# Climate Emergency Australia Position Statement

Climate Emergency Australia (CEA) is a network of Australian councils that have declared a climate emergency. This document outlines the key ethical and logical frameworks and assumptions that underpin CEA's advocacy position.

## CEA's vision, mission and objectives

- CEA's **vision** is a safe climate.
- CEA's **mission** is to call for and contribute to a climate emergency response that brings about a rapid shift to a climate-resilient, beyond-zero-carbon society.
- CEA's **objectives** are to:
    - use the collective influence of councils around Australia to advocate for all levels of government and sectors of society to respond to the climate emergency (with the required speed, scale and coordination)
    - build the capacity of members to respond to the climate emergency
    - increase the participation of councils in Climate Emergency Australia.
- CEA's **method** is to foster climate emergency mobilisation with councils (upward, outward, sideward, inward).

## Advocacy principles

- CEA seeks:
    - a safe climate for all species and ecosystems and maximum protection from the risks and impacts of climate change
    - science-based targets aligned with a safe climate
        - **real zero** or **net negative** greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
        - returning to atmospheric carbon of no more than 325ppm co2
        - average global temperatures less than 0.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial temperatures
    - delivery of three key areas of action aligned with these targets
        - elimination of emissions as soon as possible
        - drawdown of existing atmospheric carbon and other greenhouse gases, particularly through nature-based solutions
        - research into the potential for safe, nature-based rapid cooling methods
    - restoration and redress of the intertwined needs for and crises in
        - Sovereignty of First Nations
        - Human rights and just transition for all communities
        - Ecological health and biodiversity

- Unequal impacts of climate change and inequality and injustice more generally.

## Key asks

- That all levels of government and all sectors declare a climate emergency and respond with the speed, scale and level of coordination needed to protect current and future generations of all species.
- That all levels of government and all sectors adopt science-based emissions targets in line with a safe climate, getting to zero emissions as soon as possible (real zero emissions by no later than 2035) and drawing down existing greenhouse gas emissions.
- That the Australian Government:
    - Recognise the sovereignty of First Nations, and support their self-determination and land rights, and enshrine these in a national Treaty
    - Recognise the disproportionate impacts of climate change on First Nations, the Global South, poor people, the old and the young, people with disabilities, people of colour and other at-risk communities
    - Fund climate adaptation appropriately including
        - Domestically: resourcing local government fully to play their important role in local resilience as well as emergency management and recovery
        - Internationally:
            - increasing climate finance contributions to AUD$11 billion over 2025-2030 in line with the tripling of the global climate finance goal.
            - ensuring all climate finance is new and additional to the aid budget and grants-based rather than creating debt.
            - Increasing climate-focussed development projects to 30 percent of official development assistance (ODA) by 2030, to ensure clear climate objectives are met through Australia's international development program.
    - Recognise and support the just transition away from fossil fuels, including immediately ceasing all subsidisation of fossil fuel industries, banning new and expanding fossil fuel development, stopping fossil fuel exports and accelerating the complete phasing out of domestic fossil fuel power generation and transitioning to 100% renewable energy
    - Ending logging of native forests and land clearing and investing in nature-based drawdown
    - Invest in research into safe rapid cooling measures, focussing on nature-based solutions
    - Protect our biodiversity, ecosystems and waterways
    - Invest proactively in the resilience of Australian communities, including First Nations, frontline communities, local councils and community groups
    - Support regenerative, sustainable farming and soil health.