

Climate Safety Plan

POLICY SUMMARY

Climate change is already reshaping our lives in Australia. We see this when heatwaves make our work, schools, and homes unsafe; when doctors and nurses are stretched responding to climate shocks; when disasters disrupt travel and supply chains, raising prices at the grocery store. Storms, floods and fires are already fuelling homelessness and financial hardship, with lasting harm to our health and wellbeing.

The impacts of climate change can sometimes feel small – like backyard lemon trees failing to bear fruit or schools closing on hot days. Or they can be devastating, like losing a loved one to extreme heat or a home to fire or flood. Every person and community experiences climate change differently, but the damage is compounding and will only worsen unless our governments step up.

For every dollar we spend building our resilience and preparedness, we save \$10 that would otherwise need to be spent on response and recovery, which is already costing us billions each year. It is time we invest in climate resilience and adaptation so we can reduce the impact of whatever comes and recover faster.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander leadership is central to this task. For millennia, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples have cared for land and waters. Any effective resilience plan must be co-designed with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities, respecting sovereignty, self-determination and supported with resources to embed their knowledge and leadership.

Australia needs a coordinated plan that ensures no one is left managing the impacts of climate change alone.

Our plan to make people and communities climate safe



Climate proof homes, schools and workplaces



Build a resilient healthcare system



Boost our emergency workforce



Make insurance more affordable



Fund community services and local governments



Secure farming and our food supply



Deliver climate-ready social support



Centre community voices and experience and leadership

Climate Safety Plan

Climate proof homes, schools and workplaces



All new, existing and upgraded buildings – from homes to shops to community centres – are safe, energy efficient, liveable, and resilient to rising heat and extreme weather.



Fully fund community services and local government

Support community groups and local governments on the frontlines of adaptation and disaster preparedness to continue delivering essential support for those most at risk by expanding the Disaster Ready Fund and establishing a new LGA Adaptation Fund.

Build a resilient healthcare system



Fully fund the National Climate and Health strategy to ensure our health infrastructure, workers and systems are prepared for extreme weather, with funding, training and resourcing to deliver physical and mental health support to climate-affected communities.



Secure farming and our food supply

Drive agricultural research and development to help farmers adapt to climate changes and improve productivity, efficiency and income diversification. Ensure water and food security.

Boost our emergency workforce



Invest in recruiting and training more fire, emergency, rescue and health workers to prepare for, respond to and recover from extreme weather events, including a specialised National Emergency Response Brigade.



Deliver climate-ready social support

Improve social security to provide accessible and reliable support, including payment rates that ensure people have enough money to live and stay safe during climate shocks.

Make insurance more affordable



Drive down insurance costs and ensure everyone can protect their homes and livelihoods from climate shocks, with targeted subsidies for low-income households, reinsurance for all disasters, and investment in public insurance schemes.



Centre community voices, experiences and leadership

Involve communities in disaster planning, preparedness and adaptation processes and support community members to play a leading role in recovery with streamlined volunteer payments, grants and a Disaster Contingency Fund.

Find out more about our plan to keep our homes, workplaces and communities climate safe at:

renewaustraliaforall.org/climate-safety-plan