanks goes to Andrew Marquard and Harald Winkler (University of Cape Town) for leading the development of the methodology of this assessment.

For further details please refer to the methodology which can be downloaded under www.climate-transparency.org.



Climate Analytics Australia: Climate Analytics was formed in 2008 to bring cutting edge science and policy analysis to bear on one of the most pressing global problems of our time: human-induced climate change. As the urgency of this problem has grown, so have we. Our office in Australia was established in 2017 to expand our work on international climate policy, focusing on the development of climate policy and energy transformation strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region.



Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate a "race to the top" in climate action in G20 countries through enhanced transparency. It convenes partners from Argentina (Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales), Australia (Climate Analytics), Brazil (CentroClima/COPPE UFRJ), China (Energy Research Institute), France (The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), Germany (Germanwatch HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, NewClimate Institute), India (The Energy and Resources Institute), Indonesia (Institute for Essential Service Reform), Japan (The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies), Mexico (Iniciativa Climática de México), South Africa (Energy Research Center/University of Cape Town) and the UK (Overseas Development Institute).

Climate Transparency is funded by the ClimateWorks Foundation, European Climate Foundation, The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the World Bank.

www.climate-transparency.org