

Upcoming climate events and news

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Australian  
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## ANU Climate News & Events

December 2020

Dear Paris

With Joe Biden's win in the US election, the global landscape around climate action has shifted again. On top of the recent announcements of net zero emissions targets from China, Japan and South Korea, President Elect Biden has committed the US to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and his incoming administration is planning a raft of strategies to address climate change.

Taken together with existing EU net zero commitments, these countries account for well over two thirds of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In Australia, one of the arguments used against more ambitious GHG reduction targets has been that what we do makes very little difference when the rest of the world is continuing to pollute. However we are now becoming one of the outlier nations with Commonwealth plans to apparently continue net emissions of GHGs post 2050.

In the lead up to the UN climate negotiations in 2021, COP26, Australia will come under increasing international pressure to do more on climate

change. Setting a 2050 net zero target, whilst obviously a step in the right direction, will need to be accompanied by economy wide measures to reduce emissions across every sector, not just energy, but also agriculture, transport, health and manufacturing to name just a few. These measures could also provide new economic opportunities for communities and industries across Australia – part of a much-needed diversification. It could also avoid potential border carbon taxes that may be imposed on our exports.

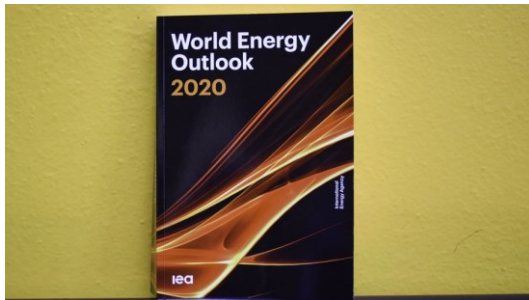
The Climate Change Institute recently co-hosted a public lecture with the UK High Commission "[Delivering on the Paris Climate Agreement - Pathway to Glasgow](#)" - if you're interested in international climate action, I'd encourage you to watch the recording as it discussed what is possible with the right policy settings. I'd also like to highlight a couple of upcoming December events: the Energy Change Institute's annual flagship event [Energy Update](#) will take place on 3 Dec and on 15 Dec we will also be discussing how we can [prepare for the unprecedented natural disasters](#) that we know are coming by implementing the findings of the Bushfire Royal Commission.

Finally thank you for your continuing engagement around climate and energy issues in 2020, a year like no other. We wish you a very happy, safe and not-too-hot summer break and we look forward to more in-person engagement in 2021.

Regards,

Professor Mark Howden  
Director, Climate Change Institute

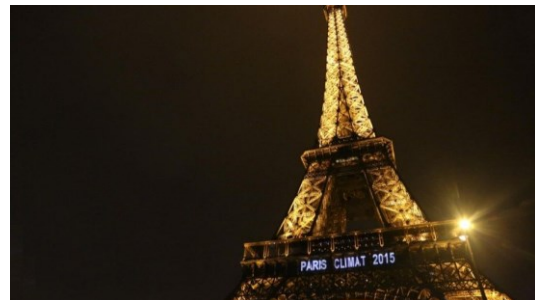
**Online events**



## **ANU Energy Update 2020**

Thurs 3 Dec, 12pm - 2pm

[More details](#)



## **Promoting Collaboration for International Climate Ambition: How government and youth can work together in international climate spaces**

Thurs 3 Dec, 6pm (AEDT)

[More details](#)



## **The future of US climate policy under a Biden administration: Some implications for Australia**

Fri 4 Dec, 10am - 11:30am

[More details](#)



## **Energy Leadership and Australia's Energy Transition**

Wed 9 Dec, 5pm - 6pm

[More details](#)



## **Electricity Storage Economics: Contemporary Developments**

Thurs 10 Dec, 10am - 11am

[More details](#)

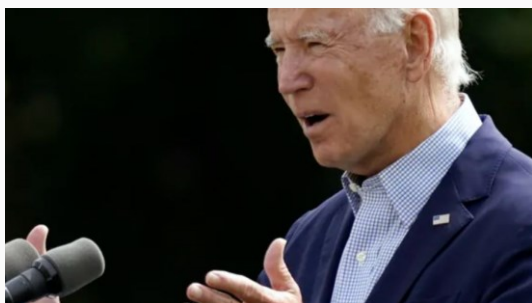


## **Preparing for the unprecedented: implementation of the Report of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements**

Tues 15 Dec, 12pm

[More details](#)

## **News**



## **Biden says the US will rejoin the Paris climate agreement in 77 days. Then Australia will really feel the heat**

*By Dr Christian Downie, The Conversation,  
6 November*

When the US formally left the Paris climate

agreement, Joe Biden tweeted that “in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it”. While diplomacy via Twitter looks here to stay, global climate politics is about to be upended — and the impacts will be felt at home in Australia if Biden delivers on his plans.

[Read more](#)



## **Scott Morrison accused of climate inaction as new poll shows support for stronger emissions targets**

*Featuring Dr Bec Colvin, SBS News,  
23 November*

Labor says the government is ignoring a clear majority of Australians who - according to a new poll - support stronger action on emissions reduction.

[Read more](#)



## **Australia running out of time to meet Paris commitments, expert warns**

*Featuring Prof Mark Howden, The Herald Sun,  
12 November*

Australia has just nine years before exceeding its Paris Accord commitments at current emission rates, a leading climate expert has warned.

[Read more](#)



## **With climate change likely to make Canberra's pollen season worse, expert calls for better monitoring**

*Featuring Prof Simon Harbele, The Canberra Times, 16 November*

With global warming likely to make Canberra's pollen season worse, an expanded network of monitoring stations would help authorities make better public health warnings for people with hay fever and asthma, the city's leading pollen expert says.

[Read more](#)



## **Pandemic food crisis threatens Indo-Pacific food security**

*Featuring research co-produced with ANU researchers, ACIAR, 10 November*

The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to spark a regional food crisis, according to a new report released by the Australian Government's specialist agricultural research-for-development agency.

[Read more](#)



## **Vietnam pioneers post-pandemic carbon pricing**

*By Dr Thang Nam Do, East Asia Forum, 19 November*

On 17 November, Vietnam's National Assembly passed the revised Law on Environmental Protection legalising an emission trading scheme. The law will take effect on 1 January 2022. This policy is expected to strengthen Vietnam's commitment to greenhouse gas



emission reductions under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

[Read more](#)



## Batteries in the burbs: exploring the potential

*By Dr Lachlan Blackhall, Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program, 24 November*

A team at the Australian National University has undertaken a significant project to explore the potential benefits of community batteries, as well as the attitudes of residents towards them. Here, they share some of their findings and explore the next steps for the energy industry.

[Read more](#)

## Event recordings



### Reducing emissions on the land: incentives and regulation

Honorary Professor Howard Bamsey, Dr Christian Downie and Shayleen Thompson, Executive General Manager at the Clean Energy Regulator, reflect on developing policies for land-based carbon offsets, such as the Federal Governments Carbon Farming Initiative, and the lessons for modern policymakers.

[Watch here](#)



### ANU Solar Oration 2020: Prof Mark Z Jacobson

Global warming, air pollution, and energy insecurity are three of the greatest problems facing the world. This talk discusses technical and economic roadmaps designed to address these issues and how the outcome of the U.S. election will affect the implementation of the roadmaps.

[Watch here](#)



**Knowledge to action and action to  
knowledge: how collaborative processes can  
address climate change**

Complex issues like climate change require people with different types of knowledge and experience applying their insights to develop solutions. In this panel session we discussed three case studies to demonstrate how these collaborative processes can work in practice and what are the ingredients for success.

[Watch here](#)



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

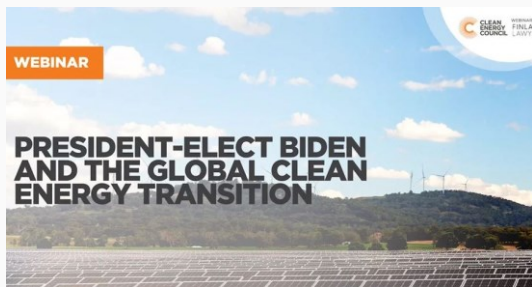
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

**Delivering on the Paris Climate Agreement -  
looking ahead to Glasgow**

On 12 December, 2015, the Paris Climate Agreement was signed by 197 countries, representing every nation on Earth. Now, almost five years later, how is the world tracking to meet the targets set out in the agreement? In this event, we heard from Special Envoys for COP 26 from both the UK and Italy, and Prof Frank Jotzo.

[Watch here](#)





### **President-elect Biden and the global transition to clean energy**

This webinar features a panel of global and Australian policy experts, including Prof Frank Jotzo, as they explore the impact that a Biden presidency will have on climate and energy policy in Australia and around the world.

[Watch here](#)



### **COVID-19: Impacts of a global pandemic on our energy system**

Join Australia's leading academics and experts, including Prof Frank Jotzo, to hear about the COVID-19 implications for our electricity and gas market trends along with our energy consumption and the broader energy transition.

[Watch here](#)

## **Videos and podcasts**



### **A post-carbon world: Policy Forum podcast**

Can we use economics to solve climate change?

In this second episode of the Policy Forum Pod mini-series on the wellbeing economy, top climate experts Mark Howden and Tim Hollo join Sharon Bessell and Arnagretta Hunter.

[Listen here](#)



### **Renewable energy in Australia - a phenomenal success story**

Driven initially by the establishment of a renewable energy target, followed by the dramatic drop in the price of solar and wind technology and the increasing enthusiasm of state governments, green electricity has proved unstoppable. This Rear Vision podcast features Dr Matthew Stocks and Prof Andrew Blakers.

[Listen here](#)

### **Other news**

[ANU Bushfire Impact team to be awarded the Sidney Sax Medal](#), featuring work by The Australian National University, 19 Nov

[Preparing for flooding and cyclones in the time of COVID-19: Summary report](#), authored by Dr Steven Crimp, 9 November

[Householders making Australia a Distributed Energy Resources superpower](#), featuring Dr Lachlan Blackhall, 20 Nov

[Toward a socially just transition to low carbon development: the case of Indonesia](#), co-authored by Dr Abidah Setyowati and Dr Lorraine Elliot, Asian Affairs, 18 Nov

[Anthony Albanese is running out of time to solve Labor's climate crises. He needs a plan that works for two Australias](#), by Prof Mark Kenny, The Conversation, 23 Nov

[Bushfires drive mental, respiratory health increases: report](#), featuring research by The Australian National University, Croakey, 25 November

[8 ways climate change is already impacting you](#), featuring Prof Mark Howden, Mashable, 20 November

[Morrison might abandon Kyoto carryover, but Australia will remain friendless without stronger policies](#),

featuring Prof Frank Jotzo, Renew Economy, 20 November

[Dreamy EV rollout or nightmare for the grid: All-Energy panel](#), featuring Dr Bjorn Sturmborg, Ecogeneration, 17 Nov

[Morrison to feel the heat as U.S. turns to clean energy future](#), featuring Prof Frank Jotzo, PV Magazine, 20 Nov

[Australia, US centuries apart on net zero emissions goals](#), featuring Prof Mark Howden, The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 Nov

[President Biden will send a very different climate wind our way](#), by Prof Frank Jotzo, Australian Financial Review, 10 Nov

[As Australia's climate plans lag on the G20 stage, experts say we can no longer 'hide in the shadows'](#), featuring Dr Christian Downie, 18 Nov

[Climate forecasting tips tougher ag outlook](#), featuring Dr Steven Crimp, Farm Weekly, 6 Nov

[Learning from COVID-19 to strengthen food and nutrition security in the Indo-Pacific](#), by Dr Robyn Alders, Dr Steve Crimp, Dr Lisa Robins, Federico Davila, and Dr Michael Bourke, DevPolicy blog, 26 Oct

## Other initiatives and events

[Expressions of interest open - Anne Kantor Young Women Environmentalists Fellowship](#)

[Promoting Collaboration for International Climate Ambition: How government and youth can work together in international climate spaces](#), online event, Thurs 3 Dec 6 - 7:30pm AEDT

[Australian Youth for International Climate Engagement Working Group](#), Facebook page

[Victoria's Climate 101 - A short animation of the latest science on our changing weather patterns](#), by Agriculture Victoria



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