

# Climate and Carbon Challenges

Presentation to Sustainable Engineering Society, Engineers Australia

**Tom Yankos** 

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ClimateWorks Australia is an expert, independent adviser, acting as a bridge between research and action to enable new approaches that accelerate the transition to net zero emissions by 2050 alongside economic growth, for Australia and our region.

In 2008, The Myer Foundation commissioned a feasibility study asking how philanthropy could effective tackle climate change. It revealed a need to bridge the gap between research and tangible action. And so The Myer foundation partnered with Monash University to create ClimateWorks Australia.



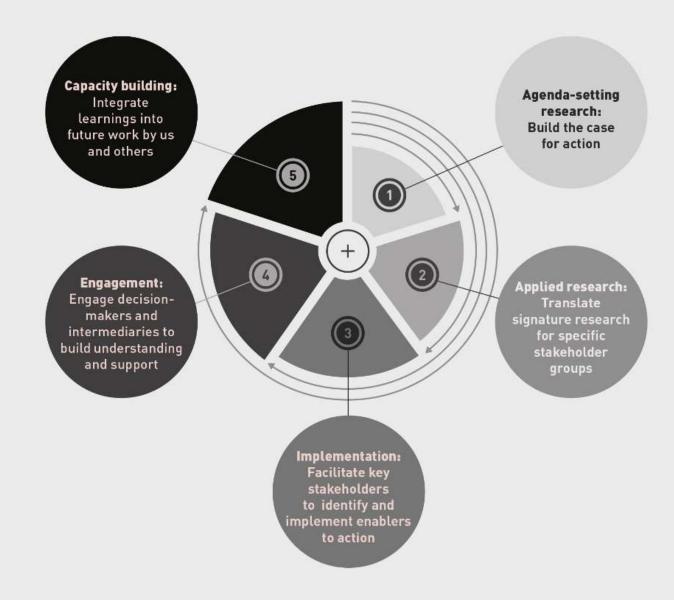
The Myer Foundation recently described ClimateWorks as their "...most successful grant over the 60 years of the Foundation's work"





### ClimateWorks takes a unique end-to-end approach

This involves building an evidence base for strong climate action, ensuring it is well understood and supported by decision-makers, addressing any barriers to implementation, and building capacity in ourselves and others to inform future work.





### **Agenda**

- The problem
- Our current emissions situation
- The transition
- Sectoral level strategies/actions





### A bit about me – Tom Yankos

### Joined in 2014:



### Studied engineering at:







# From the floor: ( )

# Put up your hand, all the:

- Environmental engineers?
- Mechanical engineers?
- Electrical engineers?
- Civil engineers?
- Others?



### **Paris Agreement**

### **Actions**

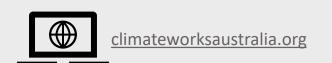
- 1. Commits all countries to keep global temperature risk to well below 2 degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees
- 2. Acknowledges that below 2°C means net zero emissions by the second half of the century
- 3. Countries must 'ratchet up' pledges every 5 years
- 4. Urges all countries to develop mid-century decarbonisation strategies

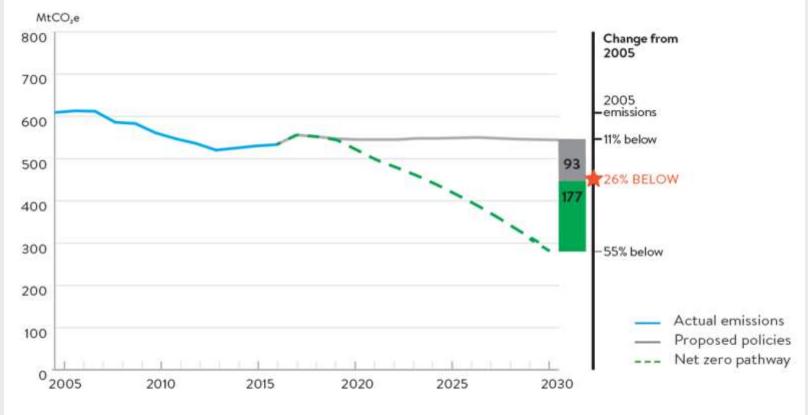




# Australia is not yet on track to a net zero pathway – but has the potential to get there







Total emissions since 2005, projected emissions to 2030 under proposed policies scenario and the net zero pathway and gap to target



### Emissions performance vary greatly across sectors, and the reductions have been heavily dependent on the land sector

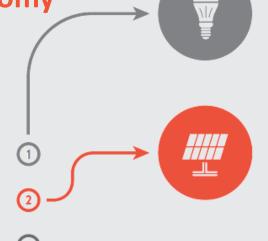
Sector	Change in emissions from 2005 to latest year of data	Share of emissions in 2016	Share of emissions excluding electricity use
Electricity	3% below (2017)	37% (includes end use by other sectors)	n/a
Industry	8% above (2016)	42%	29%
Buildings	5% above (2016)	21%	3%
Transport	19% above (2016)	19%	19%
Land and agriculture	64% below (2016)	12%	12%
Australia	11% below (2017)	Emissions 533 MtCO₂e	



ClimateWorks has developed expertise in ambitious

climate scenarios for the Australian economy

We demonstrated it is possible for Australia to transition from one of the world's most emissions intensive economies to net zero emissions in 2050, while our economy continues to grow.



#### **USE ENERGY** MORE EFFICIENTLY

Choose assets and equipment that uses less energy to get more out of the energy we do use - in areas such as buildings, industry, transport and infrastructure

#### PRODUCE LOW CARBON ELECTRICITY

Transition to zero carbon electricity sources such as solar, wind and geothermal









#### SWITCH TO ELECTRICITY & CLEANER FUELS

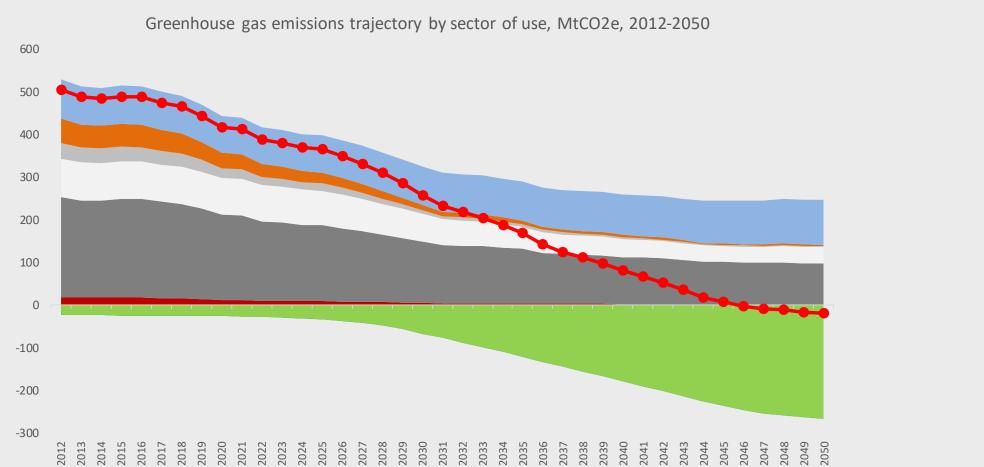
Switch every energy-using activity we possibly can to electricity (powered by clean energy), and everything else to low emissions alternatives (e.g. coal and oil to biofuels)

#### NON ENERGY EMISSIONS

These are reduced through process improvements and carbon capture and storage (CCS) in industry and we offset the rest through bio-sequestration



# Net zero emissions in 2050 is achievable, but the transition requires a concerted effort across all sectors of the economy



Transport Commercial Residential Agriculture Total

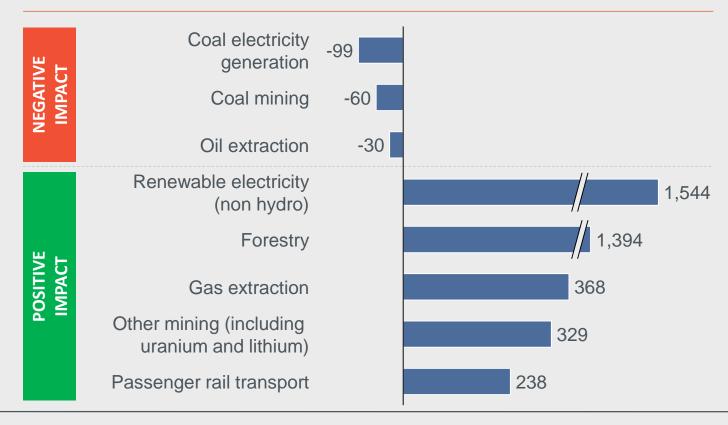


Power Industry

# Decarbonisation presents many opportunities for Australia, with the benefits counterbalancing the negative impacts

### Key sectors impacted by decarbonisation,

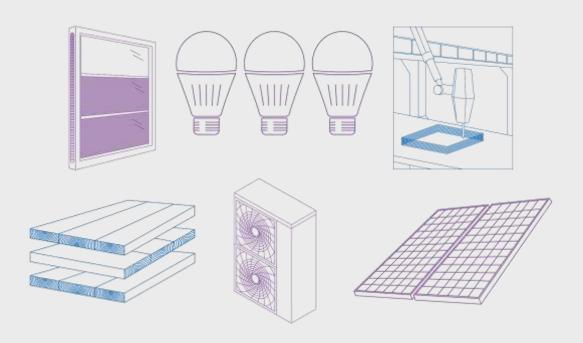
Growth in value added between 2012 and 2050 in %





### Innovations could dramatically impact the pathway to decarbonisation, so the tools and regulations must be flexible and supportive

### DECARBONISATION FUTURES









# Electricity generation

Long-term transition:

## Renewables

### Opportunities:

- Available, mature techs.
- Decarbonise other sectors
- Allow for electrification

### Risks:

- Policy not yet on track
- Technical challenges at high VRE penetration

- Continue RE deployment
- Improve integration
- Avoid lock-in, and stranded assets



# Built environment (Buildings and Infrastructure)

Long-term transition:

Zero carbon buildings

### Opportunities:

- Energy \$ savings, health
- Demonstrated achievability
- Electricity generation and network support

### Risks:

- Technology deployment
- **↓** Lock-in of long-life assets

- Increase deployment & integration
- 'Zero carbon ready' buildings
- Consider climate risks in planning to avoid lock-in: What is the lifespan of the project you're currently working on?



# Transport

Long-term transition:

# **Electrification & Alternative fuels**

### Opportunities:

- Fuel \$ savings
- Health
- Fuel security

### Risks:

- Australia continues to lag
- Barriers to EV uptake:cost, availability, recharging,consumer awareness
- Uncertainty surrounding Autonomous vehicles

- Prepare for EV cars:

  ~1 product cycle of ICE

  development remaining!
- Develop and prepare for alternative fuels



# Industry

Long-term transition:

Energy efficiency, electrification and low carbon fuels

### Opportunities:

- Improved productivity
- Harnessing safety-driven improvements
- **Low-carbon competitiveness** Risks:
- No clear solutions in many 'hard to abate' sectors

- Awareness and deployment of existing clean tech.
- Prepare solutions development for 'hard to abate' sectors
- Investigate circular economy principles



# Bonus round! Cross-cutting opportunities

### Hydrogen

- 1 Local and export opportunities
- ↑ Enables 'green' industrial products
- Leverages Australia's plentiful renewable resources
- ↓ Cost uncertainty
- ↓ Development required

### **Other drivers**

- Finance
- Insurance
- Strategy: Consideration of uncertainty, opportunities/risks
- New business models, new sectors, blurring the line between sectors

### **Engineering achievements**









**Climate Change?** 



### Thank you for your time!

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### Follow us:





ClimateWorks Australia







ClimateWorks Australia was co-founded by Monash University and The Myer Foundation and works within the Monash Sustainable Development Institute

### **Tom Yankos**

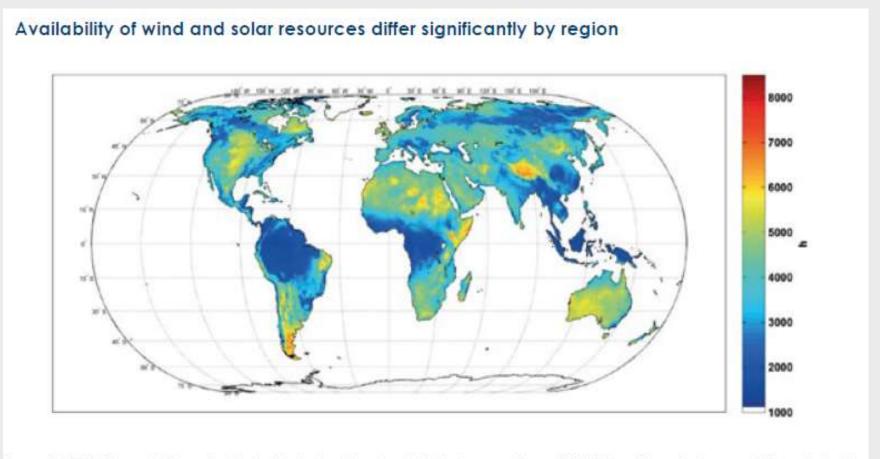
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## Australia has one of the richest endowments of solar and wind resources globally, particularly compared to our region

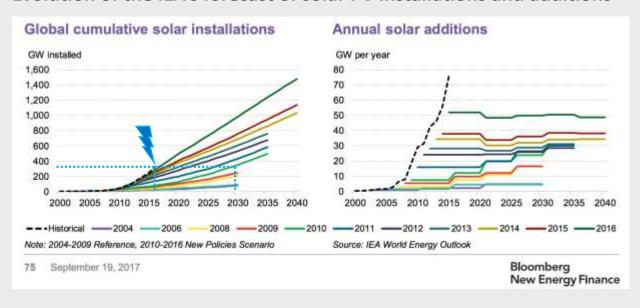


Source: IEA (2017), Renewable Energy for Industry (Adapted and based on Fasihi, Bogdanov and Breyer (2016), Techno-Economic Assessment of Power-to-Liquids (PfL) Fuels Production and Global Trading Based on Hybrid PV-Wind Power Plants)

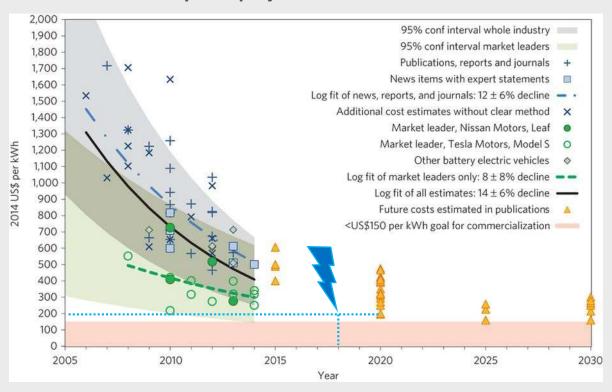


# The rate of change of technology and innovation is rapid, so any one pathway is unlikely to capture the actual route to decarbonisation

#### Evolution of the IEA's forecast of solar PV installations and additions



#### **Evolution of battery cost projections and achievement**





packs for electric vehicles." Nature Climate Change 5: 329.