

The Climate Commission: The Critical Decade

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About this update

This dated news record has been reorganised for clear reading and connected to current guidance.

Publication date: July 4, 2013.

Status note: Present-tense statements, market figures, deadlines and program details in the archived record belong to its publication date. Check current official sources before making a decision.

What this article reported

A few weeks ago the Climate Commission (setup by the Australian Government) released their latest report titled "The Critical Decade". It argues that 2011-2020 is the decade in which we must make substantial changes if we are to keep global warming within the target of 2C.

"Over many decades thousands of scientists have painted an unambiguous picture: the global climate is changing and humanity is almost surely the dominant cause. The risks have never been clearer and the case for action has never been more urgent...."

How to use this information now

For current use, confirm the applicable scheme rules, regulator notices, market date and reporting period. Keep historical prices or forecasts separate from present quotes and verified outcomes.

Separate source-reported facts from forecasts, targets and commentary. For a current project, retain the official source, version, effective date, assumptions and decision record in the evidence file.

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What is the article 'The Climate Commission: The Critical Decade' about?

The article discusses a report titled 'The Critical Decade' released by the Climate Commission, a body established by the Australian Government. The report argues that the decade from 2011 to 2020 represents the critical period in which substantial changes must be made to keep global warming within the target of 2°C. The report emphasizes that thousands of scientists have documented the reality of climate change and human causation, making the case for urgent action clearer than ever. This framework has shaped Australia's regulatory landscape for emissions reporting and carbon management strategies across industries.

Who published the report 'The Critical Decade' discussed in this article?

The report was released by the Climate Commission, a body established by the Australian Government to provide authoritative guidance on climate science and policy implications. The Commission serves as a credible source informing regulatory frameworks and organizational climate strategy in Australia. Its findings support the development of corporate carbon management approaches, including emissions inventories, transition planning and reporting frameworks. We reference Climate Commission guidance when developing carbon advisory services, connecting government policy statements with practical organizational implementation requirements across scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions assessment.

What time period does 'The Critical Decade' report identify as critical for climate action?

The report identifies 2011–2020 as the critical decade during which substantial changes must be made to keep global warming within the target of 2°C. This framing emphasizes the urgency of near-term emissions reductions and transition planning to avoid exceeding established climate thresholds. For organizations, this critical-decade perspective informs the development of transition pathways that connect immediate opportunity identification with longer-term net-zero goals. Our carbon advisory services use this urgency framework to support opportunity assessment, feasibility analysis and transition planning that aligns organizational investments with climate science timeframes.

What warming target does the Climate Commission's report reference?

The report references the target of keeping global warming within 2°C, aligning with international climate agreements and establishing a reference point for assessing organizational decarbonization strategies and emissions pathways. This target underpins regulatory obligations including NGER reporting, Safeguard Mechanism compliance and NSW Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. Organizations use this threshold to evaluate the urgency of their carbon management investments. We support this assessment through emissions inventories, carbon-management gap analysis and transition pathway development, helping organizations establish baselines and measure progress toward climate-aligned targets.

How can organizations use the Climate Commission's message to guide their carbon strategy?

The report's emphasis on the critical decade highlights the importance of immediate action on emissions reduction and transition planning. Organizations can use this framing to support business cases for carbon management investments and justify allocating resources to emissions assessment. We offer carbon advisory services including transition pathway analysis, diagnostic workshops and decarbonization planning, helping organizations respond to this urgency through concrete, measurable steps toward emissions targets and compliance obligations. We connect the Climate Commission's policy framework with engineering assessment, opportunity prioritization and implementation support, translating climate urgency into operational outcomes.

What key insight from the Climate Commission report underpins the case for organizational climate action?

The Climate Commission states that thousands of scientists have painted an unambiguous picture: the global climate is changing and humanity is almost surely the dominant cause. The risks have never been clearer and the case for action has never been more urgent. This scientific consensus establishes the foundation for why organizations must integrate climate action into their operations and reporting frameworks. For businesses, this certainty justifies investment in carbon management, emissions measurement and transition planning. We apply this scientific foundation to help organizations develop credible emissions inventories, identify reduction opportunities and establish transition pathways grounded in climate science evidence.

How does the Climate Commission's critical-decade framing relate to Australian emissions reporting requirements?

The urgency outlined by the Climate Commission aligns with Australia's regulatory environment, including NGER reporting, the Safeguard Mechanism, and NSW Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans for licensed premises exceeding 25,000 tonnes CO₂-e annually. These frameworks require organizations to measure, report and plan emissions reductions, effectively translating the Commission's call to action into operational compliance obligations. We support organizations in meeting these requirements through emissions assessment, inventory development and CCMAP planning services, ensuring that carbon management strategies address both climate science urgency and regulatory timelines simultaneously.

What role does Northmore Gordon play in supporting the transition the Climate Commission addresses?

We help organizations translate climate urgency into practical action through energy audits, carbon diagnostics, emissions inventories, opportunity assessment and transition planning. Our services connect technical assessment with commercial feasibility and implementation, enabling businesses to move beyond reporting compliance toward measurable emissions reductions. Services include diagnostic workshops, scope 1-3 inventory support, transition pathway development and environmental-attribute due diligence. By applying the Climate Commission's critical-decade framework to specific organizational contexts, we bridge climate science imperatives with engineering solutions, funding pathways and ongoing performance verification.