



# CROW Newsletter

Making a noise about climate change

August, 2021

## Wagga community net zero by 2050 – getting ready to have a say.

### Next step for Council - creating and enacting a COMMUNITY net zero emission Strategy

As we've pointed out, Wagga Council recently took the important step of setting a net zero emissions target for its own **corporate** emissions by 2040 and for the much larger emissions of the Wagga **community** by 2050.

This step became possible through the community calling for net zero emissions and action on climate change in a consultation at the end of last year. So THANK YOU to all of you who made submissions for that consultation.

Council has committed to developing a strategy this financial year for achieving its net zero emissions target for its own corporate emissions (yeah!).

But Council needs to be encouraged to develop a strategy for its role in achieving the net zero target for the much (20 times) larger community emissions. In a few months the community will have a chance to provide input into the Community Strategic Plan, which is really the biggest consultation the Council does (about every four years).

We hope you will learn with us about the benefits of moving towards net zero emissions as a whole community - including cheaper power and transport – and how it can be achieved and the role Council can play, so that we can persuasively communicate these things to Council in the upcoming consultation.

We expect to be able to let you know about a webinar on these issues for Wagga in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, the NSW government has created a useful webpage called “The net zero emissions journey for local councils” with some good recent resources. If anyone would like to help to get our head around such resources and examples from leading councils, and perhaps help prepare briefing notes for Wagga residents to make submissions, please let William Adlong know ([ausadlong@gmail.com](mailto:ausadlong@gmail.com)).

## IPCC Report

The sixth Assessment Report (AR 6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was released on August 10. (This is the report from Working Group I (WG I)– focussed on the science. The other two working groups (Social/economic/natural consequences and Mitigation strategies) will be released next year.)

The Climate Council summarised the main points of the report as:

- The most important climate science update for almost a decade shows **there is a narrow path to avoiding climate catastrophe, but only through immediate, deep and sustained emissions reductions**. This may be our final warning.

- **Climate change is already wreaking havoc around the world**, with worse to come. Our decisions this decade will be the difference between a liveable future for today's young people, and a future that is incompatible with well-functioning human societies.
- **Every choice and every fraction of a degree of avoided warming matters.** The right choices will be measured in lives, livelihoods, species and ecosystems saved. The benefits of stronger action will be realized well within our lifetimes, and even more so for our children and grandchildren.

More details [here](#).

### Here are some of the press reports that followed

Follow the links to the full reports.

The Guardian: [IPCC report shows 'possible loss of entire countries within the century'](#)

The West Australian: [Editorial: A sobering message on the Earth's climate that can't be denied](#)

The Washington Post: [Humans have pushed the climate into 'unprecedented' territory](#)

ABC: [Climate change report from IPCC a 'code red for humanity'](#)

The Australian: [IPCC AP6 report: No doubt humans warmed world](#)

Daily Telegraph: [Acceleration of global warming 'code red' for humanity](#). (This is from the on-line version of the DT. The hard copy had nothing)

Renew Economy: [Scientists issue desperate climate warning: Australia already at 1.4°C](#)

Sydney Morning Herald: [Australian weather extremes to get more extreme as climate heats](#)

The Daily Advertiser had a major page 10 article: IPCC warns of dire climate outlook

For a summary from the IPCC itself see : [Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying](#)

## The Federal Government response to the IPCC

### [Scott Morrison](#)

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has jumped on the defensive following the scathing revelations from a landmark United Nations report on climate change, deflecting blame onto China. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings released on Monday confirmed Australia had warmed 1.4C with the severe impacts of this already seen in many regions across the country.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Mr Morrison said it could not be ignored that the developing world accounts for "two thirds of global emissions".

The PM pointed to the fact that China's emissions "accounted for more than the entire OECD combined".

"We need a solution that addresses the real commercial challenges of developing countries to solve this problem," he said.

### [Angus Taylor \(plus comment from the Guardian\)](#)

**Taylor: "When it comes to emissions reduction, our record is one of delivery and achievement that Australians can be proud of. Our technology-led approach to reducing emissions will see Australia continue to playing its part in the global effort to combat climate change without compromising our economy or jobs."**

Let's be very clear about the Coalition's *record of delivery*. The Coalition repealed a carbon price that was driving emissions reduction. When it did that, it transferred the costs of abatement from polluters to taxpayers. The government tried to gut the renewable energy target. The lack of a clear investment signal has created significant problems in Australia's electricity sector.

### [Barnaby Joyce](#)

Show me the menu

## And on the world stage ...

### [The Washington Post](#)

In a United Nations report released this week to assess progress toward a range of international sustainable-development goals, Australia came in last on action in response to climate change, among more than 170 U.N. members analyzed.

The nation has long relied on coal-fired power and has consistently been one of the world's largest carbon emitters per capita. This year, Australia ranked among the top three countries for exported greenhouse gas emissions per capita and among the top 10 nations for per capita fossil fuel use, according to U.N. data. It ranked second-worst for carbon pricing scores, between first-ranking Chile and the United States.

Climate action — defined by the United Nations as “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” — is one of 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the core of the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has been adopted by all U.N. member states. The goals include clean water and sanitation, zero hunger, quality education, and gender equality. Australia as a nation overall ranked 35th in its progress to meet all the Sustainable Development Goals.

### [The Climate Change Performance Index](#)

Australia, despite moving up two places, remains in the bottom 10 in this year's CCPI, at 54th, with an overall *very low* performance.

The country receives *very low* ratings in three of the four CCPI categories: GHG Emissions, Energy Use, and Climate Policy, and a *low* rating in Renewable Energy. Despite positive tendencies in the trend indicators, with a growing share of Renewable Energy in Energy Use and an overall decrease in the per capita Energy Use, as well as in the per capita GHG emissions indicator, current levels and future targets across all categories are not on track with a well-below-2°C pathway. Together with the United States, Australia holds last place for its climate policy evaluation.

At the national level reviewers highlight several problematic aspects in the recently released Technology Investment Roadmap, which the national government presents as the cornerstone of Australia's long-term climate strategy. The Roadmap supports the development of five low-emission technologies, including hydrogen (developed with gas) and carbon capture and storage (which can be applied to fossil fuel projects). The national government will also redirect key clean energy agencies away from renewables and make them ‘technology-neutral’, weakening existing renewable energy support.

Moreover, experts mention the lack of a renewable energy target after 2020, no plan to phase-out coal, and a gas-reliant COVID-19 recovery plan. Experts' evaluation also notes Australia's regressive role on the international stage, as the country stopped contributing to the Green Climate Fund and hampered the negotiation process at COP25 to ensure the use of Kyoto carry-overs to achieve its NDC targets.