

Draft EPA Climate Change Policy and Action Plan

The EPA has a critical role in protecting the environment from the threat of climate change and in supporting the NSW Government's net zero commitments.

What do the draft Climate Change Policy and Action Plan include?

The EPA's draft *Climate Change Policy* and draft *Climate Change Action Plan 2022–25* adopt, support and build on foundations set by the NSW Government. These foundations include the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, the Net Zero Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, and supporting policies and strategies.

Our draft **policy** sets clear expectations for regulated industries. We will support industry to de-carbonise further in a cost-effective way and build resilience to climate change risks. Our draft **action plan** describes our new and continuing actions, which fall into three broad areas:

1) **Inform and plan.** Under this, we will:

- work with industry, government and experts to improve the evidence base on regulating climate change
- embed climate change into planning and regulatory decisions
- support licensees to prepare, implement and report on climate change mitigation and adaptation management plans
- work with Aboriginal people and our Youth Advisory Council to improve the EPA's evolving climate change response.

2) **Mitigate.** Under this, we will:

- establish cost-effective emission reduction targets for key industry sectors

- provide industry with best-practice guidelines to support it to reduce its emissions
- phase in greenhouse gas emission limits on licences for key industry sectors.

3) **Adapt.** Under this, we will:

- develop resilience programs and best-practice adaptation guidance
- harness citizen science, and develop and implement community education programs.

How will the actions be implemented?

The actions will be staged over the next three years and beyond. This will help achieve the best environment and human health outcomes. We'll work together with our regulated community, as we transition to a low carbon economy, giving our licensees and industry time to consider new information and to meet any new targets or requirements.

What are the next steps?

The EPA is now consulting on the draft policy and action plan. **Stakeholders** – including councils, government agencies, industry, licensees and the community – are invited to attend webinars and briefings and make submissions. We'll look to incorporate all feedback and finalise the policy and action plan before the end of 2022.

How can I find out more and make a submission?

You can:

- view the documents and FAQs, register for a webinar and make a submission through our consultation portal, <https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/>
- contact the EPA for more information via climatechange.review@epa.nsw.gov.au.
- Submissions close **3 November 2022**.

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EPA 2022P4017

September 2022

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