



CASE CARD

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

THE ISSUE

Climate Change is accelerating. In order to limit global warming and safeguard a liveable climate there must be an immediate, rapid and large-scale reduction in greenhouse gas emissions¹.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The science of climate change

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report* provides irrefutable evidence that:

- Greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest levels in 2 million years
- This increase was caused by human activity
- The earth has now warmed approximately 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels
- Australian land areas have warmed by approximately 1.4°C above preindustrial levels
- This warming is already resulting in extreme weather and impacting on biodiversity and ecosystems
- Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2050 if it continues to increase at the current rate
- Breaching 1.5°C of warming significantly increases the risk of triggering abrupt, dangerous and irreversible changes to the climate system

The impact of climate change on Central Australia

The IPCC reports that in Central Australia climate change will result in:

- Greater observed and projected warming than coastal regions under all future scenarios (*high confidence*).
- A projected increase in heavy rainfall and river flooding (*medium confidence*).

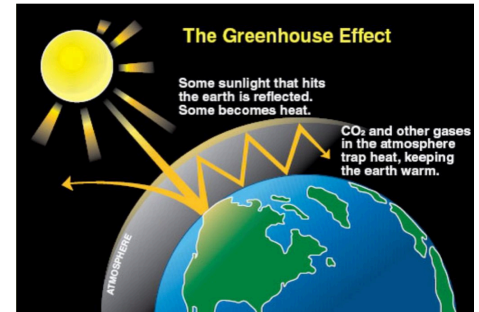
Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the NT

NT emissions are the highest per capita in Australia and amongst the highest per capita in the world².

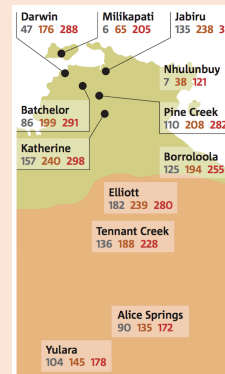
The NT government has set a net zero emission target to be reached by 2050³.

Meanwhile

- NT Emissions have increased by 46.5% on 2005 levels²
- Emissions from virtually all sectors are increasing²
- The NT Government is actively encouraging expansion of large industrial and land use emitters⁴

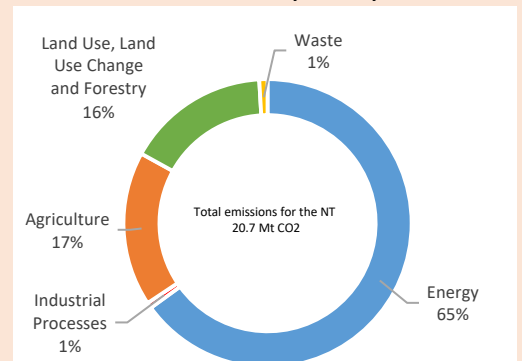


Greenhouse gases act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

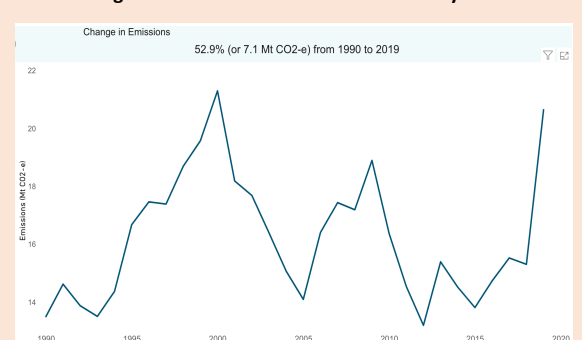


Annual average number of days over 35°C under a high emissions pathway
Historical 1981-2010
Mid-century 2036-2065
End of the century 2075-2104

NT Greenhouse Gas Emission by Industry Sector 2019⁸



Greenhouse gas emissions in the Northern Territory 1990-2019⁸



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SUGGESTED ACTION REQUESTS

1. The NT Government must commit to 2030 net zero targets

The ICPP has made it clear that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 will not keep global warming below 1.5°C¹.

The United Nations states that to keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions must happen in the next 5-10 years.

Australia's Climate Council** states that to hold global warming well below 2°C Australia must reach:

- 75% reduction below 2005 levels by 2030
- Net zero emissions by 2035

2. Net zero targets must be backed by credible commitment to action.

- **Commitment to emissions reduction must be enshrined in legislation.**

A Climate Change Act is needed for an accountable decision-making and policy framework for action⁶. It will:

- Align NT Government policies
- Provide certainty for investment

- **Planning and implementation must be informed by commissioned, independent expert advice² and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.**

An independent expert NT Climate Advisory Council is needed for independent oversight and evidence-based and transparent advice to help government meet its obligations.

Aboriginal people have cared sustainably for country for tens of thousands of years. Aboriginal leadership, knowledge, sovereignty must be central to our climate change response.

- **Climate Change policy requires a truly whole-of government approach.**

The NT Government must plan for, and implement deep, immediate and enduring cuts across all sectors.

- **There must be no new / expansion of existing large industrial and land use emitters**

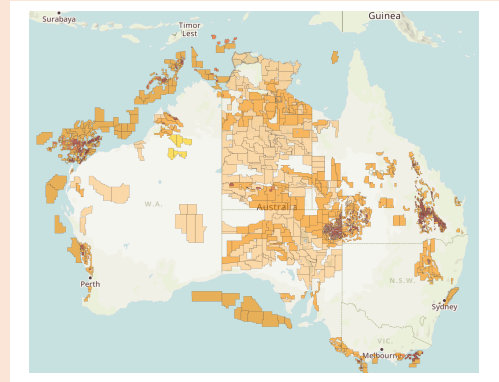
New fossil fuel extraction and production must be banned, including the planned onshore Beetaloo and McArthur River Basins and offshore Barossa Gas projects.

A credible land clearing policy that protects native vegetation and regrowth must be implemented immediately.

Gas extraction is highly polluting.

The Northern Territory is almost entirely covered by gas exploration permits and applications.

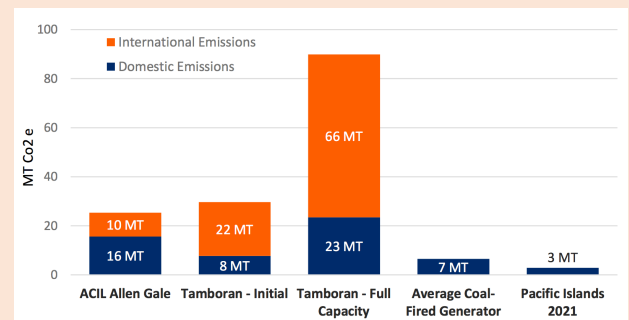
The NT Government is facilitating the development of some of the highest emitting on and off shore gas projects in Australia.



Unconventional Gas Mining (Fracking) in the Beetaloo Basin

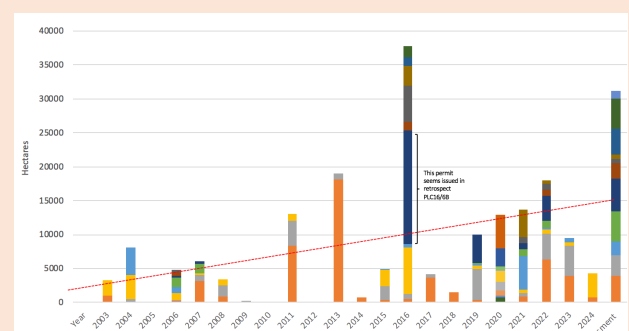
Annual emissions for each Beetaloo scenario, steady state production, and the average coal fired generator, million tonnes CO₂-e

At full capacity 90 million tonnes of CO₂ a year will be emitted¹²



Pastoral Land Clearing

Permitted clearing of native vegetation for pastoral purposes in the Northern Territory has increased by over 400% in the past 5 years¹¹ Approvals from 2011-2022 have authorised the generation of over 24 million tonnes of CO₂-e





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REFERENCES

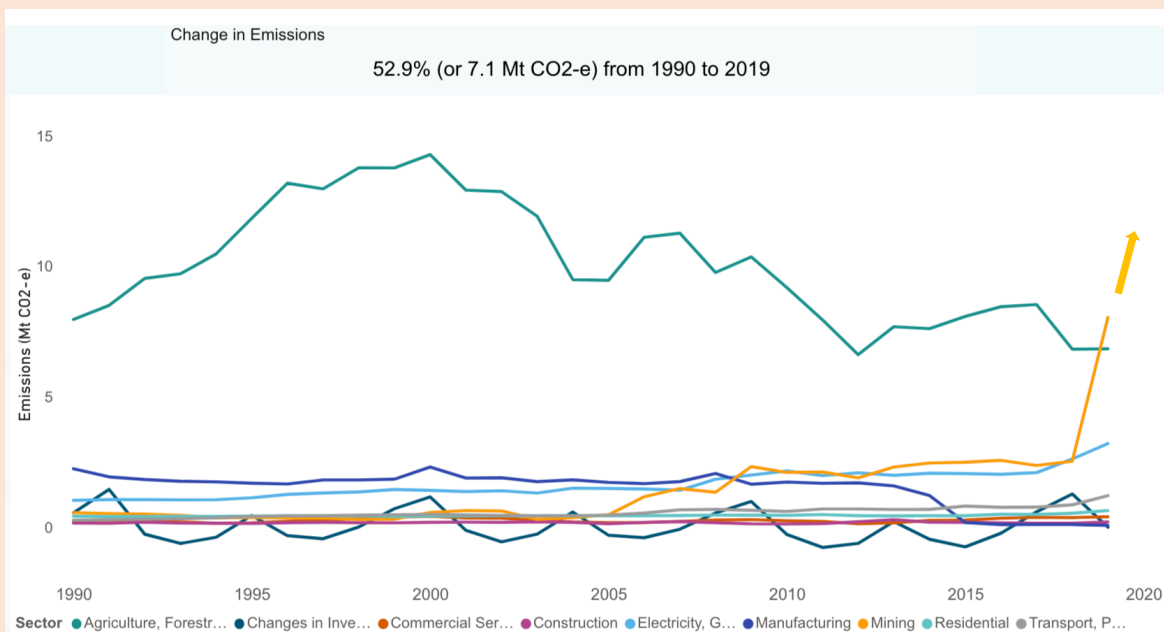
1. IPCC Sixth Assessment Report AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>
2. Climate Council of Australia Submission to: Northern Territory's Climate Change Response 31 October 2019
3. NT Government Climate Change <https://climatechange.nt.gov.au/>
4. NT Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management for New and Expanding Large Emitters Policy <https://climatechange.nt.gov.au/resources-and-publications/updates-and-announcements/2021/greenhouse-gas-emissions-management-for-new-and-expanding-large-emitters-policy-released>
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6. Environmental Defenders Office A Climate Change Act for the Northern Territory <https://www.edo.org.au/publication/climate-change-act-nt/>
7. NT Government State of the Science and Climate Change impacts Final Report https://depws.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/944831/state-of-the-science-and-climate-change-impacts-final-report.pdf
8. Australian Government National Greenhouse Accounts 2019 <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/national-greenhouse-accounts-2019/state-and-territory-greenhouse-gas-inventories-annual-emissions>
9. Australian energy mix, by state and territory, 2021-22 <https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-data/australian-energy-statistics/states-and-territories>
10. National inventory by economic sector: annual emissions <https://www.dccew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/national-greenhouse-accounts-2019/national-inventory-by-economic-sector-annual-emissions>
11. Data for graph collected from: <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/pastoral-land-clearing-applications-and-permits>
12. Australia Institute Gas Bagging The case against the Beetaloo Basin gas development <https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/P1448-Gas-Bagging-Web.pdf>

NOTES

*The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC prepares comprehensive assessment reports about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.

** The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate change communications organisation. It is independent and community funded. It was set up in 2013 in response to the abolition of the Australian Climate Commission.

Change in Northern Territory Emissions by Sector 1990-2019⁰



NB: Emissions from the land use sector are notoriously unreliable and are often manipulated to skew emissions in a downward direction.

For example emissions from fires caused by agricultural activities (including the spread of high fuel load invasive pasture grasses) are not included.

In 2023 alone 84 million hectares of the NT Burned. These fires are likely to increase in intensity and frequency.



LETTER WRITING TIPS

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WRITE TO

Hon. Eva Lawler
NT Chief Minister
GPO Box 3146
Darwin, NT 0801
Chief.minister@nt.gov.au
(08) 8936 5500

Hon. Kate Worden

Minister for Environment, Climate Change
and Water Security; Minister for
Renewables and Energy
GPO Box 3146
Darwin, NT 0801
minister.lworden@nt.gov.au
08 8936 5566

**Ask them to urgently reduce
greenhouse gas emissions**

Your name

Address

Recipient name

Address

Date

Dear Hon. Ministers Name

Introduce yourself e.g. I am a resident of Alice Springs

Identify the issue you are concerned about (you can use the issue from the case card)

Example - In order to limit global warming and safeguard a liveable climate we must immediately reduce green house gas emissions greenhouse gas emissions.

Include some facts (you can use some facts from the case card)

Example

- *NT Emissions have increased by 46.5% on 2005 levels*
- *Emissions from virtually all sectors are increasing*
- *The NT Government is actively encouraging expansion of large industrial and land use emitters*

Explain in your own words why this issue is a concern. You could:

- *Use a personal story*
- *Link the problem to past, current, or future impacts on the community*
- *Voice your support for alternative options e.g. the benefits of renewable energy, protecting native vegetation or decreasing consumption*

Tell the Minister what you want them to do (you can use the suggested actions from the case card)

1. *The NT Government must commit to 2030 net zero targets*
2. *Net zero targets must be backed by credible commitment to action.*
3. *Commitment to emissions reduction must be enshrined in legislation.*
4. *Planning and implementation must be informed by commissioned, independent expert advice² and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*
5. *Climate Change policy must take a truly whole-of government approach.*
6. *There must be no new / expansion of existing large industrial and land use emitters*

I look forward to your response.

Your Name