



# Tracking to Australia's emissions reduction targets

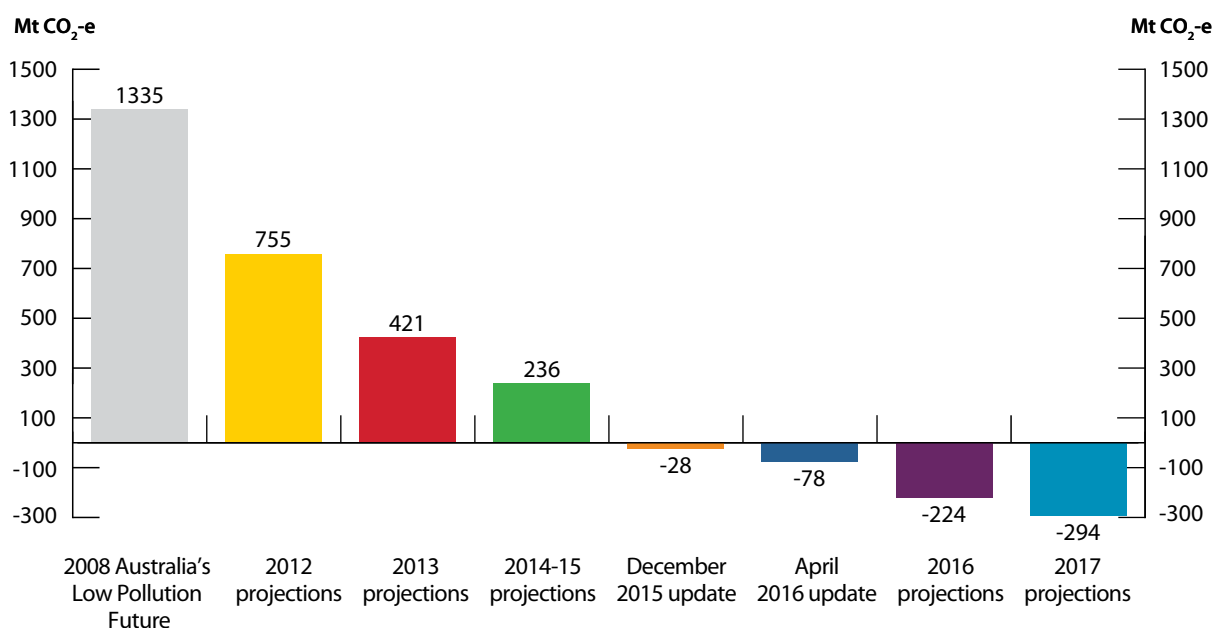
Australia continues to make good progress in reducing emissions. The latest official projections show improvements in how Australia is tracking against its 2020 and 2030 emissions reduction commitments.

## Australia's 2020 target

Australia's 2017 emissions projections estimate Australia will overachieve on its 2020 emissions reduction target by 294 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e).<sup>1</sup> This result is an improvement of 70 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the previous estimate in 2016, and an improvement

of 1629 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the estimate in 2008 in the *Australia's Low Pollution Future* report. Emissions per person and the emissions intensity of the economy are both at their lowest levels in 28 years in 2017.

Figure 1. Change in the cumulative emissions reduction task over time, 2020 target<sup>2</sup>

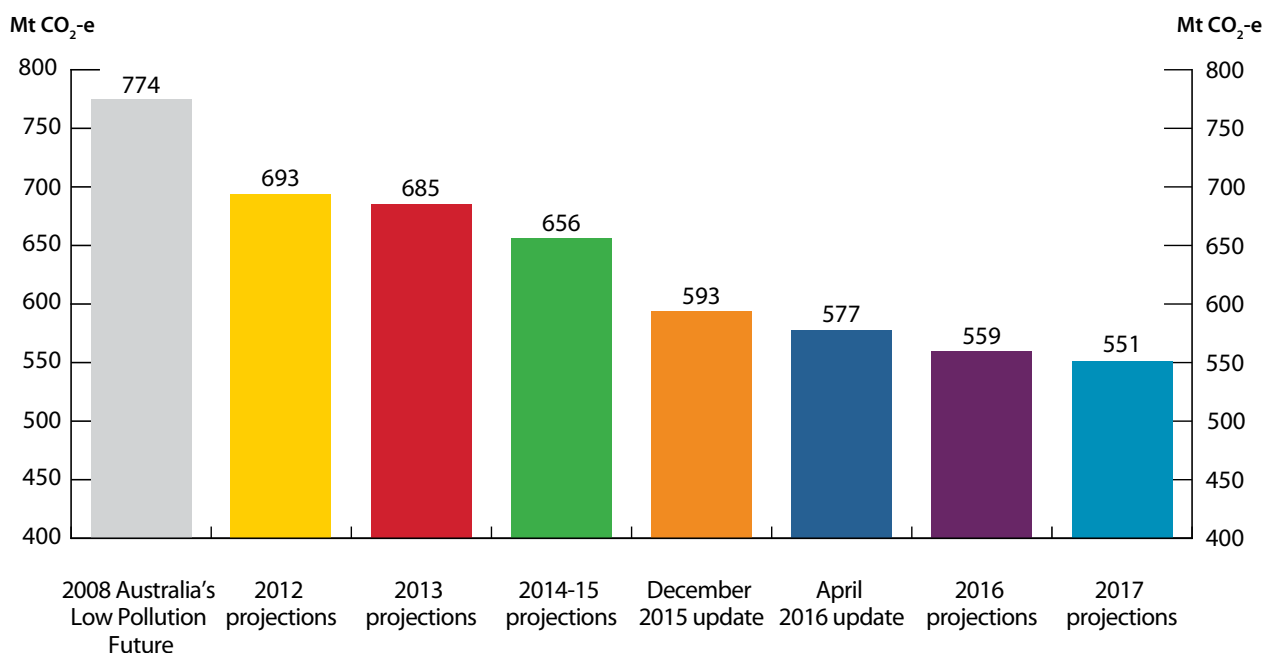


The changes since the previous estimate reflect lower than previously projected emissions growth across the economy, particularly due to:

- higher projected carbon sequestration in regrowing forests
- lower projected emissions from mining and manufacturing.

Australia's projected emissions in 2020 continue to fall. In 2020 Australia's emissions are projected to be 551 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, a downward revision of 8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2016 projections and a reduction of 223 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the projection of 774 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2008 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Projected emissions in 2020 continue to fall<sup>2</sup>



## Australia's 2030 target

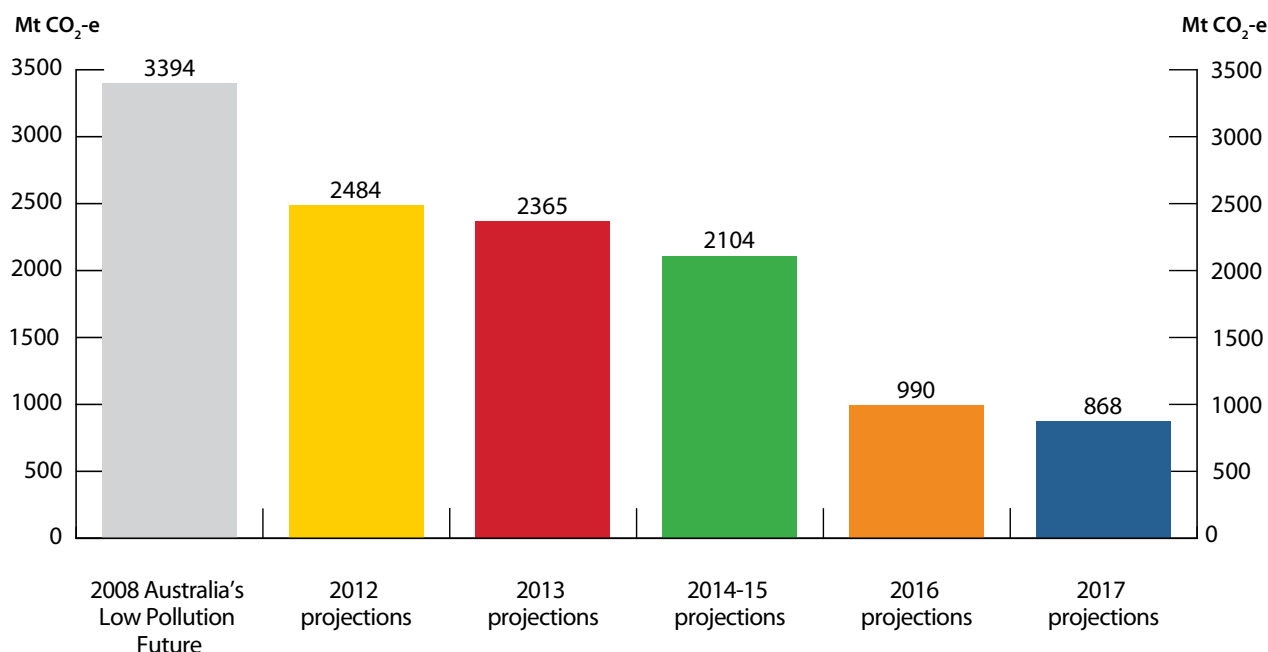
Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target is 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels. This target is responsible and ambitious. On a per person basis, it is a halving of emissions—one of the strongest targets in the G20.

Australia's emissions in 2030 are projected to be 570 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, a downward revision of 22 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2016 projections and a reduction of 154 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2014–15 projections release.

Australia has committed to measuring progress towards its 2030 target using an emissions budget over the period 2021 to 2030. On that basis the updated projections show that the estimated cumulative emissions reduction task is now 868 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.<sup>3</sup> This is an improvement of 122 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2016 projections and more than 1200 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since 2014–15 – around a 60 per cent improvement.

As shown in Figure 3, the emissions reductions required to meet the 2030 target are approximately one quarter of the 2008 projections.

Figure 3. Change in the cumulative emissions reduction task over time, 2030 target (26 per cent below 2005 levels)<sup>2</sup>



The improvement is due to:

- progress in implementing policies including the Government's National Energy Productivity Plan and the legislated phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- lower electricity demand and falling technology costs in the electricity sector
- higher projected carbon sequestration in regrowing forests
- lower demand for resources and lower than forecast emissions from mining and manufacturing than projected in 2016.

The projections do not include the following policies still under design, including:

- the National Energy Guarantee or
- the ongoing work of the Ministerial Forum on Vehicle Emissions, which is considering potential measures to improve the fuel efficiency of light vehicles.

Once implemented, these measures will drive additional emissions reductions to 2030.

The estimated cumulative emissions reduction task also does not include any use of international units in meeting Australia's 2030 emissions target. Following the 2017 review of climate change policies, the Government supports, in principle, the use of international units with a final decision on the timing of use and appropriate quantity and quality limits to be taken by 2020.<sup>4</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 This is inclusive of carryover from the Kyoto Protocol first commitment period.
- 2 The underlying assumptions, accounting systems and policy measures may differ between each publication.
- 3 For a target of 26 per cent below 2005 levels.
- 4 Note that the international rules and guidance on the potential use of international units are still to be defined.

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