

# Delivering the Climate Change Response: Towards 2050

## A Three-Year Action Plan for the Northern Territory Government

### Introduction

The 'Climate Change Response: Towards 2050' (the Response) provides a policy framework to facilitate the Northern Territory Government's (the Territory Government) strategic management of climate change risks and opportunities. The Response identifies four key objectives to inform future actions and guide development of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Climate change action requires all Territorians to be engaged. To transition the Northern Territory (the Territory) to a low carbon economy, meet the challenges and harness the opportunities, a collective and collaborative approach across all sectors of the Territory's economy and lifestyle is needed.

This 'Three-Year Action Plan' has been developed to guide the Territory Government's actions over the next three years to establish the foundations required to deliver an enduring and effective climate change response.

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Northern Territory Climate Change Response: Towards 2050  
Office of Climate Change, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Northern Territory Government

# Our actions

## Objective 1: Net zero emissions

The Response identifies a target of net zero emissions by 2050. In order to be able to deliver meaningful emission reductions that do not restrict the Territory's future opportunities and prosperity, a strategic approach that provides interim emissions reduction targets and realistic timeframes to achieve those interim targets needs to be established.

To enable progress towards delivering the target, the Territory Government will prioritise activities to identify an appropriate emissions reduction trajectory; work on initiatives to deliver meaningful emission reductions; and invest in renewable energy.

| Our priorities  | Deliverables   | Our timeframe for delivery |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1.1 Understand our emissions profile and trajectory                             | 1.1.1 Undertake detailed analysis to understand the Territory's existing and projected emissions profile to understand the trajectory towards net zero and enable identification of potential suitable interim targets and timeframes.   | By mid 2021                |
| 1.2 Determine a pathway to reduce the Territory's emissions                     | 1.2.1 Develop an Emissions Reduction Strategy (ERS). Taking into account the detailed emissions analysis, the ERS will identify stages, interim targets, timeframes, and potential approaches/mechanisms to achieve the net zero emissions by 2050 target and maximise the opportunities for Territorians. | By mid 2022                |
| 1.3 Establish policy positions that support the emissions reduction target      | 1.3.1 Develop a policy outlining the Territory Government's expectations for the mitigation and management of emissions from new and expanding large greenhouse gas emitters.  | By end 2020                |
|   | 1.3.2 Develop a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets Policy to guide the application and administration of carbon offsets in the Territory.  | By mid 2022                |
| 1.4 Deliver priority actions to achieve the 50% renewable energy target by 2030 | 1.4.1 Develop and implement a Remote Power System Strategy to integrate renewables technology into remote indigenous essential services communities to target 70% penetration.   | By end 2020                |
|   | 1.4.2 Develop a Hydrogen Strategy for the Territory to take advantage of this emerging sustainable energy source.  | By end 2020                |
|   | 1.4.3 Implement reforms to the Territory Electricity Market to improve financial transparency, provide cost reflective ancillary services, quality and efficient service delivery and reduce costs.  | By end 2021                |

| Our priorities  | Deliverables  | Our timeframe for delivery |
|---|---|----------------------------|
|   | 1.4.4 Deliver a competitive battery energy storage system for the Darwin–Katherine electricity system (DKIS grid) to deliver cost savings, reduce annual emissions and provide system security, reliability and stability.  | By end 2022                |
|   | 1.4.5 Deliver power systems plans for the DKIS and Alice Springs grids to facilitate additional renewable energy deployment, commercial micro-grids, and residential virtual power plants.  | By end 2022                |
| 1.5 Reduce emissions associated with the Territory Government’s operations and services | 1.5.1 Undertake a review of emissions across all Territory Government’s agencies to identify opportunities to reduce emissions, and inform development of agency specific action plans to reduce emissions.   | By end 2021                |
| 1.6 Incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles in the Territory                        | 1.6.1 Finalise the Electric Vehicle Strategy and develop an Implementation Plan to ensure that the right levers are in place to maximise the full potential of electric vehicle use in the Territory. This includes ensuring that the required electric vehicle charging infrastructure is made available across the Territory. | By mid 2021                |

## Objective 2: A resilient Territory

A resilient Territory is one which responds and adapts to the risks and opportunities of climate change, and provides protection and support to all Territorians as they respond and adapt to a changing climate.

To build a resilient Territory, the Territory Government will prioritise actions to protect and manage our well-being and livelihoods; protect and manage our natural assets and infrastructure; and enable effective responses to extreme weather events.

| Our priorities |  | Deliverables |   | Our timeframe for delivery |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 2.1            | Ensure a targeted and strategic approach to building resilience in the Territory             | 2.1.1        | Deliver an overarching strategy for the Territory to increase its preparedness to respond and adapt to climate change in the immediate and long term futures. | By mid 2021                |
| 2.2            | Promote industry resilience to climate change  | 2.2.1        | Identify and prioritise key risks to industry associated with climate change, including work health and safety concerns, and biosecurity risks.               | By end 2021                |
|                |  | 2.2.2        | Identify key industries and sectors at risk from impacts associated with climate change.  | By mid 2022                |
|                |  | 2.2.3        | Work with industry and relevant sectors to assist in developing and coordinating Industry/Sector Specific Climate Adaptation Frameworks.                      | From end 2022              |
| 2.3            | Increase the Territory Government's preparedness to respond to the impacts of climate change | 2.3.1        | Deliver a 10-year Emergency Response Strategy to address the risks of extreme weather events and climate change on our remote communities.                    | By mid 2021                |
|                |  | 2.3.2        | Identify and prioritise Territory Government infrastructure, assets and services at risk from impacts associated with climate change.                         | By mid 2022                |
|                |  | 2.3.3        | Deliver Agency specific infrastructure, assets and services climate adaptation frameworks.  | By mid 2023                |

| Our priorities |  | Deliverables |   | Our timeframe for delivery |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 2.4            | Improve landscape resilience to climate change impacts                     | 2.4.1        | Identify and prioritise high value ecosystems and biodiversity at risk from climate change.                               | By mid 2022                |
|                |  | 2.4.2        | Deliver a Biodiversity Maintenance and Restoration Strategy to guide effort and actions in building landscape resilience. | By mid 2023                |
| 2.5            | Support Territorians to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change | 2.5.1        | Identify and prioritise risks to human health associated with climate change.   | From mid 2020              |
|                |  | 2.5.2        | Work with the community services sector to develop climate change risk adaptation and response frameworks.                | From early 2021            |
|                |  | 2.5.3        | Incorporate climate responsive designs and initiatives into our urban and community landscapes.                           | From mid 2023              |

### Objective 3: Unlocking opportunities

Climate change brings challenges – but it also brings opportunities.

The Response seeks to harness those opportunities and the

Territory Government will prioritise activities that encourage investment in technology and innovation; enable development of low carbon industries; and facilitate the export of clean energy and products.

| Our priorities |  | Deliverables |   | Our timeframe for delivery |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 3.1            | Harness opportunities associated with the Territory's natural assets   | 3.1.1        | Deliver a Critical Minerals Strategy for the Territory to support 'The Territory Critical Minerals Plan' and drive investment to support renewable energy and battery technology.                 | By end 2021                |
|                |  | 3.1.2        | Facilitate establishment of a manufacturing hub that leverages low cost renewable energy and attracts private investment.   | From early 2022            |
| 3.2            | Connect Territorians to funding opportunities                          | 3.2.1        | Identify and promote opportunities for Territorians and the private sector to access sources of funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in low carbon technologies and initiatives. | By end 2020                |
| 3.3            | Develop the Territory's environmental services industries              | 3.3.1        | Continue to support the growth and development of the Territory's carbon market industry and promote Aboriginal jobs on country.  | From mid 2020              |
|                |  | 3.3.2        | Identify opportunities to grow the environmental services industry.   | From mid 2021              |
| 3.4            | Skills development to support emerging green and low carbon industries | 3.4.1        | Deliver a skills development strategy to capitalise on new and emerging opportunities associated with low carbon economies.   | From end 2022              |

## Objective 4: Inform and involve

Education is key to any successful response.

The Territory Government will prioritise actions that enable effective communication of the risks and opportunities of

climate change; drive behavioural change; and embed climate risk and emissions reduction considerations across decision-making in all sectors, leading with the Territory Government's decision-making.

| Our priority actions |   | Deliverables | Our timeframe for delivery   |                 |
|----------------------|---|--------------|--|-----------------|
| 4.1                  | Promote climate conscious behaviours in Territorians                          | 4.1.1        | Deliver a state of the climate science report identifying observed and expected impacts of climate change in the Territory.    | By end 2020     |
|                      |   | 4.1.2        | Establish a climate change website to inform and connect with Territorians about impacts and opportunities.                    | By end 2020     |
|                      |   | 4.1.3        | Raise awareness about climate change with Territorians through accessible education and awareness material and communications. | From early 2021 |
| 4.2                  | Assist large landholders to take action to manage the risks of climate change | 4.2.1        | Provide advice and extension services to assist land managers to manage climate change risks from key threatening processes.   | From mid 2020   |
|                      |   | 4.2.2        | Incentivise climate conscious land management practices through delivery of targeted grant programs.                           | From mid 2023   |

