

The State of Australia 2022

End of Term Report

46th Parliament of Australia

*Australia
Together*

*Are we progressing towards
a better Australia?*

A plan by Australians
for a better future
2020 to 2050



The State of Australia *2022*

A report on the nation's progress towards
and away from the
Vision for *Australia Together*
during the term of office of
the 46th Parliament of Australia
and the longer term.

**This report is produced by
Australian Community Futures Planning
March 2022**



About Australian Community Futures Planning

ACFP was founded in March 2020 for the purpose of encouraging greater participation by Australians in planning their own future as a nation within a 21st century democracy. It is an independent centre of excellence in national community futures planning, providing an organising framework that can enable any and all Australians to increase the chances of improving our entire quality of life – our society, our environment, our economy and our democratic governance.

Australian Community Futures Planning has no affiliation with any political party inside or outside Australia. It receives neither political party nor other funding. All output from ACFP is produced by in-kind contributions of volunteers.

From 2020 until at least 2023 ACFP will be in start-up phase, pursuing a range of alliances with willing Australians, including participants in local government, the progressive media, open-minded progressive activist community associations, relevant university institutions, specialist centres of excellence, think tanks, peak environmental groups, scientists, economists, Indigenous and human rights advocates, and statisticians.

ACFP's Founder is Dr Bronwyn Kelly. **Dr Kelly is the Principal** author of this End of Term Report on the **State of the Nation 2022**. Sean Kelly is co-author and data analyst.

For more information on Australian Community Futures Planning visit

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Note – Disclaimer

This is a report on Australia's progress towards and away from the Vision for ***Australia Together***. ***Australia Together*** is a plan developed for the Australian community by any Australian willing to participate in good faith. It is not developed by any political party or elected government.

***Australia Together* has no statutory force
and binds neither governments nor participants in any way.**

Participation in the national community futures planning process for development of and reporting on ***Australia Together*** is entirely voluntary.

Acknowledgement

ACFP acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work across Australia and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded. ACFP recognises and celebrates the extraordinary contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made through millennia to all aspects of Australian life, culture and the environment. May all their songlines endure.

ACFP hopes that Strategies within ***Australia Together*** will assist First Nations to realise, in full, the aspirations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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Overview – Are we progressing towards a better Australia?

Are we progressing towards a better Australia?

If Australians agree that the draft **Vision for Australia Together** describes the better Australia we might aspire to for ourselves and future generations, the answer to the above question in 2022 must be

No, we are not progressing towards a better Australia, we are travelling away from that preferred destination.

But we do have the means of reversing our current course of travel and we have full capacity to switch to safer paths – paths by which we the people can make the **Vision for Australia Together** a reality, providing a place of wellbeing and security for everyone.

A central question for Australia

In 2022, the vast majority of Australians will not be aware of attempts to answer this question: Are we progressing towards a better Australia? Most will not be aware that a new systematic process has been established to enable them to ask and answer the question using factual detail assembled in a single, fully accessible location outside the distorting lens of politics.

In the internet age, a wide variety of surveys and research projects have been established which attempt in disparate fashion to answer small parts of the question, and the community has been given free and open access to most of these. But until now, in Australia at least, no attempt has been made to address the full question in detail, in one place, using a coherent measurement framework. We have lots of little surveys of progress that look backward in time and record how we have changed on many isolated parameters. But we have nothing coherent that looks *forward* – nothing that looks at the directions in which we are headed and nothing that sheds light on whether the directions we are taking are really the ones we might prefer, were we to be given reasons and a chance to choose a different path.

It is probable that the question of whether we are travelling to a better future has not been asked, let alone answered, because Australia has not yet arrived at an acknowledged description of what a better Australia might look like. **We have not articulated an agreed, preferred destination for the nation. We have not come together to describe where we want to go.** In the absence of that shared sense of an ideal destination – some might call it a common and meaningful purpose – it is not possible to assess the wisdom of the directions in which we are headed, let alone choose different ones, should we so please.

Fortunately though, some of those same surveys and research programs that have been made public in the last twenty years have described not just the features of our present state, but many of the features of an ideal future, the one we might aspire to if we were given the chance to let our imaginations run free. There have been some spaces where we have been asked to imagine the best

future, including but not limited to the community engagement programs of Australia reMADE and countless local government area engagement processes for long term community futures planning. These have provided the pieces of a picture that we can assemble of a future in which everyone can find a space to live their life as they determine to be meaningful and fulfilling.

And when these pieces are assembled what becomes apparent is that, when it comes to the future, Australians – regardless of any political, cultural, economic and ideological differences – are “staggeringly similar”¹ in their aspirations. We all want the same things for our kids, nieces, nephews, and anyone dear to us who is born next in our communities. We all want wellbeing and security and the same opportunities to attain those fundamental conditions. We may disagree about what we want in the present. But we tend not to disagree about what we want as an ideal for the longer term.

Because politics focusses on the shorter term, it mires Australians in disagreement and stalls progress. But an integrated **National Planning & Reporting** framework that takes a certain future as a preferred destination – a home we might all wish to share in time – has now made it possible for Australians suddenly to come together in the common cause of making a well understood, particular type of better Australia. Research by Australian Community Futures Planning (ACFP) has demonstrated that this “better Australia” is likely to be imagined as:

- **socially inclusive, equitable and intelligent,**
- **environmentally sustainable,**
- **economically fair and resilient,** and
- **democratically open and ethical.**

This in turn has enabled ACFP to assemble a draft **Vision for Australia Together** for consideration by Australians and a planning framework to help make it a reality. And with that in hand, Australians can now begin to check whether it is indeed where we want to go and to monitor whether we are moving towards or away from the destination it describes. The chief advantage of this **National Integrated Planning & Reporting** process is that it gives us the chance to set safe courses of travel to our preferred destination in the future much earlier than we otherwise might. It means we can identify where we are straying from the preferred paths and reset our course before we do too much damage and waste too much money.



The advance knowledge provided by a serious attempt to answer the question of whether we are headed to a place of wellbeing and security for all, also provides us with the wherewithal to build a much more resilient and self-reliant Australia – one capable of averting the crises we can prevent and withstanding the impact of the global crises we cannot prevent.

About this report

This is an End of Term Report against the aims of the draft Vision and Directions of Australia Together during the 46th parliament of Australia and over the last ten to twenty years. It contains some hard reading about how we are not prepared for the future and how seriously we have strayed from safe paths towards what should be the minimum level of wellbeing and security for a 21st century, wealthy, democratic nation. **It is a confronting report. But it is a timely and essential wake-up call and is designed to help Australians understand more about:**

- **our weaknesses as a nation,**

¹ Australia ReMADE, “[Creating the Best Version of Us](#)”, page 1.

- what we are doing well and not well,
- what we need to change if we want to make the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality, and
- what strengths we will need to capitalise on.

Australian Community Futures Planning began working with Australians to help them build a plan for a better Australia in March 2020. As a centre of excellence in National IP&R, ACFP:

- developed the tools Australians will need to build the nation's first long term community futures plan, *Australia Together*, and the processes they can use to monitor it;
- devised a structure for an integrated long term national plan that will be easy to follow – a map of the safe paths to the preferred destination in the future and a signpost system to select Strategies that take us in the preferred Directions;
- conducted the research to assemble the first **draft Vision for *Australia Together***; and
- assembled the data to help everyone monitor whether we have followed the Directions and whether we need to change course. This assembled data is an ongoing project – the *Australia Together National Wellbeing Index*.

This Report constitutes the first report against the Indicators, Targets and Strategies housed in the Index. It builds a forward-looking, outward-looking picture of:

- us – we the people of Australia – as a nation,
- our land and home,
- our relationships with each other and the world,
- our prospects, and
- our dreams.

The Report also:

- looks *back* over how we have progressed in relation to critical Indicators of a better nation during the life of the 46th parliament of Australia;
- looks back further where data are available to paint a picture of our capacity, strengths and weaknesses over the last 10 to 20 years;
- sums up where we are and how healthy and resilient our nation is now and how far away we are from where we would prefer to be; and
- sums up the biggest challenges – things we would be well advised to solve in the decade to 2030 if we expect to arrive safely in 2050 with an acceptable degree of wellbeing and security.

ACFP trusts that this Report, confronting though it is, will arm Australians with much of the knowledge they need to chart a safe course to their preferred future.



Status of reporting capacity of the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index

The *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index enables Australians to answer questions about whether and where we may be moving towards a better future. It is the largest set of assembled data for this specific purpose that is available to Australians today. The Index is being built progressively and is currently estimated to be about 65% complete. It contains 265 Indicators of progress complete with baseline data showing our position in 2022 in relation to 165 Targets and 100 Strategies for making the Vision for *Australia Together* a reality. More Indicators will be added during future parliamentary terms.

The Index is designed to enable us to monitor our direction of travel towards or away from the draft Vision for *Australia Together*. This Vision is currently made up of:

- 17 Vision elements – draft statements about the sort of life we wish to be able to lead and the country we wish to live in by 2050 (see Introduction below for the full Vision); and
- 57 draft **Direction statements** of the safe routes toward that Vision, including Directions for our **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**. [Click here for the full wording of the Directions](#).

The current status of the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index allows us to monitor:

- all 17 elements of the Vision, and
- 42 of the 57 Directions.

The remaining 15 Directions will be reported on in the next End of Term Report.

This Report covers how well we have travelled as a nation during the term of the 46th parliament of Australia and, where data are available, over the longer term of the last ten to twenty years.

For ease of reading, ACFP has used colour and direction signs to display results:

- **Red and red arrows pointing left ← denote negative progress.**
- **Green and green arrows pointing right → denote positive progress.**
- **Orange and split arrows in both directions ←/→ denote mixed results, heavily qualified results, stagnation, or absence of data.**

Overview of Results

For all our wealth, privilege, resources and capacity, almost nothing has got better in our national life during the 46th parliament and over the longer term of the last ten to twenty years.

- On balance, **we have moved away from rather than towards 15 of the 17 Vision elements.**
- **Progress on the remaining two Vision elements has been stagnant** – neither towards nor away from the Vision, on balance.
- **In relation to the 42 Directions monitored, on balance:**
 - **In only 2 cases have we moved in accordance with the safe direction of travel.**
 - **In 4 cases we have moved in accordance with the safe direction but too slowly or indecisively.**
 - **In 4 cases, evidence is mixed and progress is stagnant.**
 - **In 32 cases we have moved contrary to the safe Direction of travel.**

<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
We are safe	←
We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures	←
Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life	←
We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing	←
We act together as a compassionate society	←
Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress	←
Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society	← / →
Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice	←
Vital services are fully accessible	←
Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared	←
National wealth is fairly shared	←
Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone	←
As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society	←
Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival	←
Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community	← / →
We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future	←
We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world	←

Consolidated results – Are we travelling towards the Vision via the safe Directions?				
Quadrant	On balance yes	On balance yes but indecisively	Evidence is mixed, progress is stagnant	On balance no
	→	← / →	← / →	←
Society	1	2	2	10
Environment	0	1	1	6
Economy	0	0	0	6
Governance	1	1	1	10
Total	2	4	4	32

Summary of performance during the 46th parliament

Taking in the results on the direction of movement in relation to the 265 indicators in the Index:

- **During the 46th parliament, negative performance (travelling contrary to the preferred Direction) outweighed positive performance by a factor of 255%.**
- In all quadrants, negative performance outweighed positive performance.
- The **worst performance** by far was in the **Environment** quadrant, although only a relatively small number of Indicators were monitored in that quadrant.
- The **second worst performance** was in the **Economy** quadrant, where a relatively large number of indicators were monitored and negative performance outweighed positive performance by a factor of 667%

Summary of performance during the longer term

Taking in the results on the direction of movement in relation to the 265 indicators in Index:

- **During the longer term, negative performance (travelling contrary to the preferred Direction) outweighed positive performance by a factor of 516%.**
- In all quadrants, negative performance significantly outweighed positive performance.
- The **worst performance** by far was in the **Economy** quadrant, where a relatively large number of indicators were monitored and negative performance outweighed positive performance by a factor of 5400%. The only positive factor in progress in Australia's economy has related to the predisposition of Australians towards the need to re-build equality and fairness.
- The **second worst performance** by far was in the **Environment** quadrant, although only a relatively small number of Indicators were monitored in that quadrant.

Key features of the worst areas of performance

As a nation, Australia has, on balance, travelled:

- away from the Vision,
- contrary to the Directions, and
- has done so in all four quadrants of the Index – **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**.

The balance of the result is not a fine one. It is stark and has been heavily tilted towards the negative. And the data strongly indicate that the nation has been drifting solidly that way for more than a decade.

Causes of the drift away from the Vision are complex but still quite easily discernible. Over the last ten to twenty years we have witnessed a range of graphic policy failures and attitudinal shifts that have weakened our cohesion as a nation, our confidence in our system of government and our preparedness for the future. Some important examples are summarised in the following section, not in any particular order. The combined effect of each of these as they have all come into play at once is the likely cause of Australia's movement away from the Vision of *Australia Together*.

Policies that did not take us where we want to go

Neoliberalism

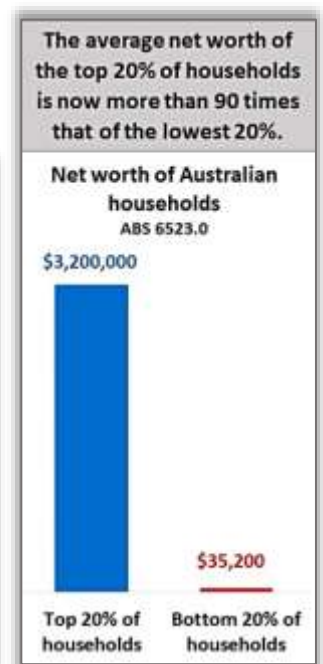
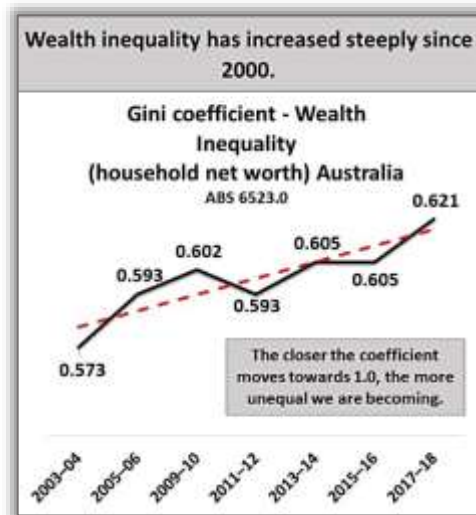
- **We have witnessed the failure of neoliberalism. It has not made our lives better:**
 - Results on Indicators of economic performance – all uniformly negative – reflect a clear failure of neoliberal policies.
 - **And results on progress towards the Vision tell us clearly that neoliberal policies of small government, light market regulation and encouragement of oligopolies have not taken us where we want to go – not even near it.**
 - On their own terms, adherents of neoliberalism may argue that they have achieved something good for the nation, by stripping back the government sector and giving free rein to our competitive “animal spirits” on the assumption that a free market will operate more efficiently than a market in which the taxpayer-owned government sector plays a strong competitive role. They may argue economic success within that frame of reference.
 - However, as this report shows, the “free market” operated by an unregulated private sector has not operated more efficiently.
 - Moreover, experience during the bushfires of 2019/20 and floods of 2022 in eastern Australia, plus experience of differential treatment of Australians (eg., the ruthless treatment of casual workers, tertiary educators, art and cultural sector workers and aged carers compared to the squandering of billions in over-subsidising big business) during the Covid-19 pandemic, indicates that Australia’s significantly privatised services sector has left us ill-prepared for the future and for global crises.
 - Results of our progress as a nation in the last two decades indicate unequivocally that the market arrangements pertaining under neoliberalism are not worth having.
 - Whatever Australia may have saved by funding a smaller government sector, it has lost many times over in returns that could have been realised through full competitive participation in our economy by the taxpayer owned government sector. Examples of lost returns and inequitable sharing of national wealth abound in this Report.

End of Term Report 2022 Progress on Directions from Australia Together	
In our economy Australia becomes ...	Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	On balance, no.
A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	On balance, no.
A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	On balance, no.
A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	On balance, no.
A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	On balance, no.
An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	On balance, no.

Inequality

- **We have witnessed the growth of inequality and have recognised it as a cause of misery, which we are rejecting as a preferred feature of our future:**
 - Income and wealth inequality have both steadily increased since the early 2000s.

- Wealth inequality has increased steeply.
- This is coincident with and indeed is a direct cause of slowed growth in our economy since the Global Financial Crisis. Plainly, when too many people have too little to spend, the total size of the economy can only be adversely affected – and it has been.
- Inequality, at least in the form of Gini coefficient calculations, has not been measured by the ABS since 2017/18. However, regressive policies on taxation which were legislated in 2018 and 2019, and persistent flattening of wages since 2014, can only have had the effect of accelerating the growth of inequality.
- Again, neoliberalism is a chief culprit, thriving as it does on inequality. Any policy setting which contributes to growth in inequality, including wealth, gender and racial inequality, has myriad consequences for everyone, not just the poor. Evidence in this report demonstrates that.
- This Report has been unable to identify policies which would counteract the effect of the tax legislation and flattened wages on equality. Australia is no longer the land of the fair go for all.
- What has been identified is that Australians strongly reject the growth of inequality. This is one of the few positive findings. Inequality is not something Australians want. The evidence is that they reject it and the cruelty that comes with it.

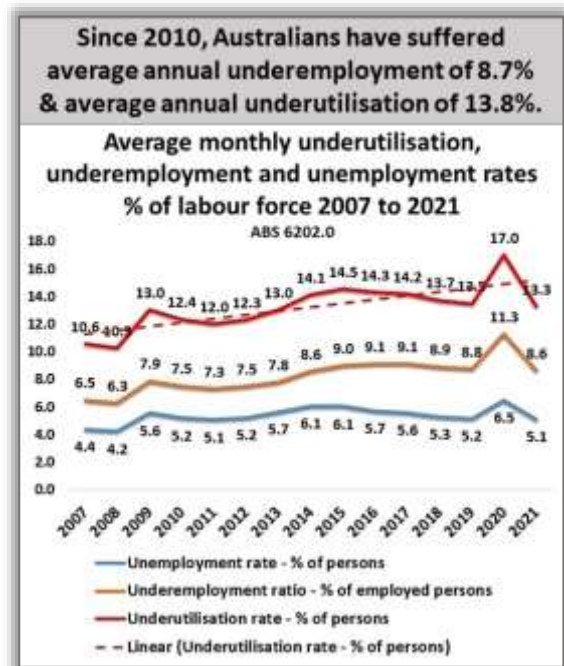


Imposed poverty, exclusions from the welfare system, and structural settings preventing full employment

- **We have witnessed consignment of millions of Australians to deep poverty for lengthy periods and extended unemployment:**
 - Poverty now excludes more than 3 million Australians from participation in our economy and realisation of their dreams to lead a fulfilling life.
 - Hounding of welfare recipients – in some cases causing death, as in the case of the Robodebt scandal – has marginalised and traumatised over 450,000 Australians, not counting those who have been cut off unfairly from welfare support while complying with the job placement system.
 - Private sector management of job placement services, and some Reserve Bank policies, are set more towards keeping people in unemployment than providing them with a job.
 - Contraction of the public sector has removed tens of thousands of job opportunities for meaningful work in areas that would grow the economy.

- The unemployment rate has dropped since the pandemic, largely due to slowed immigration. If immigration is restored to pre-pandemic levels we are likely to see a return to higher unemployment and a continuation of flattened wages for Australians.

- In 2022 unemployment and underemployment are lower than they have been for some time and underutilisation (the combination of unemployment and underemployment) has, mercifully, dropped from the annual average since 2010 of 13.8%. But in February 2022 it was still high at 10.6% and this at a time when the cost of living was increasing sharply under price increases for fuel and other essentials due to the war in Ukraine.



- During the 46th parliament an average of just over 1.2 million Australians were underemployed every month, meaning they could not get enough hours of work to meet their needs. Low wages exacerbated the problem.
- Of those Australians deemed to be living in poverty between 2017 and 2019, almost 25% had a full time job, indicating that they are being paid so poorly that even full time employment is now not enough to shield over one million employed Australians from poverty, let alone their children.
- Policy settings which embed poverty, as neoliberalism does, are entirely self-defeating from a budgetary perspective. Pressure on the health system, particularly mental health, only increases, bringing with it costs that could have been avoided.
- It is notable that ABS surveys of the impacts of Covid-19 on households registered high or very high levels of psychological distress throughout the first two years of the pandemic – over 20% for all Australians and 30% for young Australians aged 18 to 34 years.² This is significantly higher than in pre-pandemic surveys when it was around 13%.
- Australians are likely to consider the benefits of a social wage, particularly insofar as it can reduce gender inequality and promote genuine full employment. [Click here for information on the benefits of a social wage for all adult Australians.](#)

Structured discrimination against women and LGBTIQ+

- **We have witnessed inaction on gender equality, including a policy vacuum that is stopping women and LGBTIQ+ from participating in the economy as fully as they might and consigning many to domestic abuse.**
 - Relative to other countries, Australia's performance in achieving gender equality in areas including economic opportunity and participation, health and survival, and political empowerment has fallen dramatically over the last 2 decades. The only positive sign is that we retain the number 1 spot for levels of educational attainment. Overall,

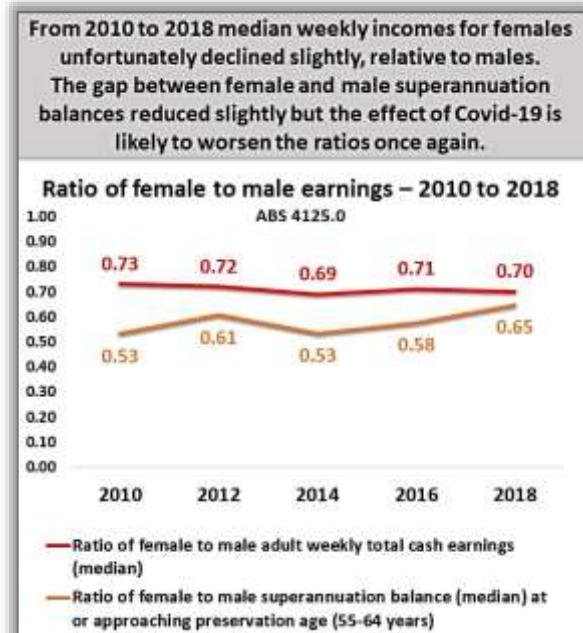
² ABS [Household Impacts of Covid-19 survey](#), June 2021.

between the years 2006 and 2021, Australia has dropped from rank No. 15 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report to now being ranked No. 50. There is no excuse for a wealthy developed country to fall so dramatically in global gender gap rankings. And yet other countries are leaping over Australia in closing the gap.

Australia's global ranking on gender gaps has fallen substantially. Many other countries are closing their gaps faster.			
World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2021			
Australia's global gender gap rank	Rank in 2006	Rank in 2021	Fall in ranking
On educational attainment	No. 1	No. 1	No change
On economic participation and opportunity	12 th	70 th	↓ Fall of 58 places
On health and survival	57 th	99 th	↓ Fall of 42 places
On political empowerment	32 nd	70 th	↓ Fall of 38 places
Overall ranking	15th	50th	↓ Fall of 35 places

The lower the place, the bigger the gender gap.

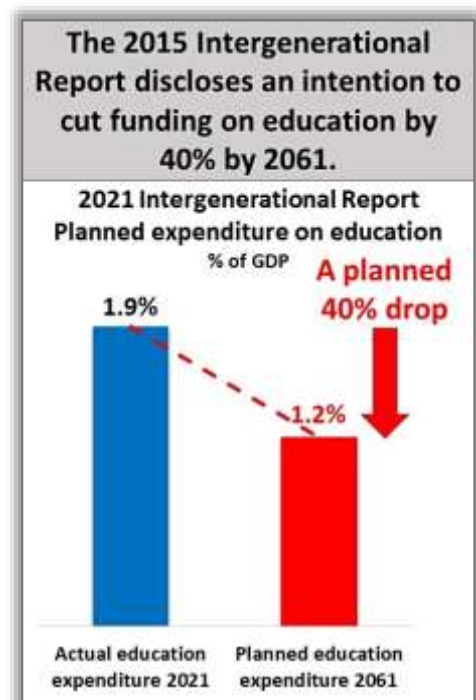
- The gender pay gap in Australia, on some reports, appears to be closing but at a snail's pace. In 2021, the Australian Government Workplace Gender Equality Agency reported that, "The gender pay gap has fallen from 24.7 per cent to 20.1 per cent and at this rate of change will take another 26 years for the full-time gender pay gap for total remuneration to close." Other data from the ABS does not provide confidence that the pay gap is closing.
- In 2017/18 the median male superannuation balance (\$183,000) was 54% higher than the median female superannuation balance (\$118,556).
- All manner of stalling tactics have been in play to prevent closure of the gender gap. Despite a legislative framework which prohibits gender discrimination, no notable action has been taken to lift the prospects and circumstances of women and LGBTIQ+ in the past ten years. The single exception is legislation permitting same sex marriage, a reform itself stalled for more than a decade by government inaction and outright resistance to the will of the majority of Australians.
- Attempts to *remove* access to institutional benefits for LGBTIQ+, have emerged anew during the 46th parliament in the form of religious discrimination bills, although these have recently been withdrawn.
- In its legislative agenda the government has sidelined genuine reforms that are far more urgent for Australians in favour of legislation benefitting religious groups who are the only groups who have rights enshrined already under the Constitution. The government could have prioritised workplace laws benefitting women and LGBTIQ+ but chose policy directions that continue structural discrimination on religious grounds.



- The policy vacuum was so evident that in the end women themselves stepped up to propose an agenda. In 2021 and 2022, Australia witnessed a surge in calls for safety, respect and equity for women and girls throughout their lives – in the workplace, in schools, in all other public places and in the home. The call went out to women from survivors of sexual abuse including but not limited to Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins. They added to the calls from women of colour, disability, and genderqueer women that had been growing over previous decades. The essence of the call for safety, respect and equity was specific in the following terms:
 - Create free and accessible early childhood education and care.
 - Expand paid parental leave.
 - Act on the national plan for first Nations women and girls.
 - Deliver strong and consistent child sexual assault laws.
 - Insist employers step up to prevent sexual harassment and bullying.
 - Establish 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave.
 - Support laws to get rid of the gender pay gap.
- Any government looking for an agenda to promote equality in Australia could start here. If they added introduction of a social wage to the mix, the speed with which we would see the above agenda fulfilled would be likely to overcome structural discrimination within five years, all to the benefit of the Australian economy and our quality of life. And if that agenda were overarched by a new Accord between Australians and their parliaments on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing, Australia would skyrocket to the top rank in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. Click here for information on the benefits of a new [Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing](#).

Dismantling of public education

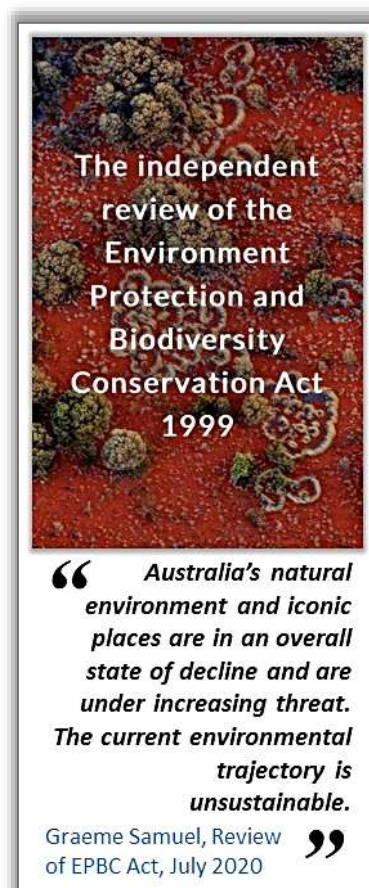
- **We have witnessed large scale attacks on our education system, potentially crippling our productivity and thereby setting the economy on a path of decline. This runs absolutely counter to the Vision for Australia Together:**
 - Funding cuts to education have been quietly embedded in federal budgets since 2014. And the last two Intergenerational Reports (2015 and 2021) have shamelessly disclosed an intention to cut federal budget education funding as a proportion of GDP by 40% by 2061.
 - During the Covid-19 pandemic, the federal government refused to support the tertiary education sector leading to the loss of 40,000 jobs (35,000 in universities and 5,000 in vocational education).
 - De-skilling of Australians is being embedded from school age. Scores for educational attainment have been dropping for almost twenty years.



- Successive federal governments have also built gross inequality into the system by a failure to implement the Gonski reforms.
- In 2021, bilateral school funding agreements between the Commonwealth and state governments were set such that public schools in all states except the ACT would only ever be funded at 91% of their Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) – leading to a cumulative under-funding to 2029 for government schools estimated at \$60 billion – while special deals for private schools by the Morrison Government and continuing over-funding by several state governments would ensure that private schools would be funded at over 100% of their SRS until at least 2029. The cumulative over-funding of private schools to 2029 is estimated at \$6 billion.
- Between 2009-10 and 2018-19, private school funding increased by \$2,164 per student, adjusted for inflation, compared to \$334 per student for public schools and funding per private school student increased by 22.4%, nearly ten times the increase of only 2.4% for public schools.
- The growth in private schooling has long been accompanied by declining overall levels of student achievement.
- Attacks on the tertiary education system by the federal government are economically contractionary, not just insofar as the refusal to support the sector during the pandemic has impacted our overseas trade in education services for years to come, but also insofar as the failure to provide free lifelong education, as several other countries do, reduces our productivity and therefore our competitiveness. The impact of increasing fees for tertiary education, to the point where it is now unaffordable for most, is coincident with a steep trend of falls in Australia's labour productivity since 2000.

Disregard of the environment and biodiversity

- **We have witnessed the decimation of much of our natural environment and biodiversity. Stewardship of ecology has not been a priority policy but this is changing:**
 - Losses of biodiversity have accelerated in the 21st century. Inland river fish kills and bleaching of the Great Barrier reef are two of the most obvious examples.
 - Fraud or corruption in trading of water in regional Australia, along with poor planning for integrated ecosystem management, has brought on several crises for biodiversity and the sustainability of regions.
 - Again, policies on regional development which have often disregarded the environment, combined with underfunding of services in rural and remote areas, have not taken Australia where we want to go.
 - Policies on climate change, which have been set towards denial and inaction, have all but sealed the fate of Australia's biodiversity and ecosystems. They are on the brink of collapse. In 2020, a Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act noted that "Australia's natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing



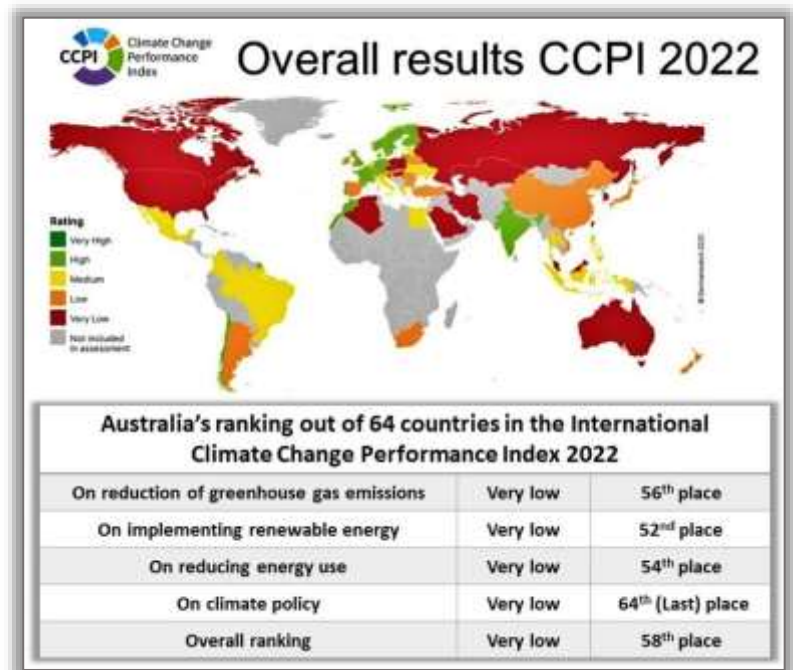
threat. The current environmental trajectory is unsustainable.” Mining and fossil fuel extractors are accelerating the ecocide.

- Fortunately, rural and regional farming communities are beginning to realise the essential value of environmental sustainability and maintenance of the widest possible biodiversity. If these communities can secure policy changes which over-ride the negative impact of mining on Australia’s most scarce resource – water – the nation may yet steer its way back on course to the Vision for *Australia Together*.

Climate policy intransigence and support of fossil fuels

- **We have witnessed the failure of our policies on climate change. It has blighted our land, our lives and livelihoods, and our reputation as a decent international citizen:**

- Australia’s record on climate policy and cooperation is nothing short of appalling. We have progressively tumbled down in the rankings of the international Climate Change Performance Index until we have reached the bottom of the list of 64 participating countries. And we are hurting no-one as much as ourselves in the process by persistent unethical and uncooperative behaviour on the international stage.

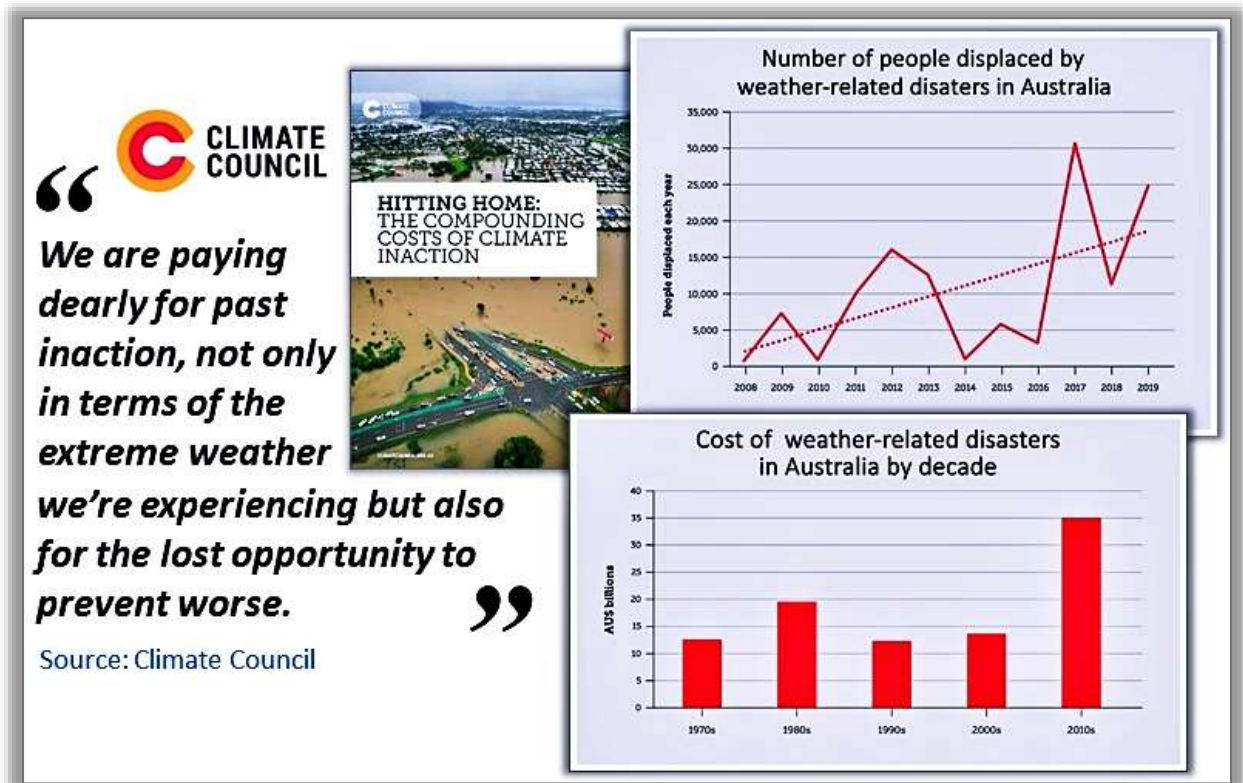


- Inaction in transition of our fossil fuel based economy to one based on renewable energy will cost Australia a minimum of \$584 billion over the decade to 2030 and \$762 billion by 2050, according to Melbourne University³. Almost all of that loss is still avoidable if we reverse policy direction on climate change and commit to reaching net zero carbon emissions without exceeding a fair budget of emissions (which in Australia’s case is likely to be no more than 3.5 billion tonnes of carbon equivalents⁴).
- But instead we have a policy orientation which is tailored to aggravating the losses by embedding more inaction. Australia was treated to a new “National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025”. But other than referencing some extra funding for droughts (note, not floods or fires), it did little more than establish a reinsurance pool for climate change damage. Because it included no actions whatsoever to mitigate or prevent climate change (and because current mitigation strategies elsewhere are

³ See Chapter 12, Issue No. 16 – Climate policy failure and Chapter 8, Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy.

⁴ See ACFP, [What’s at stake at COP 26? Everything!](#) for further information on fair and reasonable carbon budgets for Australia.

insufficient to reduce heating), the new adaptation strategy proactively set up Australians and the insurance industry to incur massive and otherwise avoidable financial losses, and then use taxpayer funding, not to protect Australians but to bail out private insurers (by reinsuring them) for losses that should be prevented rather than courted. The Strategy increases the chances and magnitude of future loss by insurers but promises that taxpayers will cover their loss. It is a strategy to ensure private financiers will make money out of the misery of Australians.

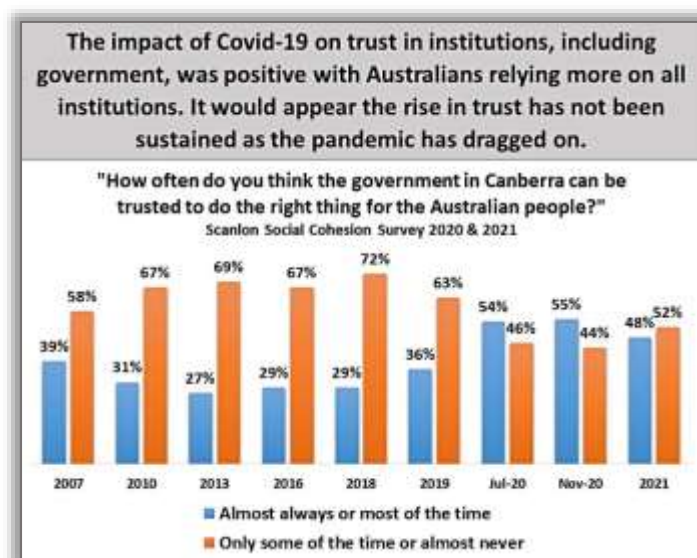


- Climate policy in Australia is the epitome of irresponsibility and the largest scale of greed we have seen in Australia at least since the British government declared ownership of the entire eastern half of the Australia continent in 1788⁵.
- The Paris Agreement of 2015 in which we agreed to use all endeavours to cap global heating to between 1.5° and 2° Celsius represents the one time in human history that every nation in the world has come to agreement about what must be done to save humankind and committed to acting as a coherent international community. And yet Australia has walked away from every sworn commitment, even though it is so obviously and wholly in our interest to stick to the agreement and even though we have the capacity.
- This failure of leadership and integrity is forcing Australians to contemplate the prospect of forsaking every single aspiration we may have for our children. On top of the destruction of our magnificent country and biodiversity, Australia’s recalcitrance on climate change piles up mental health problems of anxiety and depression on unprecedented scale. Australians sense there is an existential tragedy unfolding and the knowledge that it will lead to a blighted future is a serious health consideration today.

⁵ See Henry Reynolds, *Truth Telling*, NewSouth Publishing, 2021, Chapter 7 referring to Arthur Phillip’s proclamation on 7 February 1788 in which he asserted British sovereignty over the eastern half of the continent, an appropriation which was taken for granted until the Mabo decision of the High Court in 1992, the implication of which “was inescapable. The British had expropriated the land without compensation.”

Disregard of accountability and tolerance of corruption

- **We have witnessed a descent into state corruption particularly, but not solely, at the federal level of government. The evidence is that this is not what we want:**
 - Australians on survey and in commentary have observed a growth in corruption particularly within the federal government.
 - In the ten years to 2021, Australia's score on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index dropped by 12 points to reach its lowest point since the start of the Index.
 - Prior to the pandemic, a significant majority of Australians distrusted government more than we trusted it. This applied particularly to federal governments – both Labor and Liberal/National.
 - Throughout the last decade the only institution we have trusted less than the federal government is the media, particularly the Murdoch media.
 - Since the pandemic it has been a slightly different story. We have begun to trust governments more, at least temporarily, but the trust seems to arise from a recognition that government, rather than the private sector, is by far the more reliable supporter of our health and safety. In other words, it arises from a recognition of the failure of neoliberalism.
 - Beyond that there is very little evidence that we trust our governments to behave ethically and still less that we trust them to take future generations into account.

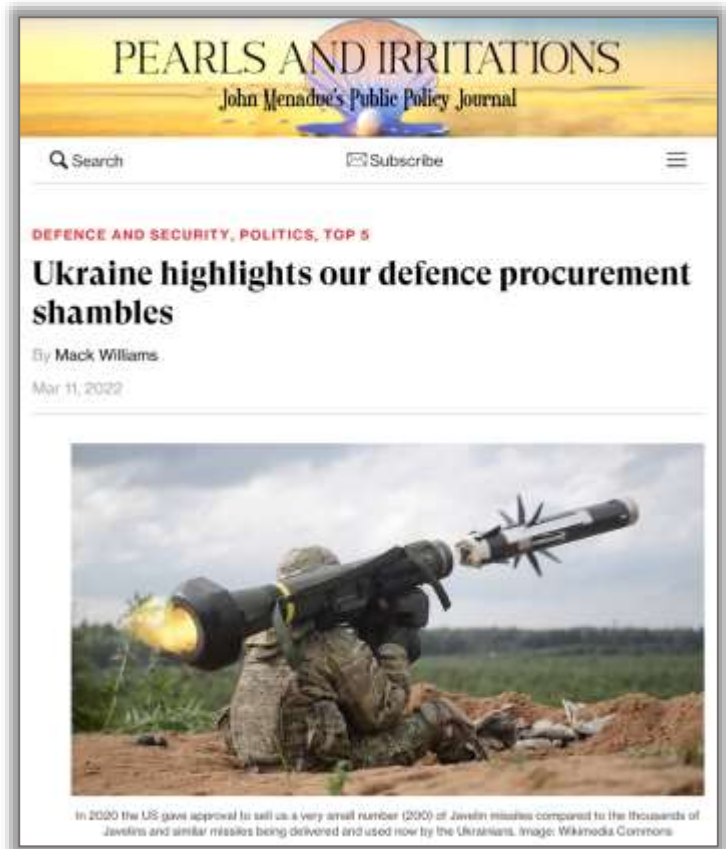


While state governments who have sold public assets for far less than they are worth are clearly sinking into actions contrary to the public interest (i.e., corrupt), the federal level of government is the most problematic at present. Ministerial codes of conduct are too loose and are unenforceable. Ethical standards and behaviour are openly declining in federal parliament and **the government has stonewalled for years on its commitment to legislate a federal corruption and integrity commission.** The federal parliament (with the concurrence of the Labor Party) has even refused to introduce a binding code of conduct for parliamentarians.

- Amid this culture of unaccountability, Australians have been forced to support an economy based on fossil fuels at the expense of far more productive structures for a modern economy. Policy has been skewed to drive Australia's economy towards support of industries currently providing no new jobs and away from industries that will provide vast numbers of jobs, namely public health, welfare, education, housing, conservation and land care, renewable energy, buildings efficiency and transport. Australia has become a victim of state capture.

Hawkish foreign policy

- **We have witnessed the rise of a pugnacious thirst for war, which by and large is not the preference of Australians and for which we are entirely ill-prepared:**
 - At the national level of our governance, there has been a rise in war mongering.
 - This is of particular concern given the Defence Department's deepening inability to establish a procurement program in the last few years that is any better than a "shambles", wasting billions of dollars on substandard equipment and failing contracts in what is now regarded as a "national disgrace"⁶.
 - Australia now holds a policy aspiration to become one of the ten largest weapons exporters in the world and has established a new entity within the Defence Department which effectively acts to smooth business transactions and profits for private sector arms dealers, including to countries with an extremely poor record in military incursions on other states, such as Saudi Arabia.
 - In a critical failure, Australia has downgraded its capability in diplomacy and is now pursuing an approach to foreign relations in which strategies for defence and diplomacy are set to disable strategies for security, independence, sovereignty, growth in national resilience, and peace.
 - We have allowed the Australian Strategic Policy Institute to be funded by foreign owned arms dealers, which has resulted in a considerable increase in aggressive, hawkish postures. Even the Australian War Memorial has become a promotional billboard for weapons manufacturers rather than a place of reverence for those lost in war. It is no longer possible to assume that foreign policy in Australia is being developed independently.
 - With the establishment of AUKUS, defence and foreign relations policy is being set in full disregard of the new geopolitical realities of the 21st century in our region – namely the inevitable rise of Asia. It is being set on a futile and economically self-defeating course of containment of a rising power.



⁶ See Mack Williams, "[Ukraine highlights our defence procurement shambles](#)", Pearls and Irritations, 11 March 2022.

- In this context, Australia's current arrangements with the US as an ally are *increasing* our exposure as a potential target for aggression, given that we have located American military, intelligence, surveillance and command installations on our soil. The potential for Australia to become a first strike target or a proxy target for the US is increasing with the new AUKUS partnership. AUKUS introduces the possibility that nuclear powered submarines will be based in Australia. While it is not currently envisaged that these submarines will be nuclear armed, the fact remains that nuclear reactors will shelter in Australia and they therefore constitute a nuclear target. This significantly and perhaps catastrophically endangers Australia.
- Australia is in desperate need of a foreign policy and posture review. In this regard there is a need to involve Australians openly in processes for determining a new framework for decisions on our strategic interests and defence. Respectful engagement with Australians on the issue of their nation's strategic interests and the principles for decision making on security issues, remains a concept that is not comprehended by key security policy makers. This pertains despite the fact that Australians are entirely capable of determining what is in the best interests of their nation and, within a fully open process, are best placed to develop principles and instructions for government on how decisions of national security may be made, including those decisions which commit Australia to wars.
- Australians have witnessed a serious deterioration in our relationship with our largest trading partner, China, a nation which is a mainstay of our future prosperity and security. Recent surveys indicate that while the longer term trend of our attitudes towards China has been negative – no doubt inflamed by anti-China rhetoric among Western countries attempting to contain its rise and the rise of Asia – Australians continue to support neutral postures on China. Indications are that promotion of “drums of war” themes is out of step with the views and preferences of the majority of Australians.
- Policy development dominated by the military industrial complex is not taking Australia towards becoming a nation assured of enduring peace, as per the Direction for Peace and Security in *Australia Together*. It is shifting us to become a nation assured of enduring war.



Secrecy and sacrifice of human rights

- **We are witnessing the rise of the secret state and the demise of our human rights:**
 - In the last two decades Australia has moved closer towards autocracy. The authoritarianism we fear and criticise in non-democracies such as China has been on the rise in Australia itself ever since the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001. Those attacks ushered in a massive overhaul of national security legislation which has resulted in significant loss of rights and freedoms for Australians.
 - Under these legislative and other administrative changes, we have experienced reductions in freedom of the press, alongside a failure to protect democratic discourse from misinformation, fake news and hate speech. Attacks on the press have been particularly fearsome and quite effective in dampening free speech. Intimidation of whistleblowers has also become a particular concern.
 - Security legislation has involved the use of excessive secrecy. Effectively, there is now no mechanism by which Australians can be advised when the government is secretly acting contrary to the public interest in relation to security.
 - Added to this is the problem that lobbyists have free rein to enter parliament and promote their sectional interests without accountability. Our democracy is near to fully hostage to them. Lobby groups and rich individuals are allowed to buy elections. And yet the Coalition government attempted to introduce legislation in 2018 which would restrict small donations by householders to activist groups like GetUp and charities like the Climate Council. All the legislative actions of Coalition governments since 2014 have been aimed at capping the small donations of the many, not the massive donations of the few.



A cascade of lost rights and freedoms

- Raids on journalists' homes and files
- Criminalisation of public interest journalism
- Prohibition of reporting on human rights abuses in offshore detention centres
- Vesting power in politicians instead of justice officials to sign off on prosecutions of journalists
- Increases in refusals of FOI applications
- Extensive delays in the time taken to respond to FOI requests
- Extensive redaction of any documents released
- Refusal to disclose findings of corruption inquiries
- Tenacious resistance to establishment of a national corruption watchdog
- Suppression of the public's right to know through serious intimidation of whistleblowers who disclose matters that are clearly in the public interest
- Lobby groups and rich individuals can buy elections
- Attempts to introduce legislation to restrict small donations by ordinary Australians to activist groups and charities
- Excessive concentration of the powerful influence of certain lobby groups – particularly those employing recently retired government ministers and those associated with mining and fossil fuels
- Lobbyist registers are not well maintained and easily accessible
- Introduction of metadata retention laws without sufficient safeguards to ensure the government does not misuse the data and breach other lawful rights of Australians
- Repeated campaigns to silence over one million engaged citizens in GetUp
- Increased prohibitions on and penalties for peaceful civil protest
- Repeated attacks on trade unionism
- Threats to legislate against the rights of Australians to boycott businesses on environmental and ethical grounds
- Removal of the presumption of innocence until guilt is proven for welfare recipients
- Concentration of power in one minister on rights to stay in Australia
- Effective withdrawal from or active violation of human rights conventions
- Attempted subversion of the nation's human rights agencies
- Interference in and undermining of an editorially independent ABC

- There is an urgent need for a Royal Commission into national security legislation and its impact on key safeguards for Australia's democracy.
- In other infringements of rights, Australians have experienced:
 - unlawful removal of the presumption of innocence until guilt is proven for recipients of welfare and a foisting of the onus of proof onto those recipients (Robodebt);
 - concentration of power in one minister, rather than the courts, as to who shall be allowed to stay in Australia and who shall not;
 - forced deportation of Indigenous Australians who have committed a crime and served their time or who have not committed a crime and have even served in the national forces but who may not be able to prove citizenship;
 - effective withdrawal from, or active violation of, human rights conventions to which we have been a signatory for decades (including violation of the rights of refugees, children and Indigenous Australians in being locked up without charge);
 - repeal of the only decent laws made by Australia in relation to refugee rights in the 21st century – namely the Medevac legislation which was passed by the federal Parliament in late 2018 and repealed in late 2019;
 - persistent and ultimately successful attempts to amend the Migration Act to allow detention of refugees indefinitely and often in appalling conditions; and
 - attempted subversion of the nation's human rights agencies – particularly the Human Rights Commissioner Gillian Triggs in retaliation by the Liberal National Party government for her decision to conduct an inquiry into children in immigration detention.
- Australians are suffering this coordinated attack on their freedoms because we do not have a Bill of Rights in our Constitution and we remain the only democracy in the world without a national human rights framework.
- Australians are entitled to a modern democratically built Constitution, one fit for a 21st century enlightened nation charting a safe course in an irretrievably globalised world. Until they get one, they will have a democracy in name only.

Disregard of First Nations

- **We have witnessed a stinging refusal of a gracious and respectful request from First Nations to walk with them “in a movement of the Australian people for a better future”.**
 - The Uluru Statement from the Heart, released to Australians in 2017, after a National Constitutional Convention involving Indigenous peoples from all points of the southern sky, must be regarded as a potentially defining moment for Australia. Depending on our response to such a gracious statement – one issued after more than two centuries of suffering of First Nations under colonisation and theft of their lands – Australians may define themselves as decent or indecent.
 - Bearing in mind the ignominious circumstances of the nation's birth under the name Australia, the Uluru Statement offers the chance of starting again and moving forward as a nation of integrity and unity.
 - Progress in response to the Uluru Statement during the 46th parliament has, however, been disappointing.

- With respect to efforts to close the gap in Indigenous health and wellbeing, there has been some progress. But Indigenous incarceration and suicide have risen and Indigenous children are still being removed from their families at increasing rates.
- Disappointment is more marked in relation to the issue of constitutional recognition of First Nations. On this issue it must be said that Australia has taken a backward step. The debate on constitutional recognition has been moving away from consensus instead of towards it since 2017.
- Prior to 2017 there was broad cross-party agreement about referendum proposals to remove sections 25 and 51(xxvi) of the Constitution, which currently permit discrimination on the basis of race in law-making. But once the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart called for a Voice in the Constitution to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples, this seemed suddenly to be a step too far for conservatives in the 45th and 46th parliaments. The parliamentary [Joint Select Committee of 2018](#) asserted that bringing “a new element, The Voice, into the debate ... rejected much that had gone before in terms of proposals for constitutional recognition”. Of course, the call for a Voice in the Constitution did no such thing. But the stark rejection of discussion about a constitutionally enshrined Voice in the Co-Design Process signalled that some politicians thought a line had been crossed. It is as though removal of the power to discriminate against the Aboriginal race is tolerable, but giving them a positive right of self-determination in the Constitution is not.
- A positive right of self-determination is nothing that Indigenous peoples are not already entitled to under international conventions. It is also a right that non-Indigenous Australians would expect for themselves. However, until Australians insist on a new Constitution, the reality will be that no Australian has such a right.
- The Invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart offers all Australians a chance to define their democracy anew, so that it will endure without conflict and injustice. The invitation is yet to be graciously accepted.



What have we done that has taken us towards a better Australia?

The answer to this seems to be that since 2000 we have done very little that has taken us to a better Australia, and much of what we have done has been undone in the last half-dozen years by the pervasiveness of neoliberalism and corporate corruption of our governments, both of which have eaten away at the inner strength of our democracy and our cohesion as a community.

To the extent that we have been able to withstand government cutbacks in spending and services – our own now deeply embedded brand of austerity – we have insisted on maintenance of our health care system and the benefit is clear. This is not to say that movement in the direction of becoming a place of optimal health and wellbeing has been sufficient and without setbacks. Setbacks have clearly begun to occur in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and they began long ago in the privatisation of the aged care system. And we habitually stymie the performance of our health system by failing to address the social determinants of ill health.

Some small progress has been made in relation to women's and LGBTIQ+ rights but it has been very hard won, tragically so, and has not yet resulted in measured improvements on vital indicators such as equal pay and domestic violence. The progress consists in that women's and LGBTIQ+ rights seem to have finally made it to the top of political agendas. Women and LGBTIQ+ have found their voice.

New independent voices are rising as well in the *Voices Of* movement.

And of course the most joyous and harmonious rise of voices has emerged from First Nations peoples. Australians are rising to acknowledge our Indigenous heart. There is a groundswell of calls for acknowledgment and resolution of the struggles of the past and the illegal, inhumane and immoral faults in the founding of our nation. There is also evidence of a willingness to affirm our connection to each other and to this land, and in the process make Australia anew. Australians may not necessarily see that this is evident, say, in the detail of our responses to surveys on our attitudes; but if we put the pieces of this report together, it indicates that there is a desire to make a new start.

Otherwise, the most promising and hopeful set of results is present in:

- the apparent preparedness of Australians to come together to re-build after the pandemic;
- the recognition that a fully capable, energetic and competitive public sector is essential to our health, wellbeing and future prosperity – not a dead weight;
- our rejection of growing inequality; and
- an obvious readiness to do everything necessary to prevent climate change and seize the positive economic opportunities that spill out from that for all of us.

Looking at the data in the report in this way, it is apparent that the positive results all relate to our attitudes, rather than our physical, economic and environmental circumstances. There is a recognition that we are at a turning point as a nation and longing to build a better, safer life and home. This seems to be an emergent strength of the nation that we should not let slip away again.

Australians are interested in solving our most serious problems, particularly climate change and inequality, to a degree that they have never been before. And for that purpose they are beginning to mobilise in new political approaches that are less ideologically driven and less slavishly devoted to partisan groupings in politics.

That emergent strength can be capitalised on. Distrust of governments and politics has ballooned, as only it might when corruption of governments is so shamelessly on open display and ideological

rigidity has been so deeply embedded in the party political system. But out of the distrust has emerged a new readiness to reinvigorate Australia's democracy and for everyday Australians to take up bigger shares of power. This will require a transition from a merely representative democracy to a participatory democracy. In turn, this will require a new Constitution – The People's Constitution. But more on that at another time.

Finally, it will require us to forsake short-term party political agendas in favour of long term planning. This will require a new process for orderly engagement with each other within democracy. That process – **National Integrated Planning & Reporting** – has now been made freely available to Australians. The process has helped to identify twenty critical areas of national failure that must be solved by 2030 if we are to arrive safely in 2050 with an acceptable degree of wellbeing and security. These twenty issues are outlined in Chapter 12 of this report. Australia has the human capacity and more than enough wealth to solve every one of these twenty issues within five to ten years *if* we address those 20 critical issues in an integrated way.

National IP&R gives Australians the means of achieving this together. It gives them the means of reversing the decline of their democracy and the division of our society that has been driven into it since the early 2000s. It enables all Australians for the first time to participate in building a plan for a future that every one of us and every one of our children can share – **Australia Together**.

ACFP hopes that this first End of Term Report assists Australians in building a plan that will result in a much better End of Term Report on our nation during the 47th parliament – The State of Australia 2025.

The place of “End of Term” reports in Australia’s democratic election cycles

This report is designed to monitor Australia’s progress in meeting the Targets and implementing the Strategies of **Australia Together**, our nation’s first integrated, long term, community futures plan reflecting the stated desires and aspirations of the Australian people.

Australia Together is a people’s plan, independently prepared. It has not been prepared or reviewed by the government and is not binding on governments. It does, however, constitute a Voice, coherently framed, expressing Directions we might safely take to secure a better future for those who come after us and openly offering the terms for a new social contract with both elected leaders and those future generations.

In National IP&R, Australians can build, monitor and revise their plans for the future in line with the federal election cycle. The parliamentary term of the 46th parliament of Australia is the first term of office in which this national integrated planning process has ever been attempted.

For inquiries regarding National Integrated Planning & Reporting and the place of End of Term Reports in the cycle of federal elections, visit the [ACFP website](https://www.acfp.org.au).



Introduction

This is the first report on the state of Australia as a nation.

It has been made possible because of the development, from 2020 onward, of a draft long term, integrated plan for the nation and the country itself, covering the period from 2020 to 2050. That plan is called ***Australia Together***.

Australia Together is a plan being **built progressively by Australians for Australians** within a live, fully open planning space and with the assistance of Australian Community Futures Planning (ACFP). In this live, open space, Australians can continuously participate, without partisan political interference, in an organised framework to shape our future as we would prefer it to be in our democracy. It is where **we the people** can constantly consider and establish:

- what we want to become as a nation,
- what we want to leave for future generations, and
- how we can travel to that preferred future safely, fairly and with as little pain as possible.



For information on how to become involved in building *Australia Together*, visit the [ACFP website](#). Participation is open to each and every Australian.

This End of Term Report is the first report on progress with *Australia Together*. It:

1. assembles data across more than 260 indicators of the health of Australia's **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**, providing Australians with their first comprehensive and coherent picture of the current state of our nation; and
2. provides quantitative and qualitative data on Australia's progress towards and away from the Vision and Targets of *Australia Together*, our first national plan for a better future by 2050.

The Report covers how well we have travelled as a nation during the term of the 46th parliament of Australia and, where data are available, over the longer term of the last ten to twenty years. It is a report on us – our cohesion as nation, our custodianship of the environment, our economic resilience, our participation in democracy, and our preparedness for the future.

On balance, this End of Term Report shows that as a nation we the people of Australia are moving away from, not towards, the future of wellbeing and security that we have aspired to.

Australia Together – a map of the safe paths to a better future

Australia Together is no ordinary plan. It is an integrated map of the safe routes to a particular destination in the future, a destination of acceptable wellbeing and security.

The destination of the draft plan is described by showing the best version that Australians have been able to imagine in the early 2020s of the **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance** we would like to be living in by 2050 or sooner. The plan also shows what our nation and our country will become along the way if we approach that particular destination via the safe routes of the map.

The preferred destination has been described in the plan as a draft **Vision for Australia Together**. This draft Vision has been assembled based on comments made by Australians about their preferred future on the occasions they have been asked about that in the 21st century. [Click here for more information on where the draft Vision for Australia Together comes from.](#)

The draft Vision for *Australia Together* is made up of:

- 17 draft statements about the sort of life we wish to be able to lead and the country we wish to live in by 2050, as shown on the following page; and
- 57 draft **Direction statements** of the safe routes toward that Vision, including Directions for our **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**.

The 57 Direction statements within the Vision for *Australia Together* function as **signposts of the safe routes of travel** toward the preferred future wellbeing and security described in the Vision, and they indicate what Australia will become, in character as a nation, by moving in those Directions.

In *Australia Together*, these Directions of travel are:

- **socially inclusive, equitable and intelligent**,
- **environmentally sustainable**,
- **economically fair and resilient**, and
- **democratically open and ethical**.

The full wording of the 57 draft Directions is set out in Chapter 3 of [Australia Together](#), or at <https://www.austcfp.com.au/vision-and-directions-of-australia-together>

This End of Term Report is structured to report on Australia's progress with travel along the Directions in the **starting draft** of *Australia Together*, to the extent that data are available.



The starting draft of *Australia Together* is being publicly released in stages.

Click [here](#) for full access to all issues of the starting draft of *Australia Together*.

The Vision for Australia Together

**By 2050, we and our children and grandchildren will
be living a fulfilling life in an Australia where:**



We are safe

We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures

Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life

We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing

We act together as a compassionate society

**Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social
progress**

Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society

**Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family
and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of
choice**

Vital services are fully accessible

Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared

National wealth is fairly shared

**Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous
improvements in living standards for everyone**

**As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the
environmental aims of a global society**

**Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human
survival**

Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community

**We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best
interests when making decisions for our future**

**We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building
a safer, more peaceful and united world**

**These are the aspirations of our hopeful generation. We commit to this
Vision for *Australia Together* so that we can pass the gifts we have
inherited to our children, and they to theirs.**

Chapter 1 – How to read this Report

The *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index

Because *Australia Together* is a map through time, it is organised to enable us to:

1. select reasonable **Indicators** of progress towards the Vision;
2. establish **Baseline** information and data for each Indicator; and
3. establish **Targets** and **Strategies** for progress.

Taken together, the Indicators, Baseline data, Targets and Strategies form Australia's first comprehensive, integrated index of wellbeing – the ***Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index**. This is an Index that is not only about our current wellbeing but also about our progress towards or away from the type of wellbeing and security we, as citizens of a democracy, are likely to prefer for future generations – for our children.

The structure of linkages in the Index – between the Indicators, Baseline data, Targets and Strategies – allows us to paint accurate pictures of:

- a) our preferred destination by 2050, and
- b) where we are starting from in 2020.

In short, with the aid of the Index we should be able to see:

1. **what life will be like** – for individuals, society, our natural environment, ecology, economy and democracy – if or when we reach the destination described in the Vision for *Australia Together*;
2. **what Australia will have become as a nation** – in its own terms, values, character, and as a global citizen – if we as a community move from the Baseline towards the Targets via the preferred safe Directions of the plan; and
3. **how far away we are from that destination and national character** at the start of the plan in the early 2020s.

ACFP has been able to assemble this structure for a long term national plan by using a specially designed **National Integrated Planning & Reporting** process – **National IP&R**. For detailed information about National IP&R and how to become involved, visit the [ACFP website](#).

The *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index is being built progressively and is currently housed inside the starting draft of *Australia Together* itself in Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8. As at March 2022, ACFP estimated that the Index was about 65% complete – meaning that it contained over 260 Targets and Strategies with reliable baseline data, but that it may be expected that another 50 to 100 Targets or Strategies will be added in later Issues of the plan as more Australians become involved during the next parliamentary term.

The Index is a tool of National Integrated Planning & Reporting. This means it is structured so that it links and integrates a wide array of Targets and Strategies for a better future with baseline data about our starting position and within a system for checking that we are following the safe Directions towards the Vision. Accordingly the Index is set out in a simple three-column table as shown in the following graphic:

Structure of the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index

For every Indicator, Target & Strategy, a baseline is established alongside a list of which Directions they follow.

Indicator, Target or Strategy	Direction	Baseline
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society		
Society 1 – Safety		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
Safety in the home Soc01.01 The percentage of people who feel safe when at home alone after dark meets or exceeds 95%.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2016, 90.4% of Australians reported feeling safe when at home after dark. Source: ABS 4906.0 Table 39.1 2016
Safety in the context of world events and national security Soc01.08 The percentage of people who report feeling safe or very safe when considering world events and/or national security exceeds 90% annually.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2021, seven in ten Australians (70%) said that in view of world events they felt 'very safe' or 'safe', an improvement from 50% in 2020 but a decrease from 92% in 2010. Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.	

Important Note: How can Targets and Strategies be selected for inclusion in the Index?

Targets and Strategies can be selected for inclusion in the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index if:

- they are of national strategic significance, and if
- it can be demonstrated that they will contribute to achievement of the Vision (whatever it may be) via the safe routes described in the Directions (whatever they may be).

There is really only one central rule in this system and this rule is designed to:

- protect the people's integrated planning system from a loss of its independence through political interference; and
- prevent exclusion of diverse communities from participating in development of Strategies that are necessary to ensure they can find a place of equality and safety in Australia in the future.

The rule is that everyone must be able to find a place for their future and to that end no target or strategy can be included in the plan unless it can be demonstrated that it follows at least one of the 57 Directions of the plan and does not disable other Strategies which do follow the Directions.

In this arrangement, the Vision and Directions act as an independent, apolitical, non-partisan selection system for strategic initiatives that will reliably and efficiently drive the nation towards the Vision of we the people.

If, because of an expressed change of preference by the Australian people, the Vision or Directions change over time, this may admit different Targets and Strategies into the plan. But the Integrated Planning system itself will then work just as well to help Australians isolate the most reliable and efficient Targets and Strategies for the new Vision and Directions.

If Australians get the Vision and Directions right – so that they accurately reflect the aspirations of a diverse but cohesive community of Australians working together – then the Integrated Planning system will automatically ensure that selected Targets and Strategies will fit with that community's Vision and Directions.

Lay-out of the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index

While the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index is estimated in March 2022 to be only about 65% complete, it nevertheless provides Australians with the most comprehensive, consolidated picture they have ever had of their nation at a point in time and whether it is on course towards a genuinely preferred future.

This report has been laid out so that readers can see:




- **full information on movement** from the Baselines of Indicators in the Index, and
- **the direction of movement** toward or away from the Targets.

To that end, this report re-prints the entire Index as it has appeared in Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Issue No. 5 of the starting draft of *Australia Together*, released in March 2022⁷ and adds another column which reports on the direction of movement from the Baselines for each Indicator, Target and Strategy.

Australia Together National Wellbeing Index - Original			End of Term Report
Indicator, Target or Strategy	Direction	Baseline	Report on progress
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 1 – Safety			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Perceptions of safety and trust in the community Soc01.07.01 The proportion of Australians reporting trust in “most people” increases continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2019, 55.2% of Australians on survey felt “most people could be trusted”, up slightly from 54.4% in 2014. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1	In 2020, 61.9% of Australians on survey felt “most people could be trusted”, up from 55.2% in 2019. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1 → The longer term trend is steady. ← / →
Safety in the context of world events and national security Soc01.08 The percentage of people who report feeling safe or very safe when considering world events and/or national security exceeds 90% annually.	Soc 1 A safe home. Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.	In 2021, seven in ten Australians (70%) said that in view of world events they felt ‘very safe’ or ‘safe’, an improvement from 50% in 2020 but a decrease from 92% in 2010. Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021	Updated data not yet available. The shorter term trend was positive. → The longer term trend is distinctly negative with 6% of Australians reporting that they feel very safe in 2021, down from 44% in 2009, and 70% feeling safe or very safe in 2021, down from 90% in 2009. Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021 ←

Within the reporting column, information is provided (if available) about the direction of movement from the baseline in both the short term and over longer terms, using red and green arrows as shown in the following legend:

⁷ All issues of *Australia Together* are accessible at: <https://www.austcfp.com.au/past-issues-of-australia-together>

Legend of symbols used in this Report	
	Denotes positive movement towards the Target.
	Denotes movement away from the Target.
	Denotes either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no progress in a positive or negative direction at all, or that progress was generally stagnant through time, or that progress was variable in both directions through time (and therefore neither clearly positive nor clearly negative), or that no data were available to form a conclusion.

ACFP's method for forming conclusions about progress

The *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index is not just a set of numerical statistics. It is about people – their values, desires, social predispositions, policy preferences, cultural attitudes, willingness to work together and preparedness for the future. This complexity cannot and should not be reduced to a single numerical result if we are to expect that that Index will be useful for purposes of ensuring we are travelling safely to a better future. If the Index is to be useful for that purpose it must be built to show a much bigger, more multifarious picture of progress. This involves judgement.

In making conclusions about progress and the direction of progress in this End of Term Report, ACFP therefore exercises judgement based on:

- the available statistical data on the physical attributes of Australia and Australians and on the perceptions of Australians about those attributes, and
- qualitative information available at the time in relation to the attitudes of Australians and the policies of political, business and community institutions.

This may involve taking into account data relating to more than one Indicator, some of which will be measured by statistics, others of which may be measured by qualitative commentary.

The judgements made are neither absolute, nor quantitative as to the magnitude of movement in a particular direction. They are simply a reflection of whether in relation to an Indicator, Australia has moved towards or away from the Vision and relevant Target via the safe Direction.

To ensure that the complexity of the Index does not make understanding impossible, ACFP uses colour to paint summary pictures: **red for negative progress**, **green for positive progress**.

Readers may interrogate the reasoning behind ACFP's conclusions on progress in relation to any particular Indicator and determine for themselves whether the data and information relied on justifies ACFP's conclusion. The data and information behind each conclusion are provided in full in the Index in Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10 and in summary form in Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6.

To provide comment on this End of Term Report visit the ACFP website.

Using the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index for the benefit of our future

A National Wellbeing Index will be most valuable to Australians if it is designed not just to show how well or poorly we may be performing as a nation in relation to **short term** changes in indicators – of health, wellbeing, environmental sustainability, economic strength, ethical governance and security – but also to show their progress as a nation towards or away from **longer term** aspirations about all these things. In *Australia Together*, these longer term aspirations have been expressed as a Vision and Directions. The Index has therefore been designed to track progress towards the long term Vision, not just the shorter term movements backwards or forwards on each of the hundreds of Indicators in the Index.

The benefit of this unique longer term, forward looking approach is that it gives Australians advance notice of any accumulating forces, policies, strategies and prevailing cultural or economic attitudes which may be dragging us away from our preferred future as we have expressed it.

The *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index provides the data Australians need to know in the early 2020s so that they can understand the extent of effort needed to arrive safely home in 2050 and can adjust their plan in response to any foreseen need.

Australia Together is a plan designed to help Australians maximise their chances of making the Vision a reality. This is a very big undertaking, especially as it involves integrating a large number of Targets and Strategies so that they help us travel in the right Directions towards the Vision, instead of via routes we would wish to avoid. To date the National Wellbeing Index in Chapters 5 to 8 of *Australia Together* includes:

- 165 Targets, and
- 100 Strategies,



all of which are integrated with and connected to each other via the Directions. This sort of planning is an applied version of complex systems theory, devised for the purposes of helping Australians use their democracy far more efficiently to achieve progress towards a better future. Accordingly, the data and information in the Index covers measurable aspects of:

- our physical wellbeing and security,
- our perceptions of wellbeing and security, and
- our current cultural attitudes and position in terms of actual national policies and readiness for a safe, prosperous, equitable and sustainable future in a globalised 21st century world.

While the data, information and linkages in this sort of Integrated Plan and Wellbeing Index are wide ranging and complex, the data and information can nevertheless be rolled up into aggregated pictures of wellbeing and the direction of movement from the baseline – in other words, toward or away from the Targets and the Vision. We can also see if the nation is travelling along routes in policy and attitude that are contrary to the preferred safe Directions.


Australians are invited to use the Index to inspire them to develop of strategies for inclusion in the plan for things that matter to them and that cannot be set on the right course without an integrated national effort. For example, if equality of educational opportunity is something that matters for our future and our children's future, *Australia Together* can accommodate strategies for that by ensuring that we understand where we are starting from and how far we have to go before we achieve it. From there it can inspire us to choose the safest and most efficient routes.

Structure of this Report

This End of Term Report is structured to provide a range of accessible views of the hugely complex data set that is the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index. It provides views of the data:

- View No. 1:** Dissected by the quadrants of **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**.
- View No. 2:** By the 17 elements of the Vision for *Australia Together*.
- View No. 3:** By reference to our current position and performance in relation to the top twenty most serious issues affecting Australia in the coming decade.

View No. 1 – by quadrant is presented in three layers moving from the general to the specific. Within these layers the Report draws pictures of results in terms of the quadrants of the plan – namely for **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**.

	Layer	Location	Contains
General  Detailed	Top	Chapter 2	Consolidated summary of results for each Direction in each quadrant.
	Middle	Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6	Summary of progress for each Target and Strategy in each Direction within each quadrant for both the short and longer terms*.
	Lower The full <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index	Chapters 7, 8, 9 & 10	Full underlying data including baseline data and results and other qualitative information on progress and the direction of movement over both the short term and longer terms (where data are available) for each Target and Strategy in each Direction within each quadrant.
* Short term results pertain to the 46 th parliament. * Longer term results pertain to various periods back to approximately the year 2000 where data are available but usually refer to the last decade or the 44 th and 45 th parliaments.			

View No. 2 – by Vision element is presented in two layers:

1. A top layer located at the end of Chapter 2: Consolidated results by Vision element.
2. A more detailed layer in Chapter 11: Are we moving towards the Vision for *Australia Together*?

View No. 3 – by reference to the top twenty most serious issues is located in Chapter 12.

View No. 1 and View No. 2 hold data and information on results. They record progress and the direction of travel – towards or away from the Vision during the 46th parliament and over the longer term where results data are available.

View No. 3 contains data and information in summary form about the state of the nation in 2022 in relation to the top twenty issues that Australia must resolve by 2030 if we are to arrive safely in 2050 with an acceptable degree of wellbeing and security. It contains pictures of **where we are now** at the start of this thirty-year planning period in relation to the most important challenges. ***Australia Together* is a map of the safe paths to the future. View No. 3 shows the beginning of the road.**

Chapter 2 – Consolidated Summary of Results

Completeness of this picture of Australia

Australia Together paints a picture of what Australia looks like now and what a better Australia can look like in the future in terms of its **society**, **environment**, **economy** and **governance**.

As a centre of excellence in national community futures planning, ACFP's contribution to this process consists in development of:

1. the National Integrated Planning & Reporting process (National IP&R) that Australians can use to build their long term plan for a better future;
2. a structure for the plan of *Australia Together* itself to ensure that Targets and Strategies can be readily selected that fit with the Vision and Directions;
3. research on Australian opinions to assemble the draft Vision and Directions for *Australia Together*; and
4. the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index.

Within ACFP's resources to date, it has been possible to select and build into the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index a large number of Indicators which will:

- reliably reflect Australia's current wellbeing and security, and
- enable us to transparently monitor movement toward or away from the Vision and Targets.

We have also been able to source baseline data for each of those Indicators.

The plan and Index have infinite capacity hold any number of Indicators that Australians may deem necessary from time to time. But based on ACFP's experience in building and managing reporting systems that will enable us to paint clear pictures of national aspirations and progress, it has been determined that an optimum number of Indicators is likely to be in the range of 300 to 350. As at early 2022, ACFP has been able to assemble over 260 Indicators allowing us to paint a fairly comprehensive picture. In future iterations of *Australia Together*, more Indicators will be added to provide information on progress and paint fuller pictures over time.

Indicators in the plan are expressed either as Targets or as Strategies. This enables us to build a plan that gives us some firm idea of what success looks like and a reasonable degree of confidence that we are travelling toward the Targets via use of safe Strategies. This is an Integrated Planning system.

In this End of Term Report, the <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index comprises 259 Indicators enabling us to report on progress in accordance with 42 of the 57 Directions.		
Quadrant	No. of Directions	Indicators, Targets & Strategies monitored
Society	16 15 monitored, 1 not yet monitored	112 comprising 87 Targets and 25 Strategies
Environment	19 8 monitored, 11 not yet monitored	24 comprising 13 Targets and 11 Strategies
Economy	9 6 monitored, 3 not yet monitored	61 comprising 32 Targets and 29 Strategies
Governance	13 All monitored	68 comprising 33 Targets and 35 Strategies
Total Indicators monitored for this End of Term Report		265 comprising 165 Targets and 100 Strategies

The selection of Indicators, Targets and Strategies in *Australia Together* will always be driven by and limited by the availability of data for both baseline pictures and the direction of travel. But **to reduce bias and cherry-picking, ACFP selects Indicators across as wide an array of factors as possible, drawing from an extensive array of public sources of data that are now made freely available to Australians by both government data collection agencies and multiple non-government foundations, universities and institutions for the purpose of monitoring progress in our society, environment, economy and democracy.** Sources of data for every Indicator, Target and Strategy are supplied in the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index in Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10.

ACFP aims to monitor the same Indicators that these other data collectors already use to present detailed factual pictures of changes in our society, environment, economy and democracy, but we add value to their work by assembling these diverse Indicators in one place to form an overall indication of national progress – a clearer, more accessible picture of whether we are on balance moving in the preferred Directions towards the particular Vision of *Australia Together* or away from them.

As further development of the Index occurs, ACFP will be able to fill gaps in the Index for features that are as yet unmonitored. This will make a difference to the overall picture. The current picture shows the majority of the national strengths and weaknesses but not necessarily the strengths or weaknesses of the way we run our country at state and local government area level. As such it is not yet possible to tell, for example, whether strengths at the state and local government area level and in community involvement might be compensating for national weaknesses. What can be deduced though is that weaknesses at the national level are so numerous and of such a magnitude that unless they are fixed, they will overwhelm the efforts of lower levels of government, business and community organisation.

ACFP trusts that this End of Term Report will help guide Australians in decisions about where they might build up our strengths, reduce our weaknesses and chart a more efficient course towards the Vision for *Australia Together*.

Consolidated results during the 46th parliament

Consolidated results for the period of the 46 th parliament Are we travelling towards the Vision via the safe Directions?				
Quadrant	Indicators, Targets & Strategies monitored	No. of <i>positive</i> , <i>neutral</i> & <i>negative</i> results		
		→	← / →	←
Society	112 comprising 87 Targets and 25 Strategies	25	51	36
Environment	24 comprising 13 Targets and 11 Strategies	0	9	15
Economy	61 comprising 32 Targets and 29 Strategies	3	38	20
Governance	68 comprising 33 Targets and 35 Strategies	10	32	26
Total during the 46th parliament		38	130*	97

* No data were available to update baseline results for 61 of the 131 neutral results.

Notable conclusions on performance of the nation during the 46th parliament:

- During the 46th parliament, negative performance (travelling contrary to the preferred Direction) outweighed positive performance by a factor of 255%.
- In all quadrants, negative performance outweighed positive performance.

- The **worst performance** by far was in the **Environment** quadrant, although only a relatively small number of Indicators were monitored in that quadrant.
- The **second worst performance** was in the **Economy** quadrant, where a relatively large number of indicators were monitored and negative performance outweighed positive performance by a factor of 667%

Consolidated results during the longer term

Consolidated results for the longer term Are we travelling towards the Vision via the safe Directions?				
Quadrant	Indicators, Targets & Strategies monitored	No. of positive , neutral & negative results		
		→	← / →	←
Society	112 comprising 87 Targets and 25 Strategies	17	48	47
Environment	24 comprising 13 Targets and 11 Strategies	2	7	15
Economy	61 comprising 32 Targets and 29 Strategies	1	6	54
Governance	68 comprising 33 Targets and 35 Strategies	11	13	44
Total during the longer term – over the last 10 to 20 years		31	74*	160

* No data were available to update baseline results for 41 of the 74 neutral results.

Notable conclusions regarding the longer term national performance:

- During the longer term, negative performance (travelling contrary to the preferred Direction) outweighed positive performance by a factor of 516%.
- In all quadrants, negative performance significantly outweighed positive performance.
- The **worst performance** by far was in the **Economy** quadrant, where a relatively large number of indicators were monitored and negative performance outweighed positive performance by a factor of 5400%. The only positive factor in progress in Australia's economy has related to the predisposition of Australians towards the need to re-build equality and fairness.
- The **second worst performance** by far was in the **Environment** quadrant, although only a relatively small number of Indicators were monitored in that quadrant.

Overall this result shows a slow but steady decline for the nation similar to what was predicted as merely a potential decline by the Australian National Outlook in 2019⁸, except that this picture shows the decline is already in play and has been for some time. It is imperative that this decline is reversed before it gets any worse.

This End of Term Report has identified what those major weaknesses are. Strategies in *Australia Together* are designed to reverse these significant weaknesses.

⁸ In 2019, the CSIRO and National Australia Bank worked with a number of other agencies to produce the [Australian National Outlook 2019](#). The Outlook predicted two scenarios: a "slow decline" and another "outlook vision" which was more positive about the possibility of a better Australia by 2060, if the nation takes particular opportunities and directions for environmental protection, development sustainability and social cohesion, and avoids fractious international relations.



Topic Area		Direction Australia becomes ...	Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
Society 1	Safety	A safe home.	On balance, yes.
Society 2	Indigenous Heart	A land with an Indigenous heart.	On balance, no.
Society 3	Belonging & inclusion	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	On balance, no.
Society 4	Health & wellbeing	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	On balance, no.
Society 5	Education	A model of educational opportunity.	On balance, no.
Society 6	Equality	A society of equals.	On balance, no.
Society 7	Diversity	A success because of its diversity.	On balance, yes but it is fragile.
Society 8	Women & LGBTIQ+	A success because of gender equality.	On balance, yes but very slowly.
Society 9	Housing	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	On balance, no.
Society 10	Family cohesion & community services	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	On balance, no.
Society 11	Early childhood care	A land without child disadvantage.	On balance, no.
Society 12	Aged care & disability services	A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	On balance, no.
Society 13	Arts & culture	A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.	No baseline data established yet.
Society 14	Police services	A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.	On balance, the evidence is mixed.
Society 15	Justice	Confident of justice for all.	On balance, the evidence is mixed.
Society 16	Emergency services	A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.	On balance, no.

Where baseline data are not yet established, targets and strategies will be developed in the 47th parliament.

Consolidated results by quadrant – Our Environment



Topic Area		Direction Australia becomes ...	Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
Environment 1	Environmental advocacy	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	On balance, no.
Environment 2	Climate change prevention	A net zero emissions nation.	On balance, no.
Environment 3	Climate change adaptation	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	On balance, no.
Environment 4	Environmental regulation & approvals	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 5	Environmental education	An environmentally educated community.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 6	Energy	A renewable energy superpower.	On balance, we are not travelling clearly yet either toward or away from the destination.
Environment 7	Transport	Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 8	Agriculture & fisheries	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture & fisheries.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 9	Fresh water supply	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 10	Biodiversity	A biodiversity haven.	On balance, no.
Environment 11	Vegetation	A replanted and reforested land.	On balance, no.
Environment 12	Land & resource conservation	A protector of scarce resources.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 13	Parks & open space	A provider of accessible national & urban parkland.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 14	Air & water quality	A pollution free biosphere.	No data are available to determine the direction of travel since 2016.
Environment 15	Marine protection	A marine wildlife haven.	On balance, no.
Environment 16	Waste reduction & recycling	Regenerative by design in consumption & production.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 17	Architectural & cultural site heritage	A conservator of cultural & built heritage.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 18	Cities planning	Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education and recreation.	No baseline data established yet.
Environment 19	Regional planning	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	No baseline data established yet.

Where baseline data are not yet established, targets and strategies will be developed in the 47th parliament.



Topic Area		Direction Australia becomes ...	Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
Economy 1	Economic planning, growth & transition	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	On balance, no.
Economy 2	Employment planning & industry transition	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	On balance, no.
Economy 3	Equitable improvement in living standards	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	On balance, no.
Economy 4	National wealth generation & sharing	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	On balance, no.
Economy 5	Market regulation & competition policy	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	On balance, no.
Economy 6	Government competitive business participation	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	On balance, no.
Economy 7	Science, research, innovation & collaboration	A collaborative intelligent nation.	No baseline data established yet.
Economy 8	Technology development & digitisation	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.	No baseline data established yet.
Economy 9	International economic engagement & trade	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.	No baseline data established yet.

Where baseline data are not yet established, targets and strategies will be developed in the 47th parliament.

Consolidated results by quadrant – Our Governance



Topic Area		Direction Australia becomes ...	Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
Governance 1	Strength of democracy	A proactive participatory democracy.	On balance, no. But we now have the means of reversing this.
Governance 2	National values & identity	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	On balance, progress is stagnant.
Governance 3	Human & other rights	A nation with avowed rights for all.	On balance, no.
Governance 4	Constitutional reform	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	On balance, no.
Governance 5	Transparency, openness & accountability	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	On balance, no.
Governance 6	Government ethics	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	On balance, no.
Governance 7	Public service independence & excellence	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	On balance, yes.
Governance 8	Electoral system & funding reform	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.	On balance, no.
Governance 9	Corporate & NGO responsibility	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	On balance, yes for NGOs. On balance, no for corporates.
Governance 10	Free communications policy & regulation	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	On balance, no.
Governance 11	International participation & global justice	A just participant on the global stage.	On balance, no.
Governance 12	Peace & security	A nation assured of enduring peace.	On balance, no.
Governance 13	Humanitarian effort	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.	On balance, no.








Consolidated results by Vision element

In regard to whether Australia may be moving towards or away from making the Vision of *Australia Together* a reality, ACFP has not been able to identify any clearly positive trends.

With this picture being as starkly negative and confronting as it is, it may be asserted that ACFP has not fully reflected areas of positive performance by the nation. Of the 265 Indicators assessed, ACFP could find no positive results data that in aggregate would be sufficient to outweigh negative conclusions about our long term trajectory toward the Vision elements. On these Indicators – which are the same ones regularly used by other credible measurement agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and numerous other intelligence-gathering institutes such as universities and privately funded research foundations – there can be little doubt that Australia is travelling away from the Vision, in all but two of its 17 elements.

This may be disturbing but the advance knowledge it provides about the nation's weaknesses and the paths we are following does offer a benefit of early warning. If we can see and acknowledge these weaknesses now, we can begin to swing our paths of travel around the other way. It is not too late and we have the means of achieving it particularly in relation to our wealth as a nation, our human capital, and the new systems we can access and use together to make our democracy work for us all – namely National Integrated Planning & Reporting. [Click here for more detail on National IP&R and information about how to become involved.](#)

More detailed information about the conclusions drawn for each Vision element is provided in Chapter 11.

<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>	
We are safe		There are significant indications are that we are moving away from the Vision and closer to the reverse vision.
We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures		On balance we have been moving more in the reverse direction, away from the Vision and from a proper and respectful response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.
Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life		On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing		On balance we are moving away from the Vision in several of the aspects of our lives that make it worth living.
We act together as a compassionate society		On balance we are moving in the opposite direction to the Vision. Many Australians have displayed compassion but governments they elect, particularly the federal government, have not.
Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress		On balance we are moving more away from the Vision than towards it.
Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society		On balance, Australia appears to be travelling neither toward nor away from a Vision in which diversity is viewed as a strength.

<i>The Draft Vision for Australia Together By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>	
Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice	←	Attacks on the higher and public education sectors and reduction of their funding indicate that Australia is moving away from this element of the Vision.
Vital services are fully accessible	←	On balance we are moving more away from the Vision than towards it.
Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared	←	On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
National wealth is fairly shared	←	On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone	←	On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society	←	On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival	←	On balance we are moving away from the Vision.
Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community	← / →	On balance, we have been moving away from being a strong, participatory democracy. But we now have the means of reversing this.
We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future	←	On balance, we are moving away from the vision.
We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world	←	On balance, we are moving away from the vision. In some respects we have already made the reverse vision a reality.

Chapter 3 – Progress by Direction in Our Society



Society 1 - Safety

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 1 – Safety				
Direction: Australia becomes a safe home.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc01.01	Safety in the home	← / →	→	On balance, yes. Progress towards most Targets is slow but steady. Generally Australians perceive that they are safer and, in reality, safety in the home and local community is improving. A notable exception is safety from sexual assault, which has declined. Perceptions of safety in the context of world events and national security have improved in the short term. However, data on these perceptions pre-dates the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the commitment to the AUKUS trilateral security pact which increases risk of nuclear armaments in Australia. It is likely that Australians perceived an improvement in their safety and security during the Covid-19 pandemic, inasmuch as Australia's distance from other countries provides some measure of protection from pandemics. With escalation of international tensions, such as those with China, it might be expected that the short term improvement in perceived safety in a globalised world is temporary.
Soc01.02	Safety on transport	← / →	→	
Soc01.03	Homicide	← / →	→	
Soc01.04	Sexual assault	←	←	
Soc01.05	Child assault	← / →	← / →	
Soc01.06	Road deaths	→	→	
Soc01.07	Victims of crime (fear of becoming a victim)	→	← / →	
Soc01.07.01	Perceptions of safety and trust in the community	→	← / →	
Soc01.08	Perceptions of safety in the context of world events and national security	→	←	

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 2 – Indigenous Heart				
Direction: Australia becomes a land with an Indigenous heart.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc02.01	First Nations constitutional recognition, Makarrata, treaty, justice and reconciliation - Constitutional recognition of First Nations	←	←	On balance, no. In regard to First Nations constitutional recognition, Makarrata, treaty, justice and reconciliation: Progress in relation to a crucial foundational issue for the nation – namely the need for a Voice for First Nations enshrined in the Constitution – is trending away from the Target and Vision. This applies despite the fact that an Indigenous Voice Co-design Process was held during the term of the 46 th parliament and led to recommendations for establishment of a system of Local and Regional Indigenous Voices. If implemented, this system may assist in closing the current appalling gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous on some of the indicators of wellbeing that are central to the dignity and security of any nation.
Soc02.01.01	First Nations constitutional recognition, Makarrata, treaty, justice and reconciliation - Makarrata Commission	←	←	
Soc02.02	Indigenous life expectancy	←	→	But as far as securing rights or even mere recognition in the Constitution goes, there is a substantial risk that the Co-Design Process is more likely to have added years, perhaps decades (if we let it), to the realisation of what should be seen as the essential arrival of a First Nations Voice in the Constitution.
Soc02.03	Indigenous infant health and survival - child mortality	←	←	
Soc02.03.01	Indigenous infant health and survival - birthweight	→	← / →	The Co-Design Process did propose a form of a National Indigenous Voice to parliament, but not in the Constitution as called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The recommended model for a National Voice merely obliges the government and parliament to seek the <i>advice</i> of
Soc02.03.02	Indigenous infant health and survival - birthweight (ACFP additional target)	←	← / →	
Soc02.04	Indigenous pre-school education - attendance	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.04.01	Indigenous pre-school education - enrolment	→	→	
Soc02.04.02	Indigenous pre-school education - developmentally on track	← / →	→	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 2 – Indigenous Heart				
Direction: Australia becomes a land with an Indigenous heart.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc02.05	Indigenous school education	← / →	→	the “National Voice” – on (unspecified) issues which “overwhelmingly relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders”. It does not oblige the government or parliament to heed that advice or be accountable for its decisions, regardless of the degree to which it rejects the advice of the National Voice and directly harms the legitimate interests of Indigenous and all other Australians.
Soc02.06	Indigenous tertiary education	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.07	Indigenous employment - 15-24 year olds	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.07.01	Indigenous employment - 15-24 year olds (ACFP additional target)	← / →	← / →	No Constitutional amendments were put forward in the Co-Design Process and while the government’s obligations for transparency – on any consultation conducted for bills to be considered by parliaments – increased, the fact remained that “all elements [of a bill/act of parliament] would be non-justiciable, meaning that there could not be a court challenge and no law could be invalidated based on whether there was alignment with the consultation standards or transparency mechanisms.” ⁹
Soc02.07.02	Indigenous employment - 25-64 year olds	← / →	←	
Soc02.07.03	Indigenous employment - 25-64 year olds (ACFP additional target)	← / →	←	
Soc02.08	Indigenous housing	← / →	→	In regard to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in health, wellbeing, justice, culture and opportunity: Short term progress is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negative for 8 indicators, • zero for 12 indicators, and • positive for only 3 indicators, Longer term progress is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negative for 10 indicators, • zero for 10 indicators, and • positive for only 6 indicators.
Soc02.08.01	Indigenous housing (ACFP additional target)	← / →	←	
Soc02.09	Indigenous incarceration - adults	←	←	
Soc02.09.01	Indigenous incarceration - adults (ACFP additional target)	←	←	
Soc02.09.02	Indigenous incarceration - 10-17 year olds	→	→	

⁹ Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process – Final Report to the Australian Government, July 2021, page 18, https://voice.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/indigenous-voice-co-design-process-final-report_1.pdf

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 2 – Indigenous Heart				
Direction: Australia becomes a land with an Indigenous heart.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc02.09.03	Indigenous incarceration - 10-17 year olds (ACFP additional target)	← / →	← / →	In both the short and longer terms, movement is, on balance, more away from the Targets than towards them. This is especially the case for Indigenous suicide, incarceration and removal of children from their families.
Soc02.10	Indigenous family cohesion	←	←	
Soc02.10.01	Indigenous family cohesion (ACFP additional target)	←	←	Progress with Indigenous pre-school enrolment is, however, somewhat more encouraging and may signal the start of improved opportunities for future Indigenous generations.
Soc02.11	Indigenous domestic and community abuse and violence	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.12	Indigenous suicide	←	←	<p>In regard to priority reforms Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap:</p> <p>The signing of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap represents some progress in the short term, inasmuch as it signals the start of a shift to partnership between governments and First Nations. However, some policies remain in place which may reduce the benefits. The decision in the Final Report of the National Co-Design Process to establish 35 representative groups for a Local and Regional Voice is progress consistent with the Priority Reforms. However, the denial of the request for a National Voice enshrined in the Constitution threatens to undo some of the benefit of the yet to be established Local and Regional Voices. It is not possible to “close the gap” (let alone such a huge one) if the cause of the gap – a fundamental refusal of self-determination for Indigenous and a failure to tell the truth about the violent foundations of Australia – is still in place.</p>
Soc02.13	Indigenous land and sea rights - land rights	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.13.01	Indigenous land and sea rights - sea rights	← / →	← / →	
Soc02.14	Indigenous language and cultural preservation	← / →	←	
Soc02.15	Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	← / →	←	

Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion				
Direction: Australia becomes inclusive welcoming and enabling.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc03.01	Belonging and inclusion – sense of belonging	←	←	On balance, no.
Soc03.01.01	Belonging and inclusion – sense of acceptance or rejection	→	←	<p>In relation to our sense of belonging: Short term progress is mixed; however, long term, we have progressively moved backwards in both our sense of belonging and our sense of acceptance or rejection.</p> <p>Contextualising these figures in the social and political context of the time may help to provide some insight as to why we are moving backwards.</p> <p>The falling trend seen in regard to a sense of belonging is not surprising in a climate that has politicised issues such as immigration and migration.</p>
Soc03.02	Building an inclusive society by community volunteering	←	←	<p>When it comes to a sense of acceptance or rejection, although the long-term trend is negative, we have seen some improvement in the short term. The sharp rise in 2020 may be seen to coincide with height of the Black Lives Matter movement in Australia, a time where marginalised people of colour saw large social and media support. This was a period of strong public sentiment towards equity and social inclusion. If these figures do correlate with the BLM movement, then the slowing of the movement, as well as the lack of engagement and legislative response from politicians and people in power may have contributed to the 5-point drop seen in 2021.</p> <p>The momentum of social movements can always be seen to wax and wane, and so long as these issues are</p>

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion				
Direction: Australia becomes inclusive welcoming and enabling.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>politicised, it is unlikely that we will see any substantial increase in the national sense of belonging and inclusion.</p> <p>In relation to commitment to creating inclusion through volunteering: Volunteering has been steadily and quite steeply declining. In 2020, 24.8% of Australians on survey said they had undertaken unpaid voluntary work through an organisation in the last 12 months, down by 11.4 percentage points since the height of volunteering in 2010. When read with some other data about social inclusion, particularly of diverse minorities, this is not an encouraging sign of a willingness toward creating an inclusive society.</p>

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 4 – Health & wellbeing				
Direction: Australia becomes a place of optimal health and wellbeing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc04.01 and Soc04.01.01	Life expectancy – males and females	→	→	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>The scope of our physical and mental health: Overall, the country has seen a considerable decrease in the burden of disease as measured in DALYs. However, taking this number at face values fails to recognise the broader picture of the nation's health. Progress in this measure can largely be attributed to a significant reduction in premature death. While this is recognisably a major success, we must further consider the growing prevalence of non-communicable/chronic conditions (NCD) and the impact that this will undoubtedly have on our future health and welfare systems as well as the quality of life of people in this country.</p> <p>The proportion of the population living with one or more chronic conditions is increasing, and around 1 in 2 Australians now self-report as living with at least one chronic condition (up 5% in the last decade). When we analyse the NCD burden further, we can see that there have been considerable improvements in the management of cardiovascular disease and positive trends in cancer may be starting to emerge. However, there is increasing concern over the rising prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and mental ill health, conditions which themselves are significant risk factors for near all major chronic conditions. It is notable that ABS surveys of the impacts of Covid-19 on households registered high or very high level of psychological distress throughout</p>
Soc04.02	Perceptions of health	←	←	
Soc04.03	Mental health – experience of psychological distress	←	←	
Soc04.03.01	Mental health – mental and behavioural conditions	← / →	←	
Soc04.03.02	Mental health – anxiety	← / →	←	
Soc04.03.03	Mental health – depression	← / →	←	
Soc04.04	Burden of disease	→	→	
Soc04.05	Physical health – obesity	←	←	
Soc04.05.01	Physical health – diabetes	← / →	←	
Soc04.05.02	Physical health – cardiovascular disease	→	→	
Soc04.05.03	Physical health – cancer	→	→	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 4 – Health & wellbeing				
Direction: Australia becomes a place of optimal health and wellbeing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc04.05.04	Physical health – musculoskeletal conditions	← / →	← / →	the first two years of the pandemic – significantly higher than in pre-pandemic surveys. Without significant action to address these conditions, the prevalence of chronic disease within the country and the risk of multi-morbidity is likely to continue to increase.
Soc04.05.05	Physical health – respiratory conditions	← / →	← / →	
Soc04.06	Happiness and wellbeing – world ranking	← / →	←	Understanding these factors may help to explain the seeming contradiction between people's perceptions of their own health (which are deteriorating) and the trends seen in the burden of disease and life expectancy (which are improving). Medical advances are succeeding in helping people to live longer and their ability to manage chronic conditions. However, due to numerous factors including an aging population and the high prevalence of risk factors for disease, the number of people living with a chronic condition is increasing. As such, this can be seen to be having an overall negative impact on our quality of life. On health care system funding: The current and projected underfunding of our healthcare system is cause for alarm. It must be mentioned that there remain large inequities in health within this country. We will not close the gap in between our most disadvantaged and our most well off, nor can we expect to see improvement in health for all, without directly addressing the social determinants of health. A key message: Our health system is increasingly becoming overburdened and underfunded. The future success of the Australian healthcare system will require not only ongoing investment into our
Soc04.06.01	Happiness and wellbeing – reported by Australians	←	←	
Soc04.06.02	Happiness and wellbeing – optimism/pessimism	→	← / →	
Soc04.06.03	Happiness and wellbeing – life satisfaction for the youngest to oldest generations	← / →	←	
Soc04.06.04	Happiness and wellbeing – life satisfaction for diverse elements of the community	← / →	←	
Soc04.07	Health funding	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 4 – Health & wellbeing				
Direction: Australia becomes a place of optimal health and wellbeing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>hospitals and care facilities, but also a significant investment into our broader public health system. We need to further prioritise investment in primary health strategies aimed at decreasing the prevalence of key modifiable risk factors such as poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption. This will require a mix of interventions targeted not only at high-risk populations, but more so, the entire population at large.</p> <p>Moreover, there is a significant need to direct our means of intervention more upstream, with the aim of addressing the broader social determinants of health, that is, the social, economic, cultural, commercial, and environmental conditions in which we live and grow. Without significant action in these areas, the disease burden, and its inequitable distribution will continue to grow.</p> <p>On our happiness and wellbeing: The overall picture of happiness and wellbeing is seen to be moving backwards. This is in line with the negative trend seen in mental health. The reasons for this are likely complex and consideration as to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic must also be given. However, when contextualised through the themes outlined within the other elements of this report, such as measures of rising inequality, decreasing perceptions of social inclusion and belonging, and fear over the future largely driven by the threat of climate change and war, it is not surprising that happiness and wellbeing is moving backwards. Improving these measures will require substantial</p>

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 4 – Health & wellbeing				
Direction: Australia becomes a place of optimal health and wellbeing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				effort to move the dial forward in all areas of our society, environment, economy, and democracy.

Society 5 – Education

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 5 – Education				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of educational opportunity.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc05.01	Re-introduction of fee-free tertiary education	←	←	On balance, no. On funding of education: The educational sector is underfunded, and most of the burden is being felt by our most disadvantaged populations.
Soc05.01.01	Cancellation of student debt for social services workers	←	← / →	
Soc05.01.02	Funding for universities and vocational education	←	←	
Soc05.02	School education – funding	→	← / →	Funding of tertiary education is set to decline as a proportion of GDP, negatively impacting the potential economic benefits that the sector can produce and embedding lower productivity by negatively impacting the intelligence of the workforce.
Soc05.02.01	Reversal of public-school underfunding and private school overfunding	←	←	
Soc05.02.02	Years of attendance	← / →	← / →	
Soc05.02.03	educational attainment	← / →	←	On equity of access to education: While funding of primary and secondary education can be seen to be increasing, the distribution of these funds is highly unequal, with a disproportionate amount going to private schools compared to public schools. In addition, among wealthy nations, we are one of the lowest ranked countries for equality of attendance to pre-school. These factors can only serve to increase current inequities in our education system and, more broadly, our society.
Soc05.03	Pre-school education – early development performance	← / →	←	
Soc05.03.01	accessibility of early learning as a factor in educational attainment at school	← / →	←	
				On educational attainment: Educational attainment and opportunity in Australia has been seen to decline relative to other OECD countries, with maths, English, and science scores all declining. We are simply not doing enough to ensure the education of our children.

Society 6 – Equality

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 6 – Equality				
Direction: Australia becomes a society of equals.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc06.01	Gender equality – economic gap	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>On gender equality in income and wealth: While in absolute terms, the income and wealth gap between men and women can be seen to be decreasing, the rate at which this is occurring is far too slow. This is made clear when we compare our progress on these issues with that of other comparatively wealthy nations.</p>
Soc06.02	Gender equality in income and wealth – cash earnings	← / →	← / →	<p>On gender equality of opportunity: Relative to other countries, Australia's performance in achieving gender equality in areas including economic opportunity and participation, health and survival, and political empowerment has fallen dramatically over the last 2 decades. The only positive sign is that we retain the number 1 spot for levels of educational attainment. Overall, between the years 2006 and 2021, Australia has dropped from rank No. 15 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report to now being ranked No. 50.</p>
Soc06.02.01	Gender equality in income and wealth – superannuation balances	← / →	← / →	<p>Far more needs to be done to ensure economic opportunity and growth for women. This will require significant action from both the public and private sector, starting with strong commitment to the reforms laid out in the Respect@Work report (see Society 8 - Women & LGBTIQ+).</p> <p>Equality is also measures in numerous other parts of this Report including but not limited to: Society 2 – Indigenous Heart, Society 5 – Education, and Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards.</p>

Society 7 – Diversity







Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 7 – Diversity				
Direction: Australia becomes a success because of its diversity.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc07.01	Attitudes to multiculturalism – positive support by Australians	←	← / →	<p>On balance, yes but it is fragile.</p> <p>On multiculturalism: The proportion of people who report positive feelings towards multiculturalism has been largely stable around the ACFP target and, reassuringly, the percentage of people who report strongly negative feelings towards multiculturalism is at an all-time low of only 6%.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that while the vast majority of Australians on survey report that multiculturalism has been good for Australia, support is significantly lower on whether accepting migrants from many different countries makes us stronger. This indicates that while Australians support immigration, many would prefer it to be less diverse than it is. This might be read together with the fact that the number of people who indicated a sense of rejection and reported experience of discrimination “because of [their] skin colour, ethnic origin, or religion” has doubled since 2007 (9% to 18%). The issue of marginalisation and discrimination is a re-emerging issue, experienced by many if not all nations and social groups.</p> <p>On religious discrimination: Australians have to date rejected legislation enabling discrimination on the grounds of religion, which indicates a preference for an inclusive society.</p>
Soc07.01.01	Attitudes to multiculturalism – as a strength for Australia	→	→	
Soc07.01.02	Attitudes to multiculturalism – experience of cultural and racial discrimination	→	←	
Soc07.02	Freedom from discrimination on religious grounds	← / →	← / →	

Society 8 – Women and LGBTIQ+

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+				
Direction: Australia becomes a success because of gender equality.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc08.01	Women in power and leadership – federal parliament	← / →	← / →	<p>On balance, yes but very slowly.</p> <p>The representation of women in positions of power can be seen to be increasing in both the private and public sectors. When we view this data in the context of Society 6 – Equality, which highlighted that Australia has fallen relative to other nations in relation to gender inequality and political empowerment compared to other wealthy nations, we can make a judgement that the progress that has been experienced by women in Australia is too slow and we are being significantly outpaced by the progress of other nations.</p> <p>There is much more that can be done socially and legislatively, as well as through initiatives in private business, to improve the rate at which women can be seen to achieve parity with men in positions of power and leadership. Little data exists in these areas for representation of LGBTIQ+ populations. As such, no judgement can currently be made on these issues. However, ACFP is actively seeking to incorporate measures of progress for these populations.</p> <p>Regarding safety, respect, and equity: Little if any progress has been made to date in the development of an integrated, holistic approach that seeks to address women's inequality. Inaction, and misleading rhetoric in relation to the Respect@Work report has not reflected well on the integrity of the current government.</p>
Soc08.01.01	Women in power and leadership – CEO and board positions	→	← / →	
Soc08.01.02	Women in power and leadership – managerial positions	← / →	← / →	
Soc08.02	Women's National Integrated Reform Program for Safety, Respect and Equity	→	←	
Soc08.02.01	National Women's Council for oversight of the Women's National Integrated Reform Program for Safety, Respect and Equity	→	←	
Soc08.03	Workplace safety for women and LGBTIQ+	← / →	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+				
Direction: Australia becomes a success because of gender equality.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				Proactive bipartisan commitment to these initiatives is essential to their success and our ability to improve levels of safety and respect for women in the workplace and society in general.

Society 9 – Housing

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 9 – Housing				
Direction: Australia becomes a land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc09.01	Homelessness			<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>On homelessness: The proportion of Australians experiencing homelessness has been increasing over the long term. This is not only the result of a lack of affordable housing but also limitations of an insufficient social welfare system, and complications surrounding mental ill health, trauma, substance misuse, and domestic abuse, among others. Reducing the prevalence of homelessness will require a significant positive shift in the direction of many ACFP Targets.</p>
Soc09.02	Housing affordability – ownership by younger generations			<p>On housing affordability: Housing affordability in Australia has been on the decline since the 1980s. Young people are finding it increasingly difficult to move into the housing market and, overall, the percentage of Australian households who are renting their home has been increasing. This has significant downstream effects, as lower income households are increasingly obliged to compete with higher income households for rental properties in the private market. This has the consequence of driving them out of areas with greater employment opportunities, further feeding into the cycle of disadvantage. Of further concern, among low-income households, more than 40% of homeowners and over 55% of renters are experiencing mortgage stress. With an estimated deficit of over 500,000 affordable rental properties, low-income houses have little means of relief from this stress.</p>
Soc09.02.01	Housing affordability – lower income households			

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services				
Direction: Australia becomes a place of supportive familial and other connections and without domestic abuse.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc10.01	Family and community support – reliability of community support in time of need	← / →	← / →	On balance, no. 2021 saw a significant increase in the number of women and men reporting domestic violence and/or related sexual assault. In 2016, almost 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men had reported having experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15. Making his issue worse is the fact that the number of people reporting that they have people external to their household to confide in has decreased by almost 10% since 2010 to only 86.2%. Current initiatives are insufficient to provide respite from these conditions, with more than 1 in 2 women still being turned away from crisis accommodation every night in Australia. There are some positive legislative indicators including initiatives to develop a common understanding of coercive control with potential action to explicitly criminalise the act (this has already been achieved in some jurisdictions). And education on the matter has been deemed essential to any legislative reform. Recent commitments to increase funding to help women escape instances of domestic violence are a further positive step. Long term and deeper commitment to both these financial and legislative initiatives are essential to drive change in the current trends on domestic abuse.
Soc10.01.01	Family and community support – availability of support from outside-the-home sources	←	←	
Soc10.02	Domestic abuse – violence	←	←	
Soc10.02.01	Domestic abuse – emotional	← / →	← / →	
Soc10.02.02	Domestic abuse - homicide	←	→	
Soc10.02.03	Domestic abuse – hospitalisations	← / →	← / →	
Soc10.03	Domestic abuse – legislative program	→	← / →	
Soc10.04	Domestic abuse - education and counselling services	→	← / →	
Soc10.05	End domestic violence by restoring funding for shelters and support services enabling 100% of women threatened by domestic violence to escape to safety.	← / →	← / →	

Society 11 – Early childhood care

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 11 – Early childhood care				
Direction: Australia becomes a land without child disadvantage.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc11.01	Universal access to free childcare	←	← / →	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>Access to universal free childcare has strong majority support in the nation. It is economically sound with the benefits far outweighing the cost, and it is recognised as being vital to increasing women's participation in the workforce.</p> <p>The benefits of such a program would not only go to families with young children. Some projections estimate that the successful implementation of a program which ensured universal access to childcare could increase national GDP by as much as 3.2%.</p> <p>When we view the directions that this strategy seeks to address, the implementation of this strategy can be seen to have some of the most broad reaching benefits for our nation. It serves to improve educational and occupational opportunity, decrease child disadvantage and intergenerational income inequality, improve our national health and wellbeing, reduce the level of disadvantage experienced by marginalised groups, and helps to reduce the level of income and wealth inequality that we currently experience. In short, it serves to make us a more cohesive, equal, and socially just society.</p> <p>The implementation of this strategy is essential if we are to move forward as a nation.</p>

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 12 – Aged care & disability services				
Direction: Australia becomes a sure provider of lifelong dignity.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc12.01	Aged care package waiting times	→	← / →	On balance, no. Current indicators within this direction largely reflect progress on positions taken in response to the findings and recommendations given following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Out of a total 148 recommendations, the Australian government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepted 106, • qualified its support for 20, and • rejected (in effect or outright) 22. Positively, the government accepted recommendations that “The <i>Aged Care Act 1997</i> (Cth) should be replaced with a new Act to come into force by no later than 1 July 2023”. The government has rejected or made no progress on key recommendations regarding the implementation of new institutional arrangements which sought to ensure quality and safety, and to provide accountability for management of the aged care system. In addition, they have failed to commit to key funding recommendations and efforts to improve accountability of aged care service providers for their use of public funds. Future funding commitments for the sector are grossly insufficient based on projected estimates presented by independent bodies. What commitments have been made to the age care sector are further set to be undermined by significant reduction in pension funding.
Soc12.02	Aged care system performance monitoring – confidence in the aged care system	← / →	← / →	
Soc12.02.01	Aged care system performance monitoring – safety, quality and user experience indicators	← / →	← / →	
Soc12.03	Aged Care Royal Commission, implementation of recommendations – A new Aged Care Act	→	← / →	
Soc12.03.01	Aged Care Royal Commission, implementation of recommendations – New independent and accountable institutional arrangements	←	← / →	
Soc12.04	Aged care funding – federal budget minimums	←	← / →	
Soc12.04.01	Aged care funding – levies	←	← / →	
Soc12.04.02	Aged care funding – Accountability of service providers in return for public funding	←	← / →	

Society 14 – Police services

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 14 – Police services				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of community service and responsible exercise of authority in policing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc14.01	Trust in federal police	←	← / →	<p>On balance, the evidence is mixed.</p> <p>On trust in the police: Trust in police seems to be high but varies quite widely across surveys – ranging between 61% and 79%. ABS surveys show a distinctly higher support for the police than other surveys.</p> <p>Trust in the police also varies across communities with Indigenous populations obviously complaining (rightly) of police treatment, including deaths while in police custody. Domestic violence is also an area where police have been judged untrustworthy but community policing initiatives and policy changes about the role of police in regional communities may suggest improvements are underway here.</p> <p>Trust in the federal police and the police in NSW is likely to have been negatively impacted by the perception that the Prime Minister or other government officials were able to intervene in considerations of whether ministers should be charged with offences (Angus Taylor and Christian Porter). Serious questions have also arisen about orders of raids on the ABC and the home and files of lawyer and former ACT Deputy Chief Minister, Bernard Collaery.</p> <p>It is likely that trust in the state police of NSW has been further impacted by the perceptions about the recent controversial performance of the Fixed Persons Unit in arresting Friedljudies</p>
Soc14.02	Trust in state police	←	← / →	
Soc14.03	Trust in police nation-wide	→	← / →	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 14 – Police services				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of community service and responsible exercise of authority in policing.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>producer, Kristo Langker, where charges have since been dropped. In this instance, the state police exposed themselves to perceptions of succumbing to undue political influence, bullying and misuse of public resources.</p> <p>On the issue of a rise in the police state: No statistics are available. However, the secret state has been seen to be on the rise in Australia. National security laws have been increasingly tightened, especially against journalists. Entirely innocent Australians can now be arrested and detained without charge and disclosures about the arrest or charges are prohibited. Secret trials have been held. Arrest and raid powers (warranted and warrantless) for police have been widened to a scope Australians would have expected in authoritarian countries, but not here. Australia is tending towards rather than away from becoming an authoritarian country supported by a police state apparatus with near zero accountability and transparency.</p>

Society 15 – Justice

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 15 – Justice				
Direction: Australia becomes confident of justice for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc15.01	High Court	→	← / →	<p>On balance, the evidence is mixed.</p> <p>On trust in the justice system: Overall, trust in the justice system can be seen to be increasing since the baseline figures collected in 2019. However, it must be noted that this generally positive sentiment is not felt equally among all groups of society, with women, Indigenous people and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds reporting significantly lower confidence in the justice system compared to men and those in higher socio-economic brackets.</p> <p>On the reliability and equity of our justice system: Confidence in the justice system is not present among First Nations people, who are incarcerated at a much higher rate than non-Indigenous Australians, and who quite rightly have protested that they are not an innately criminal people¹⁰. The justice system is not serving them fairly. Nor is it serving migrants who can now be indefinitely detained without charge because of High Court rulings. Nor is it serving the right of Australians to free speech, inasmuch as public servants can now be sacked for expressing opinions – again because of a High Court ruling.</p> <p>Inequality before the law is rising: Some Australians, particularly those operating illegally in intelligence agencies, are now above the law and our governments have actually frustrated the development of</p>
Soc15.02	Trust in the justice system	← / →	← / →	

¹⁰ Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 15 – Justice				
Direction: Australia becomes confident of justice for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>systems in which they and other government agencies can held accountable under the law. By contrast socioeconomically disadvantaged people have been refused protection of the law and the right to presumption of innocence – eg., Robodebt victims.</p> <p>On the threat of rising secrecy in the justice system: The Australia's justice system is under threat from excessive secrecy provisions in security legislation. Something is seriously wrong with a system in which defendants cannot be given access to evidence necessary to defend themselves – which is happening in the Collaery trial – and cannot enjoy the rights of trial by jury in open court.</p> <p>The justice system in Australia needs a major overhaul, starting with a new Constitution. This overhaul will require action from within and beyond the justice system itself. It will likely require action towards relieving the levels of social inequality that underpin why some groups are driven towards a greater number of negative encounters with that system in the first place and then doubly disadvantaged in court processes.</p>

Society 16 – Emergency Services

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 16 – Emergency Services				
Direction: Australia becomes a society prepared & resilient in times of disaster.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Soc16.01	Preparedness for Global Crises - Sovereign Capability Strategy for National Resilience in Global Crises	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>On preparedness for global crises: In 2021, Next25 reported that the poorest-tracking aspiration of Australians in their Next25 Navigator survey of over 3,000 people is “Australia being self-sufficient and able to stand on its own two feet as a country. Fewer than four in 10 are confident Australia is self-sufficient.”</p> <p>The Institute for Integrated Economic Research Australia also reported that Australia was ill-prepared for a global crisis such as a pandemic or war in that we do not have sufficient hospital beds, intensive care beds, stored medicines, PPE, critical medical items and fuel stocks. Manufacturing capability is lacking and Australia is dangerously reliant on the foreign owned/controlled maritime trade system for 98% of imports and exports.</p> <p>No progress has been made on development of a comprehensive strategy to build “sovereign capability” in areas of economic activity and human capital necessary to ensure Australia is prepared for global crises arising from climate change, pandemics, global economic downturns and wars.</p> <p>On preparedness and prevention of disasters in Australia: In 2021, the federal government established the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. While this is a positive step, the agency does not deliver the level of institutional reform and integration required to prevent</p>
Soc16.02	Preparedness for and prevention of disasters in Australia - Statement of Adherence to and Performance on the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework	← / →	← / →	
Soc16.02.01	Preparedness for and prevention of disasters in Australia - National Community Council for Risk Reduction Review	← / →	← / →	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Society 16 – Emergency Services				
Direction: Australia becomes a society prepared & resilient in times of disaster.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>avoidable natural and national disasters. It is focussed more on recovery than prevention and, as the recent floods and bushfires have proved, is not performing well on recovery.</p> <p>Disasters in Australia are being caused by climate change. This indicates an urgent need for a fully integrated set of strategies and institutional reform across all levels of government to integrate efforts and reduce temperature increases as much as possible. No progress has been made in development of a blueprint for such an institutional transformation.</p>

Chapter 4 – Progress by Direction in Our Environment



Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy				
Direction: Australia becomes a leading global advocate for action on climate change.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env01.01	Reformation of Australia's negotiating stance and conduct in Paris Agreement negotiations – Commitment to emitting no more than a fair share of a global carbon budget	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>Australia's conduct in Paris Agreement negotiations on climate change has been deplorable and marks us out as a nation prepared to behave indecently in international relations.</p> <p>Over the last decade, Australia has been set on a path to environmental catastrophe due to its failure to take necessary action to prevent and adapt to global heating and to cooperate with other nations in efforts to meet commitments made under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions to levels necessary to ensure that global temperature increases are limited to well below 2° Celsius and as close as possible to 1.5° Celsius.</p> <p>Australia has slipped progressively to the bottom of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) and is now ranked in 58th place out of 64 countries, notably scoring last place for climate policy.</p>
Env01.02	Climate change performance - action, international cooperation and policy	←	←	

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 2 – Climate change prevention				
Direction: Australia becomes a net zero emissions nation.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env02.01	Carbon emissions reduction - Achievement of net zero carbon emissions within a carbon budget that will maximise chances of limiting global heating to 1.5o Celsius	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>In terms of a carbon emissions ceiling (budget): As at March 2022, Australia still had no carbon emissions budget – a necessity if we are to meet the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement. The ideal budget would be in the order of 3.5 billion tonnes between 2020 and whenever Australia meets the target of net zero emissions. However, the Australian government has refused to adopt any budget at all.</p> <p>In terms of interim emissions reduction targets for the decade to 2030: In 2020, Australia's domestic emissions (excluding exports) were 510 MT of CO₂-e. In 2021, this declined to 499Mt, due to the impact of Covid-19. Should this trajectory continue to 2030, Australia will meet its 2030 target of 26%-28% below 2005 levels but temperatures will still rise by more than 1.5°C. This trajectory locks in failure on temperature targets of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>The fossil fuel subsidy in Australia is contributing materially to climate change. As at 2021, there are no signs that the subsidy will be stopped, despite the resistance to continuation of the subsidy by the majority of Australians.</p> <p>In terms of fossil fuel industry expansion: In 2021, federal and state governments were still approving new coal mines, despite the fact that:</p>
Env02.01.01	Carbon emissions reduction - Emissions reduction target for 2030	←	←	
Env02.01.02	Carbon emissions reduction - Achievement of net zero emissions by 2033 within the carbon budget	←	←	
Env02.02	Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies	←	←	
Env02.03	Cessation of new coal, gas and oil investments – legislative program	←	←	
Env02.04	Phase out of existing investments in coal, oil and gas – legislative program	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 2 – Climate change prevention				
Direction: Australia becomes a net zero emissions nation.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66% of Australians think the Australian government should stop new coal mines, and • 60% of Australians support Australia following the pathway recommended by International Energy Agency pathway – namely, not approving new gas, coal or oil projects. <p>In terms of national planning to stop climate change: In 2021, the federal government released its “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way”. The “Plan” included no proposals to phase out coal, oil or gas as sources of energy and made no statement on phasing out combustion vehicles. If implemented, the federal government’s “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way” will result in total failure on temperature targets in the Paris Agreement.</p>

Environment 3 – Climate change adaptation

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 3 – Climate change adaptation				
Direction: Australia becomes a proactive planner of climate change adaptation.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env03.01	National Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation and Adaptation Commission	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>In 2021, the federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment released a new “National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025”, updating the 2015 Strategy. The new Strategy referenced some funding for droughts and a reinsurance pool for damage but otherwise added nothing to achievement of resilience.</p> <p>Because the new adaptation strategy includes no actions whatsoever to mitigate or prevent climate change (and because current mitigation strategies elsewhere are insufficient to reduce heating), the new adaptation strategy proactively sets up Australians and the insurance industry to incur massive financial losses, and then uses taxpayer funding, not to protect Australians but to bail out private insurers (by reinsuring them) for losses that should be prevented rather than courted.</p> <p>The Strategy increases the chances and magnitude of future loss by insurers but promises that taxpayers will cover their loss. It’s a strategy to ensure private financiers will make money out of the misery of Australians.</p> <p>Australia is a nation ill-prepared for climate change.</p>

Environment 6 – Energy

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 6 – Energy				
Direction: Australia becomes a renewable energy superpower.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env06.01	Renewable energy – electricity	← / →	→	<p>On balance, we are not travelling clearly yet either toward or away from the destination.</p> <p>Australia is not yet on track to meet the target of 100% of electricity comes from renewable sources by no later than 2030, but there is planning capacity that is up to the challenge.</p> <p>No data sets have been analysed to determine the extent of use of renewable energy for vehicles, road systems, services and fleets, manufacturing, agriculture, industry, construction, and air and sea transport. There is a distinct risk to Australia arising from the failure to switch these sectors to renewable energy.</p> <p>Some progress has been made at the state level to plan for renewable energy zones and the private sector is in some initiatives seeking to develop Australia as a renewable energy superpower.</p> <p>No progress has been made on the establishment of a publicly owned Australian Renewable Electricity Investment & Security Corporation necessary to ensure that taxpayers share fully in the benefits of investment in the National Electricity Market.</p> <p>Policies to support achievement of 100% renewable energy by 2030 were not in place in 2022.</p>
Env06.01.01	Renewable energy – vehicles	← / →	← / →	
Env06.01.02	Renewable energy – road transport systems services and fleets	← / →	← / →	
Env06.01.03	Renewable energy – manufacturing and agriculture	← / →	← / →	
Env06.01.04	Renewable energy – industry and construction	← / →	← / →	
Env06.01.05	Renewable energy – air and sea transport	← / →	← / →	
Env06.02	National Electricity Market system investment and security	← / →	→	
Env06.03	Reintroduction of a National Renewable Energy Target	←	←	



Environment 10 – Biodiversity

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 10 – Biodiversity				
Direction: Australia becomes a biodiversity haven.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env10.01	Fauna conservation and extinction prevention	←	←	On balance, no. Extinction of Australia diverse flora and fauna has continued apace.
Env10.02	Flora conservation and extinction prevention	←	←	

Environment 11 – Vegetation

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 11 – Vegetation				
Direction: Australia becomes a replanted and reforested land.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env11.01	Forests and environmental plantings	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>The trend of deforestation of Australia is declining, mainly due to there being few forests left to cut down. Queensland, the worst state by far in deforestation is still increasing stripping of forested land at an alarming rate.</p> <p>No progress has been made on legislation prohibiting deforestation or on the establishment of a publicly owned Carbon in the Land and Sea Trading Corporation.</p>

Environment 14 – Air & water quality

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 14 – Air & water quality				
Direction: Australia becomes a pollution free biosphere.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env14.01	Air quality			<p>No data are available to determine the direction of travel since 2016.</p> <p>Air quality in Australia is generally good or very good. A notable exception was during the east coast bushfires in the Summer of 2019/20.</p> <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns, air quality in major cities noticeably improved due to reduced industrial and transport emissions. This is transient and pre-covid transport emissions are set increase again in the year 2022-2023 (albeit still lower than 2019 levels).¹¹</p>

¹¹ See Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, [Australia's Emissions Projections 2020](#), page 8: "Transport activity is projected to rebound in 2021-22 and 2022-23, although to remain at a lower level than in the 2019 projections reflecting technology trends and slower population growth."

Environment 15 – Marine protection

Summary of progress for success in Our Society				
Environment 15 – Marine protection				
Direction: Australia becomes a marine wildlife haven.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Env15.01	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef - implementation of plans	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>In 2021, the federal and Queensland governments released an updated “Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021-2025”. The overarching objective was stated as “values and ecological processes in poor condition are restored and values and ecological processes in good condition are maintained”. Key strategies included strategies on climate change: “Australia contributes to an effective global response to climate change through the Paris Agreement, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” However, Australia has failed on this commitment and as such the Reef Plan is on track to fail on its main objectives of ensuring the health of the Reef.</p>
Env15.01.01	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef - prevention of threats from climate change	←	←	<p>Despite the failure on climate change, some of the other strategies in Reef 2050 are being implemented. These will reduce impacts but not save the Reef as such.</p> <p>In February 2022, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a damning report on the effect of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is in danger of extinction.</p>

Chapter 5 – Progress by Direction in Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition



Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ01.01	Sustainability of growth and development	← / →	←	On balance, no. In regard to sustainable development: Australia is extremely unlikely to meet its commitments to reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The United Nations has produced a Sustainable Development Report for 2021 in which Australia is ranked 35 th on performance against the goals and is doing poorly in progress on all but two of the goals, a very poor performance for a developed country. In terms of productivity growth: This is perhaps the most important indicator of Australia's capacity to grow its economy sustainably and fairly. There has been a slight improvement in the recent short term but nowhere near the target and nowhere near enough to re-establish a sustainable economy. In private capital investment: Despite an improvement in the growth of private capital investment since 2019, the short term and long term trends have been negative. The private sector is not displaying readiness to step in and grow the Australian economy. In government sector participation in the economy: The government has been withdrawing from participation in the national economy over time, expecting the private sector to take up a larger
Econ01.01.01	Productivity growth	← / →	←	
Econ01.02	Private investment for economic growth	←	←	
Econ01.03	GDP growth	←	←	
Econ01.03.01	GDP growth per capita	←	←	
Econ01.04	Government investment for sustainable economic growth	←	←	
Econ01.05	Economic composition and transformations - Services sector expansion	→	← / →	
Econ01.06	Economic composition and transformations - Replacement of fossil fuels exports with renewable energy and other minerals	←	←	
Econ01.07	Economic composition and transformations - Carbon credits market development	←	←	
Econ01.08	Reintroduction of a price on carbon	←	←	In government sector participation in the economy: The government has been withdrawing from participation in the national economy over time, expecting the private sector to take up a larger
Econ01.09	Integrated & Funded Program for Meeting Australia's Commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ01.09.01	Citizens' oversight of progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)	←	←	<p>share and reducing the share that could be enjoyed by taxpayers. The federal budget for 2021/22 maintains spending increases at levels well below that necessary to contribute to growth in the economy that can be shared by everyone.</p> <p>In terms of seizing major economic transformation opportunities: Australia is missing opportunities to replace fossil fuel exports with clean energy exports. The federal government has rejected projects for renewable energy exports.</p> <p>The government has also been missing major opportunities to expand the economy through carbon credits trading. The federal government's "Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way" continues the government's past approach of leaving very little if anything for stimulation of the production of carbon credits through carbon farming during the 2020 decade.</p>

Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ02.01	Employment – Participation	← / →	← / →	On balance, no. In relation to employment: Australia's economy is not being managed so that it provides growth in opportunities for work. While the unemployment rate fell to 4.2% in January 2022, this does not indicate that an economic structure has been developed that will assist the labour force towards full employment. The labour force is not verging towards being fully or sufficiently utilised. ¹² Underutilisation of labour and underemployment remain a major problem for Australia. The rolling 3-year average of underemployment has risen steadily from 6.8% in the 3 years to 2002 to 9.6% in the 3 years to 2021. The rolling average of labour underutilisation in 3 years to 2021 was 14.6%, an increase from average 13.8% in the 3 years to 2019. On the duration of unemployment and growth in insecure work: The duration of unemployment and casualisation of the workforce are also major problems for Australia. In 2021, the 3-year rolling median duration of unemployment for Australia was 16.6 weeks, and had been trending steadily up (worse) since 2010. The trend has been towards increasing casualisation of Australia's workforce and increasing
Econ02.02	Underemployment	← / →	←	
Econ02.02.01	Underutilisation of the labour force	← / →	←	
Econ02.03	Duration of unemployment	←	←	
Econ02.03.01	Permanence and casualisation of employment	← / →	←	
Econ02.04	Employment planning - National plan for full employment supported by a social wage	←	←	
Econ02.04.01	Employment planning - Increasing government sector participation in the economy by a program of expansion of public sector employment in health, welfare, education, housing, conservation and land care, renewable energy, buildings efficiency and transport	← / →	←	
Econ02.04.02	Employment planning - Community engagement on introduction of a social wage	← / →	←	
Econ02.05	Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide	← / →	←	

¹² **Note: Australia Together does not use the unemployment rate as an indicator, out of the context of the labour underutilisation rate**, due to the fact that unemployment rates are derived with reference only to those workers who have, in a fortnightly survey by the ABS, responded that they are looking for work and are available to start (in effect full-time) work immediately. The fortnightly "survey" counts a relatively small section of the willing labour force seeking work and is not useful either for purposes of monitoring the performance of the economy as a provider of opportunities to work or for long term economic and labour force planning purposes.

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition				
Direction: Australia becomes a model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
	transformations with safety nets - National Economic Transitions Commission			difficulty in transitioning to permanent work.
Econ02.05.01	Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide transformations with safety nets – Coal industry closure	←	←	<p>In relation to initiatives to achieve full employment: No progress has been made with planning to achieve full employment. Neither the Coalition nor the Labor Opposition have expressed any commitment to introduction of a social wage and/or consultation with Australians on a social wage, despite the fact that full employment is much more likely to be achieved in a manner that does not cause inflation if a social wage is properly introduced.</p>
Econ02.05.02	Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide transformations with safety nets – Higher education (university) sector recovery and expansion	←	←	<p>In relation to the need for expansion of job opportunities in public sector services: In 2021, the Australian Public Service (APS) had no workforce plan that would set APS growth to match demand for services and jobs by the Australian community. The APS Workforce Strategy 2025 is a strategy taking Australia in the opposite direction to the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> and towards a repeat of the currently failing economic structure.</p> <p>In relation to establishment of a National Economic Transitions Commission: Australia has no institutional arrangements in place to plan for and deliver a safe passage for workers through economic transitions. No progress has been made on any strategy to transition coal workers to new industries or to restore the higher education sector which has been attacked by the federal government during Covid-19, resulting in the loss of approximately 40,000 jobs.</p>

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards Direction: Australia becomes a country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ03.01	Income inequality	← / →	←	On balance, no. On income and wealth inequality: This has been rising for the last two decades. This growth in inequality is the most significant contributor to the decline in standards of living reflected in so many of the other measures in this report. If standards of living are to improve, inequality must be reversed. On the distribution of fair shares of national wealth: Between 1975 and 2021, there was a steady trend in decline of wages and a rise in corporate profits as proportions of national income (GDP). This significantly aggravated growth in inequality. The rate at which corporate profit growth is outstripping wages growth is increasing. In household disposable income: In the short term, during Covid-19, household disposable incomes rose, most likely due to the temporary increase in family incomes provided by JobKeeper and JobSeeker. The increase does not meet the target of matching the historical average and is unlikely to be sustained due to the withdrawal of the Covid-19 stimulus. Inequity in opportunity to achieve better living standards: Welfare workers, although they are essential, earn significantly less than workers in similar occupations in other industries. Their wages are also increasing at slower rates than
Econ03.01.01	Wealth inequality	← / →	←	
Econ03.01.02	Distribution of national wealth – corporations versus wage earners	← / →	←	
Econ03.02	Distribution of growth in income & wealth - wages growth relative to growth in company profits	←	←	
Econ03.02.01	Distribution of growth in income & wealth - growth in wages (hourly rates of pay) relative to growth in GDP	← / →	← / →	
Econ03.02.02	Distribution of growth in income & wealth - household disposable income	→	←	
Econ03.02.03	Distribution of growth in income & wealth - net worth of households	← / →	←	
Econ03.02.04	Distribution of growth in income & wealth - earnings for welfare workers	← / →	←	
Econ03.03	Elimination of poverty	← / →	←	
Econ03.03.01	Elimination of poverty - children	← / →	←	
Econ03.03.02	Elimination of poverty - young people	← / →	←	
Econ03.04	Elimination of hunger	←	←	
Econ03.05	Indebtedness - households	←	←	
Econ03.06	Perceptions of economic opportunity	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards				
Direction: Australia becomes a country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ03.06.01	Perceptions of economic (class) mobility	← / →	←	other workers. It is notable that the federal Coalition government has refused to support wage rises for aged care workers, as recommended by the Aged Care Royal Commission. Policy support for wage rises for welfare workers is absent. On poverty and hunger: Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Australia has committed to eliminating poverty and hunger by 2030. No plans are in place to achieve this. Surveys of Australian households suggest that poverty may be declining slightly but is still persistent. Rates of hunger and food insecurity in Australia are increasing.
Econ03.07	Perceptions of quality of life - prospects for improvement	← / →	←	
Econ03.07.01	Perceptions of quality of life - prospects for decline	← / →	←	
Econ03.07.02	Perceptions of quality of life - current financial situation	← / →	←	
Econ03.08	Perceptions of long term economic/financial prospects - Intergenerational financial security	← / →	←	
Econ03.08.01	Perceptions of long term economic/financial prospects - Australia's global economic performance	← / →	←	On household over-indebtedness: This is rising.
Econ03.09	Perceptions of economic inequality – gap between rich and poor	← / →	→	On Australia as a land of opportunity: Fewer Australians are viewing Australia as a land of opportunity with positive prospects for them. There is a consensus that younger generations will be less well off than their parents. Perceptions about longer term economic prospects vary widely from year to year but the longer term trend is clearly negative. The trend of economic optimism has been falling and the trend of economic pessimism has been rising. On the attitudes of Australians to the size of the gap between rich and poor: Given the actual long term rise in income and wealth inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient and the apparent, parallel rise in concern that the “gap

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards Direction: Australia becomes a country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>between rich and poor is too large”, it is highly likely that in 2021, Australians perceived and rejected growth in inequality. As a measure of attitudes towards the need for equality and fairness, this result is positive reflection of a desire for an equitable and cohesive society. It reflects well on Australians as willing members of a compassionate and fair society and governments should take note.</p>

Economy 4 – National wealth generation & sharing

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 4 – National wealth generation & sharing				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ04.01	Provisions for welfare - Federal budget	→	←	On balance, no.
Econ04.01.01	Provisions for welfare - Jobseeker payment	← / →	←	
Econ04.02	Accord on wealth, welfare and wellbeing - Establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing	← / →	←	On provisions for the welfare of Australians in the federal budget: Welfare spending is not being set to meet need and demand and is tending to decline as a proportion of tax revenue and GDP. Capping of increases to JobSeeker over an extended period is entrenching poverty and inequality in Australia and is economically contractionary.
Econ04.02.01	Accord on wealth, welfare and wellbeing - Revocation of policies restricting government sector participation in Australia's economy	←	←	
Econ04.02.02	Accord on wealth, welfare and wellbeing - Community engagement on and justification of national budget priorities	← / →	←	On giving Australians more control over how their tax revenues are raised and spent: No progress has been made on development of an Accord between Australians and their parliaments on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing. In the absence of an Accord on Wealth Welfare and Wellbeing, longer term trends in terms of rising inequality and living standards have been negative. The federal government continues to stop involvement by Australians in budget formulation and determination of priorities for spending of taxpayer funds.
Econ04.02.03	Accord on wealth, welfare and wellbeing - Community Australia Bank	← / →	←	
Econ04.03	Fair & progressive taxation	←	←	On artificially constraining government sector participation in the Australian economy: The federal government continues to restrict government sector participation in the national economy. Such restrictions are unnecessary and counter-productive. Australia's economy is the 12th largest in the world and can easily sustain a higher tax-to-GDP ratio.
Econ04.04	Corporate taxation – maintenance of corporate tax contributions	← / →	←	
Econ04.04.01	Corporate taxation – Introduction of a corporate cash flow tax, replacing corporate income tax	← / →	← / →	On the fairness of taxation: The tax system embeds clear increases in
Econ04.04.02	Corporate taxation – Re-introduction of a corporate super profits tax	← / →	←	
Econ04.04.03	Corporate taxation – planning for and	← / →	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 4 – National wealth generation & sharing				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
	reporting on closure of corporate tax loopholes			the burden on lower income earners and reductions of burden on higher income earners.
Econ04.05	Royalties - Mining exports	← / →	←	<p>On stopping corporate tax evasion:</p> <p>No progress has been made with introduction of a corporate cash flow tax or a corporate super profits tax. Tax avoidance by major corporates continues to increase with several big companies paying no tax. Additionally, no progress has been made with legislation mandating development by the Australian Taxation Office of biennial rolling plans for and performance reports on closure of all corporate tax loopholes. And no progress has been made with introduction of legislation for uniform mining royalties of 20%.</p>

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy				
Direction: Australia becomes a strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ05.01	National Competition Policy review	←	←	On balance, no.
Econ05.02	Ethical regulation of carbon credits markets	← / →	← / →	<p>On National Competition Policy: The National Competition Policy currently stands as one of the largest threats to the shares of our economy that Australians may enjoy and to the economy itself. The policy is currently set in favour of divesting more services to the private sector at a time when it is clear (eg., from the Aged Care Royal Commission) that private providers do a comparatively poor job of providing social services and do not provide the community with savings. This policy is strongly contractionary and is embedding inequity.</p> <p>On maintenance of systems enabling Australia to enter new markets in carbon trading: Australia's Clean Energy Regulator survived the demise of the carbon price and has retained some status as a credible regulator. In 2021, this made the Australian Clean Energy Regulator a "valuable asset" in emerging markets for carbon and in establishing a foothold for Australian businesses in international carbon credits trade. The current federal government's "Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way" gives no indication of commitment to ethics in carbon credits trading and no sign of incentivising the businesses to achieve net zero emissions or be responsible environmental citizens.</p>
Econ05.03	Ethical certification and regulatory enforcement of plans by businesses for achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2033	← / →	← / →	

Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation

Summary of progress for success in Our Economy				
Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation Direction: Australia becomes an economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Econ06.01	Government sector workforce plan and economic participation - Program for recovery of ownership and operation of government trading enterprises	← / →	←	On balance, no. On government sector business and trading: Between 1990 and 2020 Australian federal and state governments divested ownership and/or operations of a vast array of taxpayer-owned assets and services. These sales transferred profits and all other forms of return on investment away from taxpayers and into the hands of a small number of private owners. Sale of these assets has not resulted in cheaper or more reliable services for Australians. Withdrawal by the government sector from operation of profitable enterprises has resulted in Australia's economy being smaller and/or less competitive than it might otherwise be and smaller shares of return on investment for taxpayers.
Econ06.01.01	Government sector workforce plan and economic participation - Program for recovery of ownership and operation of government trading enterprises - publication of plans	← / →	←	

Chapter 6 – Progress by Direction in Our Governance



Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 1 – Strength of democracy				
Direction: Australia becomes a proactive participatory democracy.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov01.01	Consistency of legislative programs with the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i>	← / →	←	<p>On balance, no. But we now have the means of reversing this.</p> <p>On legislation that is consistent with <i>Australia Together</i>: Results in this End of Term Report indicate that large swathes of legislation and policy development since 2000 have been antithetical to the Vision and Directions for <i>Australia Together</i>.</p> <p>On active participation by Australians in their democracy: Disengagement from participation in politics is increasing during a period of falling social justice and equity, a very unhealthy result. It implies a decline in social justice and equity and a simultaneous decline in activism to remedy the inequities. Democracies exhibiting withdrawals from participation when social justice is also seen to be falling are indicative of a trend towards acceptance of increasing autocracy, a trend which it would be as well to understand before it is too late.</p> <p>On the cohesion and stability of our democracy: There has been a significant increase in the “trust inequality gap”, as measured by the Edelman Trust Barometer. This measures the difference in trust in institutions reported by those on high incomes versus those on lower incomes. An increase in this trust gap provides early warning of a dangerous trend towards a breakdown of cohesion and stability in Australia’s democracy which may</p>
Gov01.02	Satisfaction with democracy	← / →	←	
Gov01.02.01	Satisfaction with Australia’s system of government	← / →	←	
Gov01.03	Participation in democracy - participation and social justice	← / →	←	
Gov01.03.01	Participation in democracy - voter turnout	→	←	
Gov01.03.02	Participation in democracy - ability to have a say	→	←	
Gov01.03.03	Cohesion and stability of democracy	←	←	
Gov01.04	National Integrated Planning & Reporting – legislative program	← / →	→	
Gov01.05	Skills development in National Integrated Planning & Reporting and community engagement in national long term financial planning	← / →	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 1 – Strength of democracy				
Direction: Australia becomes a proactive participatory democracy.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>resemble the breakdown in the USA where inequality has split communities of the USA along economic lines and built a groundswell of populism which in turn resulted in the insurrection of 6 January 2022 and the violent attack on the Capitol Building in Washington aimed at stopping the peaceful transfer of democratic control from one administration to the next.</p> <p>Strategies to reduce income inequality and gaps access to education and information will be vital in heading off democratic decline.</p> <p>On strategies to increase participation in an ethical, efficient and effective democracy: In 2020, Australians had no long term plan for the nation as a whole, no way of building an integrated plan for a better future, and no way of holding governments to account for progress. During the 46th parliament, no progress has been made towards legislation making National Integrated Planning & Reporting (National IP&R) mandatory for all federal governments. However, this End of Term Report constitutes the first report on Australia's performance against the <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index. The report is comprehensive, free and open for all Australians. It provides a basis for greater engagement in future National IP&R and for development of stronger long term integrated national plans.</p> <p>On institutional and planning reforms to give Australians greater say in expenditure of their revenues from taxation: No involvement by</p>

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 1 – Strength of democracy				
Direction: Australia becomes a proactive participatory democracy.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				the community in the permission system for taxation and expenditure is yet in place. In the meantime, corruption and misuse of public funds has increased under the federal Coalition government since 2013, alongside a de-skilling of the federal Treasury and other federal agencies in administering expenditures of public funds with transparency and probity.

Governance 2 – National values & identity

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 2 – National values & identity				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation knowing and affirming decency.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov02.01	Pride in Australian culture	→	→	On balance, progress is stagnant.
Gov02.02	Satisfaction with national direction	← / →	← / →	<p>Opinion on what constitutes decency for Australia and Australians remains unconfirmed.</p> <p>On our pride in Australian culture: In 2021, 58% of Australians reported that they take pride in the Australian way of life and culture “to a great extent”, equal to the score in 2007. The longer term trend is slightly positive but performance is variable – improvement is not continuous.</p>
Gov02.03	Support for the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i> – support for the Vision elements	← / →	← / →	<p>In terms of satisfaction with the national direction: In 2019, 57% of Australians reported on survey that they were dissatisfied with the direction of the country. No conclusion can be drawn as to whether Australians are any less dissatisfied with the direction of the country than they were in 2019. On survey it appears that in 2022, between 40% and 60% are dissatisfied with the direction of the nation.</p>
Gov02.03.01	Support for the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i> – support for the Directions	← / →	← / →	<p>In terms of defining the direction of the nation: There is no common idea of what the direction of the nation actually is and no stated idea of what Australians want it to be. <i>Australia Together</i> offers Australians a framework to specify their preferred national direction. No funds are yet available for statistically valid surveys of the opinion of Australians about the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i>.</p>

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 3 – Human & other rights				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation with avowed rights for all.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov03.01	An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution	←	←	On balance, no. On enshrining rights for Australians in the Constitution: In 2021, Australians did not have explicitly conferred rights to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly and protest, freedom of the press, trial in open court, justice itself and without delay, or freedom from unlawful detention. In the decades since 2001, Australians have suffered increasing erosion of their human rights and freedoms and we have made no progress towards adoption of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution. Australia is the only democracy in the world without a national human rights framework.
Gov03.01.01	An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution – Preparatory steps and an Australian Bill of Rights Commission	←	←	
Gov03.01.02	An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution – Rights conferred under international treaties, conventions and covenants	←	←	
Gov03.02	Voluntary assisted dying – legislation	→	→	In terms of rights conferred on Australians under international treaties and conventions: In 2022, Australia remained the only democracy in the world not to have passed a law directly implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and had not complied with the requirement of the ICCPR (and other human rights treaties) that a ratifying state ensure that everyone has access to the rights set out in the treaty, together with effective remedies for breaches.
Gov03.02.01	Voluntary assisted dying – Rights in the Constitution	← / →	← / →	

Governance 4 – Constitutional reform

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 4 – Constitutional reform				
Direction: Australia becomes a free, self-governing, modern nation.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov04.01	Constitutional convention	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>No progress has been made on evolution of a Constitution fit for 21st century Australia. During the 46th Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nation was steered by the Coalition government away from, rather than towards, establishment of a First Nations Voice in the Constitution; legislation restricting human rights was prioritised over any reforms that might protect human rights; and no program was developed to address other failings within the Constitution – eg., failings which allow people to be held in detention indefinitely and for life without charge, allow the dismissal of public servants for free expression of opinion on social media, and allow journalists to be held liable for the comments of third parties on their websites. <p>Australia remains on the precipice of collapse of its cohesion as a nation due to its out of date Constitution.</p>

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability				
Direction: Australia becomes open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov05.01	Trust in federal parliaments	→	→	On balance, no. On our trust in parliaments and governments: Over the longer term, trust in federal, state and territory parliaments has been low but trending towards improvement. Trust in local councils has been higher than state and federal governments and has trended towards improvement. In 2020, there was a significant improvement in trust in elected parliaments and governments but this is likely to have been related to the advent of the Covid-19 and rising satisfaction with service delivery and bipartisan cooperation during the pandemic. It is not likely that there has been a rise in trust of ethical practice in government (see Gov06.01). It is simply a reflection of an endorsement that in times of trouble we look to and rely on government to support us rather than private service providers.
Gov05.01.01	Trust in state and territory parliaments	→	→	
Gov05.01.02	Trust in elected local governments (councils)	→	→	
Gov05.01.03	Trust in federal governments	← / →	←	
Gov05.01.04	Trust in state and territory governments	→	← / →	
Gov05.02	Openness and accountability of governments – Royal Commission and community engagement to review national security legislation and its impact on key safeguards for Australia's democracy, including free speech, freedom of the press and transparency in government conduct	←	←	On secrecy and abuses of rights through unaccountable use of security laws: Security laws are being used to trample the rights of Australians. There is an urgent need for a Royal Commission into national security legislation and its impact on key safeguards for Australia's democracy. No legislation has been introduced to strengthen protections for whistleblowers making genuine public interest disclosures or for those receiving the disclosures. The federal government has pursued whistleblowers and journalists for genuine disclosures that are clearly in the public interest.
Gov05.02.01	Openness and accountability of governments – Protection of whistleblowers making genuine public interest disclosures	←	←	
Gov05.03	Funding for open and accountable governance	←	←	
Gov05.04	Transparency in lobbying, gifts and donations – Real time disclosure	←	←	
Gov05.04.01	Transparency in lobbying, gifts and donations –	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability				
Direction: Australia becomes open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
	Prohibition of gifts to politicians and public officials			Australia is in the midst of the rise of the secret state.
Gov05.05	Post-separation employment of politicians	←	←	<p>On gagging the public sector and its ability to provide free and fearless advice and information: Intimidation, budget threats and downsizing of the entire public service remain a significant threat to democracy in Australia.</p> <p>On the transparency of and harm caused by political donations and lobbying: Political donations and lobbying are totally out of control in Australia and transparency is effectively non-existent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress has been made to improve transparency of political donations at the federal level. • No steps have been taken to require real time reporting of lobbying contacts. • No progress has been made to prohibit acceptance of gifts by politicians and public servants at the federal level. • No progress has been made to strengthen post-separation employment rules for politicians so that they are enforceable and protect the public interest. The danger of the “revolving door” still exists and is embedding serious undisclosed conflicts of interest in the Australian parliamentary system.

Governance 6 – Government ethics

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 6 – Government ethics				
Direction: Australia becomes a world benchmark in leaders' conduct.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov06.01	Perceptions of corruption	←	←	On balance, no.
Gov06.02	Trust in leaders' conduct – parliamentarians	← / →	←	
Gov06.02.01	Trust in leaders' conduct – executive governments	← / →	← / →	
Gov06.03	Codes of conduct for parliamentarians	←	←	
Gov06.03.01	Compulsory and satisfactory completion of training in ethics and proof of competency in permissible voting practice for parliamentarians	←	←	<p>On trust in leaders' conduct: In 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trust in the institution of government (according to the Edelman Trust Barometer) rose to a high of 61%, up from 42% in 2019, before falling back in 2022 to 52%, but at the same time only 27% of Australians said governments put the public before vested interests, indicating that those elected to government are not trusted to resist corruption and state capture. <p>Governments appear to be trusted to shelter Australians in a pandemic but not to act ethically in the public interest.</p>
Gov06.04	Federal independent commission against corruption	←	←	
				<p>On ethical standards for government: Ethical standards and behaviour are openly declining in federal parliament and the government has stonewalled for years on its commitment to legislate a federal corruption and integrity commission. The federal parliament has even refused to introduce a binding code of conduct for parliamentarians.</p> <p>On the competence and ethics of parliamentarians: The need for compulsory training and</p>

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 6 – Government ethics				
Direction: Australia becomes a world benchmark in leaders' conduct.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
				competency assessment for parliamentarians is increasing. No progress has been made.

Governance 7 – Public service independence & excellence

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 7 – Public service independence & excellence				
Direction: Australia becomes committed to public service independence & excellence.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov07.01	Trust in the public service	→	→	<p>On balance, yes.</p> <p>On trust in the public service: In 2021 57% of Australians said they trusted the Commonwealth public service, an increase of 15 percentage points compared to 2019, but this dropped again to 52% in October 2021. At the same time only 27% of Australians said the public service acts in the public interest</p> <p>Like government and parliaments (see Governance 6 above), the public service appears to be trusted to shelter Australians in a pandemic but not necessary to act ethically in the public interest.</p> <p>Over the longer term, trust in the Commonwealth public service has been low but trending tentatively towards improvement.</p>
Gov07.02	Satisfaction with the public service - federal and state	← / →	← / →	
Gov07.02.01	Satisfaction with the public service - Commonwealth	← / →	← / →	

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform				
Direction: Australia becomes protected from undue sectional influence in elections.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov08.01	Truth in advertising - legislative program	← / →	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>On truth in political advertising: Federal laws prohibiting untrue political advertising were enacted in 1983 but repealed in 1984. South Australia remains the only state with laws on truth in political advertising.</p>
Gov08.02	Electoral funding reform - community engagement on electoral funding reform	←	←	<p>On the threat to democracy from uncontrolled political donations: It is now common practice for major parties and wealthy individuals to pervert the democratic process in Australia by “buying elections” if they can. For the 2022 federal election, no constraints are being applied which would stop corporations or wealthy individuals from buying the election.</p>
Gov08.02.01	Electoral funding reform – abolition of corporate and union donations	← / →	←	<p>On electoral distortions through inequitable funding of election campaigns: Electoral funding laws in Australia ostensibly operate on a principle of one vote, one value, but only insofar as redistributions of electoral boundaries are required by law to ensure that electorates have the same number of enrolled voters within a specified percentage of variance (currently 10%). The principle of one vote, one value is not applied in laws regarding funding of the campaigns of candidates and political parties seeking election. Electoral distortions in favour of corporate donors are on the rise in Australia.</p>
Gov08.02.02	Electoral funding reform – protection of democracy through introduction of equitable taxpayer funding for elections	←	←	<p>Governments are also misusing taxpayer funds for pork barrelling, particularly at the federal level and in New South Wales.</p>

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility Direction: Australia becomes a nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov09.01	Trust in NGOs	← / →	→	On balance, yes for NGOs. On balance, no for corporates.
Gov09.01.01	Trust in private institutions and public institutions	→	→	
Gov09.02	Trust in corporates	← / →	→	Corporate greed is out of control in Australia, especially in the fossil fuel and news media industries and among those businesses who accepted (and kept) taxpayer funded JobKeeper assistance while making higher profits.
Gov09.02.01	Trust in corporates – perceptions of corporate versus worker power balance	← / →	← / →	
Gov09.03	Prohibition of rent-seeking by for-profit companies in certain community services	← / →	←	On trust in institutions of government, business, NGOs and the media: The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including NGOs was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. However, it would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on.
Gov09.04	Prohibition of government contracts to private sector companies that do not have certified plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2033	← / →	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>On the power of corporations versus workers: In 2019, 76% of Australians said, “big business has too much power”, up from 51% in 1987. In 2019, 42% of Australians said, “unions have too much power, down from 71% in 1987. Australians think unions have too little power relative to the power of corporates.</p> <p>On neoliberal policies: Overall these data suggest strongly waning confidence among Australians in the ability of the private sector and business to lead the country towards stronger and more equitable economic development. Private sector failure was evident during the Covid-19 pandemic with the high numbers of deaths in privately run aged care facilities, signalling the need for wholesale reform.</p> <p>On incentivising businesses towards good corporate citizenship to prevent climate change: The federal government has established no mechanisms by which businesses can be held accountable for their part in achieving the nation’s commitments under the Paris Agreement. Time is running out.</p>

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation				
Direction: Australia becomes a guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov10.01	Trust in the media	← / →	→	On balance, no. Trust in the media: The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including the media was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. It would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on. On regulating news media: In 2021, a Senate Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia concluded that “There was clear evidence that the self-regulation model for print media through the Australian Press Council is woefully inadequate.” Still, no progress has been made in establishing an adequately resourced independent standard-setter and compliance auditor for Australian news media. The Murdoch media continues to be strongly distrusted by Australians and ranks only slightly above social media for ethics and standards. Australians by and large view themselves as fortunate in having a publicly owned Australian Broadcasting Commission. In 2014, the Australian Press Council made significant changes to its code of ethics for journalists, which lowered standards of truth in reporting for journalists. On regulating social media: In 2021, in the absence of government regulation, “big tech” businesses – Google, Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft, TikTok and Redbubble – established an Australian Code of
Gov10.01.01	Trust in news media and journalism – effectiveness of self-regulation	← / →	←	
Gov10.01.02	Trust in social media - effectiveness of self-regulation	← / →	← / →	
Gov10.02	Regulation of an ethical, democratic information market – Development of a national regulatory framework for an ethical, democratic information market	← / →	←	
Gov10.03	Regulation and codes of ethical conduct for news media and social media – Independent regulation of compliance with a code of ethical conduct by publishers and social media – development of a model Code	← / →	←	
Gov10.03.01	Regulation and codes of ethical conduct for news media and social media – Independent regulation of compliance with a code of ethical conduct by publishers and social media – ensuring compliance with Codes	← / →	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation				
Direction: Australia becomes a guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation (the DIGI Code). No systems are in place to independently monitor the compliance of DIGI Code signatories with their own Code.</p> <p>On development of a national regulatory framework for an ethical, democratic information market: In 2022, market rules for ownership of information infrastructure and services, eg., search services and platforms for information transmission (including digital platforms and news media platforms such as broadcast TV) remained either poorly specified or totally unspecified. And no coherent regulation framework existed.</p> <p>In 2020, legislative reforms known as the “News Media Bargaining Code” had the perverse result of increasing the market power of large news media companies, particularly News Corp and Nine, with no corresponding improvement in the accountability of these news media outlets for irresponsible publishing.</p> <p>No specific acknowledgement has been forthcoming from the federal parliament of the need to design an <i>integrated</i> regulatory framework suitable for an information market in the digital age.</p> <p>The longer term trend is best characterised as negative, but some progress has been made in the shorter term in heightened awareness of the significant threat to democracy posed by the current failure of regulation.</p>

Governance 11 – International participation & global justice

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 11 – International participation & global justice				
Direction: Australia becomes a just participant on the global stage.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov11.01	Participation in international cooperative forums	← / →	← / →	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>In participation in the United Nations: Australians on survey would appear to neither trust nor distrust the United Nations. Australia's federal government, however, has shown a low degree of trust and commitment by serially disregarding the United Nations, notably in decisions to enter unsanctioned and illegal wars (eg., Iraq) and to scuttle cooperation on climate change at every opportunity in the last decade.</p>
Gov11.02	International cooperation for global sustainability	← / →	←	<p>In relation to global cooperation for sustainable and equitable world development: Australia is among the least cooperative countries in the world in terms of attempts to mitigate the impacts of its development on other nations attempting to meet Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>On Australia's role as a responsible international citizen: Australia has serially disregarded international laws and covenants protecting refugees, imposing billions of dollars worth of unnecessary expenses on Australians for detention of migrants and displaced persons and trashing our reputation as a supporter of the rule of law and protector of human rights at the same time. The reputational cost is incalculable.</p>
Gov11.03	Protection of refugees seeking asylum	←	←	<p>Australia's reputation as a just participant and trustworthy trading partner on the global stage has hit what we can only hope is rock bottom.</p>

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 12 – Peace & security				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation assured of enduring peace.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov12.01	Australian involvement in military operations	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>On Australia's orientation towards war rather than peace: As at February 2022, the Australian government shows no sign of replacing belligerent postures with postures for promotion of peace in foreign relations. Belligerent postures are intensifying in relation to China.</p> <p>However, Australians themselves are not exhibiting quite so much readiness for aggression. While the longer term trend of relationships with China is negative, Australians continue to support neutral postures.</p> <p>On foreign influence in Australia's defence policy: Australia continues to allow foreign arms dealers to influence defence policy. In 2022, there is no evidence that the continued involvement of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI – partly funded by foreign arms dealers) in our foreign policy and defence decisions is having a positive effect on Australia's relations with China or other nations. ASPI should be immediately abolished.</p> <p>On our preparedness for strategic and defence independence: Australians exhibit little readiness in 2022 for an independent defence capability, and are more attuned to continued dependence on an alliance with the United States, despite the fact that this entails surrendering the very sovereignty we claim to value and despite the fact that the alliance comes with no</p>
Gov12.01.01	Australian preference for peace versus war	← / →	← / →	
Gov12.01.02	Australian preference and readiness for an independent defence capability versus dependence on the US alliance	←	←	
Gov12.02	Prohibition of weapons exports	←	←	
Gov12.03	Prohibition of funding of public institutions and officials by foreign-owned or domestically owned/operated arms dealers or manufacturers	←	←	
Gov12.04	Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security	←	←	
Gov12.04.01	Green Paper and community engagement to define Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence	←	←	
Gov12.05	Development of the capacity of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and abolition of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)	←	←	

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 12 – Peace & security				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation assured of enduring peace.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46 th parliament	Over the longer term	
				<p>guarantee that the US will help defend Australia in the event of a foreign attack. The US strategic interest in Australia is more likely to make us a target for aggression. No attempt to stabilise power shifts in the Asia Pacific region is evident in US policy preferences which focus heavily on containment and abuse of rising powers (mainly China) rather than shared prosperity and humanity. The longer term trend of maturity in policy and risk management on alliances is alarmingly negative, pre-disposing Australia to war before it pre-disposes us to peace.</p> <p>On the need for an integrated strategy for defence, diplomacy and security: Australia is pursuing an approach to foreign relations in which strategies for defence and diplomacy are set to disable strategies for security, independence, sovereignty, growth in national resilience, and peace. With the establishment of AUKUS, defence and foreign relations policy is moving in the opposite direction to the proposal to develop an Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security, based on the new geopolitical realities of the 21st century.</p> <p>On the need to involve Australians in decisions on our strategic interests and defence: Respectful engagement with Australians on the issue of their nation's strategic interests and the principles for decision making on security issues, remains a concept that is not comprehended by key security policy makers. This, despite the fact that Australians are entirely capable of determining what is in the best</p>

<i>Summary of progress for success in Our Governance</i>				
<i>Governance 12 – Peace & security</i>				
<i>Direction: Australia becomes a nation assured of enduring peace.</i>				
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>		<i>Direction of movement from the baseline</i>		<i>Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?</i>
		<i>During the 46th parliament</i>	<i>Over the longer term</i>	
				<p>interests of their nation and, within a fully open process, are best placed to develop principles and instructions for government on how decisions of national security may be made, including those decisions which commit Australia to wars.</p> <p>On war powers reform: Currently the decision to send Australia to war rests with the prime minister. This dangerous delegation should be abolished. Participation by Australian armed forces as combatants in military operations (other than genuine peacekeeping and humanitarian aid sanctioned by the United Nations) should be zero unless Australia has been directly attacked or unless both houses of parliament agree in the majority that its security has been directly, demonstrably and imminently threatened.</p>








Governance 13 – Humanitarian effort

Summary of progress for success in Our Governance				
Governance 13 – Humanitarian effort				
Direction: Australia becomes a nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance		Direction of movement from the baseline		Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?
		During the 46th parliament	Over the longer term	
Gov13.01	Foreign aid	←	←	<p>On balance, no.</p> <p>In 2021/22, federal expenditure for foreign aid was estimated to be in the order of \$4.335 billion, down 14% from actual expenditure in 2014/15 of \$5.04 billion, although up from what was expected in 2017/18 when expenditure was capped at \$4 billion.</p> <p>Increases in foreign aid would enhance Australia's reputation, helping it recover from the recent decline caused by our home-grown, entirely unnecessary fractiousness in foreign relations.</p>
Gov13.02	Contribution to the Green Climate Fund under the Paris Agreement	← / →	← / →	<p>Australia is also seeking to increase spending on defence but there are concerns about budget impacts. An increase in humanitarian aid would reduce the need for spending on defence. Greater empathy would lead to greater international cohesion and sustainable development.</p> <p>Instead of making enemies where there are none, the choice is open to Australia, as the 12th largest economy in the world, to make a more generous contribution to global stability.</p>

Chapter 7 – National Wellbeing Index – Baseline & Update Data for Our Society







Society 1 – Safety

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 1 – Safety			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Safety in the home Soc01.01 The percentage of people who feel safe when at home alone after dark meets or exceeds 95%.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2016, 90.4% of Australians reported feeling safe when at home after dark, up slightly from 88.7% in 2005. Source: ABS 4906.0 Table 39.1 2016	Updated data not accessible.  The longer term trend is positive. 
Safety on transport Soc01.02 The percentage of people who feel safe when waiting for public transport alone after dark meets or exceeds 50%.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2016, 26.8% of Australians reported feeling safe when waiting for public transport alone after dark, up from 19.5% in 2005. Source: ABS 4906.0 Table 39.1 2016	Updated data not accessible.  The longer term trend is positive but nowhere near the target. 
Homicide Soc01.03 The rate of homicide declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2018, the rate of homicides per 100,000 of population was 1.5 (declining continuously from 2.1 since 2010). Source: ABS 4510.1, Table 1 2018	In 2020, the rate of homicides per 100,000 of population was stable at 1.5. Source: ABS 4510.1, Table 1 2020  Homicide (murder, attempted murder and manslaughter) has dropped steadily since 2000. The longer term trend is positive. 
Sexual assault Soc01.04 The rate of sexual assault declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2018, the rate of sexual assaults per 100,000 of population was 105.3 (rising continuously from 85.6 since 2010). Source: ABS 4510.1, Table 1 2018	In 2020, the rate of sexual assaults per 100,000 of population was 107.1. Source: ABS 4510.1, Table 1 2020, Recorded Crime Victims 







Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 1 – Safety

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			Sexual assault has steadily increased since 2010. The longer term trend is negative. 
Child assault Soc01.05 The rate of child assault declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2016/17, there were 611 hospitalisations of children aged 0–14 for injuries due to abuse (which includes assault, maltreatment and neglect), including 156 Indigenous children. For the 481 (79%) of hospitalisations where the perpetrator was specified, nearly 1 in 2 (45%, or 217) children were abused by a parent, and 1 in 8 (13%, or 71) by another family member. For Indigenous children, about 2 in 3 (68%, or 83) were abused by a parent or family member. Source: AIHW, “Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story, 2019	Updated data not accessible.  No longer term trend data identified. 
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
Road deaths Soc01.06 The number of road deaths declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2019, there were 1,186 fatalities on Australian roads. Source: BITRE Road Safety Statistics	In 2021, there were 1,129 fatalities on Australian roads, an increase of 3.1% on fatalities in 2020 (1,095) but a decrease of 4.8% compared to 2019 (1,186). Source: BITRE Road Safety Statistics  Between 2012 and 2019, average road fatalities were 1,210 per annum. Between 2020 and 2021, average road fatalities were 1,112 per annum, 8.1% lower than the average of the previous 8 years.


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 1 – Safety

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			The longer term trend is positive. 
Victims of crime (fear of becoming a victim) Soc01.07 The proportion of Australians worried about becoming a victim of crime in their local area declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2017, 35% of Australians worried about becoming a victim of crime in their own area, up from 25% in 2009. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019	In 2020, 26% of Australians worried about becoming a victim of crime in their own area, up from 25% in 2009 but down compared to 2017. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019  The longer term trend is variable. 
Perceptions of safety and trust in the community Soc01.07.01 The proportion of Australians reporting trust in “most people” increases continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2019, 55.2% of Australians on survey felt “most people could be trusted”, up slightly from 54.4% in 2014. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1	In 2020, 61.9% of Australians on survey felt “most people could be trusted”, up from 55.2% in 2019. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1  The longer term trend is steady. 
Perceptions of safety in the context of world events and national security Soc01.08 The percentage of people who report feeling safe or very safe when considering	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2021, seven in ten Australians (70%) said that in view of world events they felt ‘very safe’ or ‘safe’, an improvement from 50% in 2020 but a decrease from 92% in 2010. Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021	Updated data not yet available. The shorter term trend was positive.  The longer term trend is distinctly negative with 6% of Australians

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 1 – Safety

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
world events and/or national security exceeds 90% annually.	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		reporting that they feel very safe in 2021, down from 44% in 2009, and 70% feeling safe or very safe in 2021, down from 90% in 2009. Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021 

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.


Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 2 – Indigenous Heart			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>First Nations constitutional recognition, Makarrata, treaty, justice and reconciliation</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Constitutional recognition of First Nations Soc02.01</p> <p>By 2025, as an essential and defining part of nation-wide community engagement for a new Constitution under Gov04.01 and in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Uluru Statement from the Heart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish the formal terms of sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples so that it coexists with the sovereignty of the Crown; acknowledge and then celebrate this coexistence as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood; and ensure all other constitutional reforms are secured to empower First Nations to take a rightful place in their own country. <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Makarrata Commission Soc02.01.01</p> <p>Preparatory to the Constitutional Convention, establish a Makarrata</p>	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2017, 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates to the National Constitutional Convention called for the establishment of a First Nations Voice in the Constitution.
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	The Uluru Statement from the Heart recommended a constitutionally enshrined voice to parliament, a Makarrata or truth-telling commission and an eventual treaty between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	Source: Uluru Statement from the Heart
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	In 2021, Australians supported the following as priorities for government:
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Aboriginal recognition in the Constitution = 69%. Establish an Indigenous 'voice' to advise the Parliament = 66%. Agree a treaty with Indigenous Australia = 61%.
	Soc 15	Confident of justice for all.	Source: Essential Research, July 6 2021
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	In 2021,
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of Australians on survey agreed or strongly agreed that the relationship
	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	

¹³ Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process, Final Report to the Australian Government, July 2021, https://voice.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/indigenous-voice-co-design-process-final-report_1.pdf

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history. Ensure that the Commission is unconstrained (including by inadequate funding and/or restricted terms of reference) in the full and effective stewardship of:</p> <p>a) the truth-telling process about the effect of European invasion and colonisation on First Nations, their lives, their civilization, their ancient connection with the land and ancestors, and their relationship with non-Indigenous Australians; and</p> <p>b) the agreement-making process for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> resolution of conflict, and preparation of the terms of reconciliation and justice formalised in a treaty. <p>By 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reach agreement on establishment of the Makarrata Commission in terms considered fair and satisfactory to the members of the Referendum Council (reconvened if necessary) or National Voice (if it is established) on consultation with 		<p>between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the wider Australian community is very important for Australia as a nation, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% agreed it is important for Indigenous histories and cultures to be included in the school curriculum. <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2021.</p> <p>In 2021, it was noted by historian Henry Reynolds that “the legal foundations of the colony were unsound and remain so to this day,” an authoritative conclusion which marked the recognition of a turning point on the contentious issue of sovereignty in Australia and unambiguously signalled a fundamental need to finally resolve foundational matters for the nation in justice.</p> <p>Source: Henry Reynolds, Truth-telling: History, Sovereignty and the Uluru Statement of the Heart, 2021, NewSouth Publishing, page 63.</p>	<p>“overwhelmingly relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders” – but does not oblige the government or parliament to heed that advice or be accountable for its decisions, regardless of the degree to which it rejects the advice of the National Voice and directly harms the legitimate interests of Indigenous and all other Australians.</p> <p>No Constitutional amendments were put forward in the Co-Design Process and while the government’s obligations for transparency – on any consultation conducted for bills to be considered by parliaments – increased, the fact remained that “all elements [of a bill/act of parliament] would be non-justiciable, meaning that there could not be a court challenge and no law could be invalidated based on whether there was alignment with the consultation standards or transparency mechanisms.”¹⁴</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

¹⁴ Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process – Final Report to the Australian Government, July 2021, page 18, https://voice.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/indigenous-voice-co-design-process-final-report_1.pdf

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society</i>			
<i>Society 2 – Indigenous Heart</i>			
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>	<i>Direction of movement from baseline</i>
<p>delegates assembled as they see to be necessary; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop an agreed plan for the conduct of the truth-telling and agreement-making process, complete with objectives, timeframes, and rules of participation. <p>By June 2023, open the truth-telling and agreement-making process in accordance with the pre-agreed plan.</p> <p>By 2024, deliver a statement to the Australian people on the outcomes, preparatory to the Constitutional Convention.</p>			<p>In the Final Report on the National Co-Design Process, while some progress was made to establish 35 representative groups for a Local and Regional Voice, no actual progress was made on the central claims in the Uluru Statement of the Heart. The Coalition Government's focus was on "closing the gap", not on constitutional recognition.</p> <p>Therefore the longer term trend on constitutional recognition, truth-telling, Makarrata, treaty and sovereignty is negative.</p> <p>←</p>

Note regarding the following targets and Indicators for Society 2 – Indigenous Heart:

The draft Targets and Indicators shown below derive from various "Closing the Gap" reports for Indigenous Australians and related sources of data such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

While Australian Community Futures Planning does not dispute the baseline data derived from these sources, there is some concern with the Targets for elimination of Indigenous disadvantage that have been derived directly from the Closing the Gap in Partnership Agreement 2020¹⁵ struck between the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations and the various governments of Australia.



Taken at nominal value, some of the Targets adopted under the Closing the Gap in Partnership Agreement would not actually result in the gap being closed inside a century. Such targets have no utility in a long term plan like **Australia Together** and offer little or no advantage to Indigenous Australians. Accordingly in some cases, ACFP has suggested additional Targets which are more ambitious than those adopted in the Closing the Gap in Partnership Agreement. These additional Targets are denoted as "ACFP additional Target".

Progress towards or away from both sets of Targets will be monitored and reported on.

¹⁵ Closing the Gap in Partnership website: <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/targets> and "National Agreement on Closing the Gap, July 2020: [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#), last accessed February 2021.



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Indigenous life expectancy Soc02.02 Close the gap in life expectancy rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation by 2031 (as per adopted COAG target 2008, unchanged in Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population born in 2015–2017, life expectancy was estimated to be 8.6 years lower than that of the non-Indigenous population for males (71.6 years compared with 80.2) and 7.8 years for females (75.6 years compared with 83.4). Source: AIHW, Deaths in Australia 2019 & Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	Updated data not yet available.
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		In 2021, the Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository reported that, “Nationally, based on the most recent year of data, the target is not on track to be met.” Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		Since 2005 the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy has been narrowing very slowly. The gap for men is still 8.6 years and for women in 7.8 years. The longer term trend is positive. 
Indigenous infant health and survival – child mortality Soc02.03 Close the gap in child mortality rates for 0-4 year olds between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation (by 2031).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2016, child mortality rates for 0-4 year olds were 146 per 100,000 for the Indigenous population compared to 70 per 100,000 for the non-indigenous population. In 2017, child mortality rates for the Indigenous population rose to 164 per 100,000, which was 2.4 times the mortality rate for the non-indigenous population (68 deaths per 100,000).	In 2018, the Indigenous child mortality rate was 141 per 100,000—twice the rate for non-Indigenous children (67 per 100,000). The 2018 Indigenous child mortality rate was not within the range required to meet the target (94 per 100,000). Source: Australian Government Closing the Gap Report 2020
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		






Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018 and Australian Government, Closing the Gap Report 2019	 Indigenous infant mortality rates improved steadily between 2005 and 2012 but then rose (worsened) again. Source: Australian Government Closing the Gap Report 2020 – Child Mortality The longer term trend is negative.  Note: It is of some concern that data collection has ceased on this indicator and that the indicator itself has been removed from the suite of monitoring requirements in the Closing the Gap indicators framework.
Indigenous infant health and survival – birthweight Soc02.03.01 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020). Indigenous infant health and survival – birthweight (ACFP additional Target) Soc02.03.02 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2017, 88.8% of Indigenous babies were born alive within a healthy birth weight (2,500-4,499g), compared to 93.9% of non-Indigenous babies. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	In 2018, 88.9% of Indigenous babies were born alive within a healthy birth weight (2,500-4,499g), compared to 94% of non-Indigenous babies.
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		In 2021, the Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository reported that, "Nationally, based on the most recent year of data (and taking into consideration the variability bands associated with the data) the target is on track to be met, subject to caveats."
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		








Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
birthweight to 94% to close the gap.			 <p>However, this is a very weak target. ACFP's additional target is not on track to be met. Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021</p>  <p>Between 2013 and 2018, there has been no improvement in rates of healthy birthweight for Indigenous live births. The longer term trend is stagnant.</p> 
Indigenous pre-school education – attendance Soc02.04 The proportion of Indigenous children attending early childhood education for 600 hours or more a year equals that of non-indigenous children.	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2017, 68% of all Indigenous children enrolled in early childhood education programs attended for more than 600 hours, whereas 78% of enrolled non-Indigenous children attended for more than 600 hours. Source: Australian Government, Closing the Gap Report 2019	Updated data not accessible.  Historical data not available. 
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
Indigenous pre-school education – enrolment Soc02.04.01 By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95 per	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2018, 84.6% of Indigenous children were enrolled in a preschool program in state-specific year before full-time schooling (YBFS). (88.8% of non-Indigenous children were enrolled in YBFS.)	Nationally in 2020, 93.1 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. Source: Australian Government Productivity
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.	Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021  The trend since 2016 is positive. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020 
Indigenous pre-school education – developmentally on track Soc02.04.02 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2018, 35% of Indigenous children were assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). (57% of non-Indigenous children were on track in all five domains of the AEDC.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	No new data available.  Data suggest slow but steady improvement since 2009. Source: Australian Government Closing the Gap Report 2019, page 50 and Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020 The longer term trend is positive. 
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
Indigenous school education Soc02.05 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20-24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2016, 63.2% of Indigenous 20–24 year olds had attained Year 12 or an equivalent non-school qualification. (88.5% of non-Indigenous 20-24 year olds had attained Year 12 or equivalent.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	No new data available.  Solidly improving since 2001. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020 The longer term trend is positive. 
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
Indigenous tertiary education Soc02.06 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-34 years who	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2016, 42.3% of Indigenous 25–34 year olds had attained non-school qualifications of Certificate level III or above. (72% of non-Indigenous 25–34 year olds had attained non-	No new data available.  While the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-34 years who have
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.	school qualifications of Certificate level III or above.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) rose between 2001 and 2016, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous itself did not show a trend towards closing.  A failure to collect data since 2016 makes a conclusion of a positive trend in this area unreliable.
Indigenous employment – 15-24 year olds Soc02.07 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67 percent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020). Indigenous employment – 15-24 year olds (ACFP additional target) Soc02.07.01 By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 79% to close the gap.	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2016, 57.2% of Indigenous 15–24 year olds were fully engaged in employment, education or training. (79.6% of non-Indigenous 15–24 year olds were fully engaged in employment, education or training.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	No new data available.  Between 2001 and 2016 the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who were in employment, education or training increased from 47.5% to 57.2% and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous showed a trend towards closing.  A failure to collect data since 2016 makes a conclusion of a positive trend in this area unreliable.
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
Indigenous employment – 25-64 year olds Soc02.07.02	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2016, 51% of Indigenous 25–64 year olds were employed. (75.7% of non-	No new data available. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 who are employed to 62 percent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).</p> <p>Indigenous employment – 25-64 year olds (ACFP additional target) Soc02.07.03</p> <p>By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 who are employed to 75% to close the gap.</p>	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.	<p>Indigenous 25–64 year olds were employed.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p>	<p>Between 2001 and 2006 the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 years who were in employment, education or training increased from 43.2% to 52% and fell again to 51% in 2016. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous showed a trend towards widening.</p> <p></p> <p>A failure to collect data since 2016 rules out any conclusion of a positive trend in this area.</p>
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
<p>Indigenous housing Soc02.08</p> <p>By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).</p> <p>Indigenous housing (ACFP additional target) Soc02.08.01</p> <p>By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 92 per cent to close the gap.</p>	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	<p>In 2016, 78.9% of Indigenous persons lived in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. (92.9% of non-Indigenous persons lived in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing.) Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p>	<p>No new data available.</p> <p></p> <p>Between 2001 and 2016 the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) increased from 67.6% to 78.9%. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous showed a trend towards closing.</p> <p></p> <p>ACFP target is negative.</p> <p></p> <p>A failure to collect data since 2016 makes a conclusion of a positive trend in this area unreliable.</p>
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6	A society of equals.		
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 9	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11	A land without child disadvantage.		
	Econ 3	A country where economic		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society



Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
<p>Indigenous incarceration – adults Soc02.09 By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).</p> <p>Indigenous incarceration – adults (ACFP additional targets) Soc02.09.01 By 2035, Indigenous incarceration rates are the same as for the non-Indigenous population.</p> <p>Note: ABS holds two sets of statistics relevant to this indicator. The plan will measure both and will monitor progress towards the two different targets set out above, for the reason the first target still leaves a huge gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous.</p>	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	<p>In 2019 (based on ABS Prisoners in Australia), the imprisonment rate of non-Indigenous Australians was 173.2 per 100,000 adult population. In 2019 the imprisonment rate for Indigenous Australians was 2,087.5 per 100,000 adult population. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p> <p>In 2019, the imprisonment rate of all Australians was 219.5 per 100,000 adult population. In 2019 the imprisonment rate for Indigenous Australians was 2,370.9 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population. Source: ABS 4512.0 - Corrective Services, Australia, December Quarter 2019, Table 3 and Table 14</p>	<p>In 2021 the Productivity Commission reported that, "Nationally at 30 June 2020, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2081.0 per 100 000 adult population. This is an increase from 2077.4 per 100 000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year). Nationally, based on the most recent year of data, this target is not on track to be met."¹⁶ Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>In 2020, the imprisonment rate of all Australians was 211.5 per 100,000 adult population. In 2020 the imprisonment rate for Indigenous Australians was 2,345.0 per</p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		

¹⁶ Note that data on this measure is routinely changed by collection agencies such the ABS and the Productivity Commission, making assessments against baselines somewhat problematic. In the case of adult Indigenous incarceration, however, variations in the baseline data through time make little if any difference to the picture of the excessive disproportion between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians who are incarcerated.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>100,000 adult Indigenous population. Source: ABS 4512.0 - Corrective Services, Australia, 2021, Table 3 and Table 14</p> <p>No discernible potential to meet the target at this rate.</p> <p>In 2009 the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 1539.2 per 100 000 adult population. This rose steeply to 2101.7 in 2018 and fell but only slightly to 2081.0 in 2020. The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>Indigenous incarceration – 10-17 year olds Soc02.09.02 By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).</p> <p>Indigenous incarceration – 10-17 year olds (ACFP additional target) Soc02.09.03 By 2035, Indigenous youth detention rates are the same as for the non-Indigenous population.</p>	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	<p>In 2018/19, 33.7 Indigenous young people aged 10-17 per 10,000 population were in detention on an average day compared to 1.5 non-Indigenous young people per 10,000 population. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p>	<p>In 2021 the Productivity Commission reported that, “Nationally in 2019-20, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 10-17 years in detention was 25.7 per 10,000 children in the population. This is a decrease from 31.9 per 10,000 young people in 2018-19 (the baseline year). Nationally, based on the most recent year of data, this target is on track to be met.” Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</p>		<p>Data are insufficient to assess progress toward the ACFP additional Target.</p> <p>Between 2011 and 2019 the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 10-17 years in detention trended towards a decline, albeit very slowly. The target would appear to be on track to be met.</p> <p>➡</p> <p>However, the trend seems insufficient to close the gap by 2035 as per ACFP's additional target.</p> <p>The longer term trend is stagnant.</p> <p>↔</p>
	<p>Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.</p>		
<p>Indigenous family cohesion Soc02.10 By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020). Indigenous family cohesion (ACFP additional target) Soc02.10.01 By 2031 eliminate over-representation of Indigenous children in out-of-home care to equal the rate for non-Indigenous children.</p>	<p>Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.</p>	<p>In 2019, there were 54.2 Indigenous children per 1,000 population in out-of-home care compared to 5.1 non-Indigenous children per 1,000 population. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p>	<p>In 2021, the Productivity Commission reported that, "Nationally in 2020, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care was 56.3 per 1000 children in the population. This is an increase from 54.2 per 1000 children in 2019 (the baseline year). Nationally, based on the most recent year of data, this target is not on track to be met. Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	connections & without domestic abuse.		Information Repository Beta 2021 
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		No longer term trend data have been supplied by the Productivity Commission. However, the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare has reported that between 2014 and 2018 the number of Indigenous children in out-of-home care rose by almost 2,800 children to 17,787, almost a 20% increase in four years. At 30 June 2020, “1 in 18 Indigenous children (around 18,900) were in out-of-home care”. Source: AIHW Child Protection Australia 2019/20 webpage The longer term trend is negative. 
Indigenous domestic and community abuse and violence Soc02.11 A significant and sustained reduction in violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children towards zero (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	Nationally in 2018-19, 8.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 15 years and over experienced domestic physical or threatened physical harm. Source: Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta	No new data available.  No longer term data available. 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without		




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Indigenous suicide Soc02.12 Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).</p>	domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		<p>In 2021, the Productivity Commission reported that, "In 2019, the suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 27.1 per 100 000 people (for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined). This is an increase from 24.9 per 100 000 people in 2018 (the baseline year). Nationally, based on the most recent year of data, this target is not on track to be met."</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta 2021</p> <p>←</p>
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
		<p>In 2018, the suicide rate for Indigenous Australians was recorded as 24.1 deaths per 100,000 population. This compares with a rate for non-Indigenous Australians of 12.3 per 100,000 of population in NSW, QLD, SA, WA & NT.</p> <p>Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020</p> <p>←</p>	<p>Between 2009 and 2019 the rate of suicide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people trended steeply upwards from 16.7 per 100,000 population in 2009 to 27.1 per 100,000 people in 2019. The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Indigenous land and sea rights – land rights Soc02.13 By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020). Indigenous land and sea rights – sea rights Soc02.13.01 By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea (as per Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020).	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2020, Native Title was determined to exist over 3,014,001 square kilometres of Australia or 39.2%. In 2020, land under Indigenous legal rights or interests was 3,907,141 square kilometres or 50.8%. In 2020, Native Title was determined to exist over 90,252 square kilometres of Australian sea country or 1.3%. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020	No new data available.  No data accessed to form a conclusion. 
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all		
Indigenous language and cultural preservation Soc02.14 By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2014/15, the <i>National Indigenous Languages Surveys, AIATSIS</i> estimated that 100 Indigenous languages were critically or severely endangered. Languages gaining speakers was estimated at 31. Source: Closing the Gap in Partnership 2020 Nationally in 2018-19, there were 123 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken (with 14 considered strong). Source: Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta	No new data available.  In 2021, the Productivity Commission reported that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken was 123, a decline from 145 in 2004/05. The number of strong languages spoken dropped from 18 to 14 during this period. Source: Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society



Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
				The longer term trend is negative. 
Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Soc02.15 Implement and monitor progress with the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to ensure that the targets for each Priority Reform are met. Ensure full funding is available to meet the targets and maintain transparency of reporting. ¹⁷	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	In July 2020, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap was signed by all Australian governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks). The agreed objective was to “overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians”.	The signing of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap represents some progress in the short term. At last, the government has shuffled off some of its paternalistic policy of interference in the lives of Australia’s Indigenes, an interference which has materially contributed to the deterioration of life quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on all indicators of health and wellbeing. However, other policy interferences which disproportionately affect Indigenous populations, such as the cashless welfare card, are still in place. The decision in the Final Report of the National Co-Design Process to establish 35 representative groups for a Local and Regional Voice is progress consistent with the Priority Reforms. However, the denial of the request for a National Voice
	Soc 1	A safe home.		
	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health and wellbeing.	The National Agreement marked a shift in the approach to the Closing the Gap Strategy. It introduced a structural change that commits Australian governments to work in full and genuine partnership’ with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in making policies to close the gap.	
	Soc 5	A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6	A society of equals.		
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8	A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 9	A land without homelessness and with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11	A land without child disadvantage.	Central to the Agreement are four Priority Reforms that aim to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	

¹⁷ For detail on targets and indicators see Table A, [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#), July 2020 and Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap Information Repository Beta, [Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2021](#) Table 2.1.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 2 – Indigenous Heart

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<div>Soc 12</div> <div>A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Developing new partnerships that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share decision-making authority with governments. Building Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors to deliver services. Transforming mainstream government organisations to improve accountability and respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Improving the sharing of data and information with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations. <p>Source: Commonwealth Government Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2021</p>	<p>enshrined in the Constitution threatens to undo some of the benefit of the yet to be established Local and Regional Voices. It is not possible to “close the gap” (let alone such a huge one) if the cause of the gap – a fundamental refusal of self-determination for Indigenous and a failure to tell the truth about the violent foundations of Australia – is still in place.</p> <p>Progress in the short term is therefore more stagnant than it is positive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>The longer term trend has of course been negative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
	<div>Soc 13</div> <div>A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.</div>		
	<div>Soc 14</div> <div>A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</div>		
	<div>Soc 15</div> <div>Confident of justice for all.</div>		
	<div>Econ 2</div> <div>A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</div>		
	<div>Econ 3</div> <div>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</div>		
	<div>Gov 2</div> <div>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</div>		
	<div>Gov 3</div> <div>A nation with avowed rights for all.</div>		
	<div>Gov 6</div> <div>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</div>		
	<div>Gov 7</div> <div>Committed to public service independence & excellence.</div>		




Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.


Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Belonging and inclusion – sense of belonging Soc03.01 By 2030, the percent of people who report that they have sense of belonging in Australia to a great extent exceeds 77%.</p> <p>By 2030, the overall score for the index of sense of belonging in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion equals the original score of 100.</p>	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	<p>In 2020, 61% of Australians reported that they had a sense of belonging “to a great extent”, down further from 63% in 2019 and over the long term down from 77% in 2007. In 2021, this index fell further to 58%. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey 2020</p> <p>Short term trend ←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative. ←</p> <p>In 2021, the overall score for the index of sense of belonging in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion was fell further to 84.2. This was the lowest score since the introduction of the Index in 2007. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey 2021</p> <p>Short term trend ←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative. ←</p>
	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.	
	Soc 8	A success because of gender equality.	
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	
<p>Belonging and inclusion – sense of acceptance or rejection Soc03.01.01 The index of acceptance/rejection in</p>	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	<p>In 2019, the index of acceptance/rejection in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion was 72.1 (27.9 points below the baseline of</p> <p>In July 2020, in the first few months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the index of acceptance/rejection fell back to 67.4. Then</p>
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society






Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion rises continuously to reach 100.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	100 in 2007), but up from 64.1 in 2017 (the lowest score in this part of the Index since its inception). Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey 2019	in November 2020 it rose sharply to 86.6 before falling back somewhat to 81.4 in 2021. Despite the increases the acceptance/rejection score remained the lowest in the scores for the five domains of social cohesion in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion. The implication is that the incidence of rejection based on race fell during the pandemic but did not show a sustained reversal in the trend of increasing racial rejection since 2007. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey 2020 The short term trend is positive.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
Building an inclusive society by community volunteering Soc03.02 The rate of volunteering does not fall below 30%.	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	In 2010, 36.2% of Australians on survey said they had undertaken unpaid voluntary work through an organisation in last 12 months.	In 2020, 24.8% of Australians on survey said they had undertaken unpaid voluntary work through an organisation in the last 12 months, down by 11.4 percentage points since the height of volunteering in 2010. Source: ABS, General Social Survey 2020
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.	Between 2006 and 2019 an average of 32.5% of Australians on survey said they had undertaken unpaid voluntary work	The short term trend is negative. 

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 3 – Belonging & inclusion			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		through an organisation. Source: ABS, General Social Survey 2020	The longer term trend is negative. 






Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 4 – Health & wellbeing			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Life expectancy – males Soc04.01 Life expectancy for males is steady or increasing.</p> <p>Life expectancy – females Soc04.01.01 Life expectancy for females is steady or increasing.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2015-17, life expectancy for males was 80.2 years and for females was 83.4 years. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2019</p>	<p>In 2018, life expectancy for males was 80.7 years and for females was 84.9 years. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2020 Short term trend </p> <p>The longer term trend is positive. </p>
<p>Perceptions of health Soc04.02 The proportion of adult Australians who consider themselves to be in excellent or very good health is steady or increasing, while the proportion who consider themselves to be in fair or poor health declines.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2017/18, over half (56.4%) of Australians aged 15 years and over considered themselves to be in excellent or very good health, while 14.7% reported being in fair or poor health. This has remained constant over the last 10 years. Source: ABS, National Health Survey First results Australia 2017-18</p> <p>Between 2006 and 2019, an average of 54.9% of Australians self-assessed their health status as excellent or very good. Source: ABS, General Social Survey 2020</p>	<p>In 2020, 53.2% of Australians self-assessed their health status as excellent or very good, slightly below the average reported of 54.5% between 2006 and 2019. Source: ABS, General Social Survey 2020 The longer term trend is slightly declining for those reporting excellent or very good health. </p> <p>The longer term trend for those reporting good health is slightly improving. </p> <p>The longer term trend for those reporting fair or poor health is steady. </p> <p>On balance, the proportion of Australians reporting that they are in excellent or very good health has been declining.</p>







Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			Overall, the longer term trend of is negative. 
<p>Mental health – experience of psychological distress Soc04.03 The proportion of Australians experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress is continuously declining.</p>	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2017/18, around one in eight (13.0% or 2.4 million) adults experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress, an increase from 2014/15 (11.7% or 2.1 million). Source: ABS, National Health Survey First results Australia 2017-18</p>	<p>In June 2021, the ABS reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% of Australians experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress in the last four weeks, similar to March 2021 (20%) and November 2020 (21%) 30% of younger Australians (aged 18 to 34 years) experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress in June 2021, compared with 18% of people aged 35 to 64 years and 10% of people aged 65 years and over. 27% of Victorians experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress compared with the rest of Australia (18%). <p>Source: ABS, Household Impacts of Covid-19 Survey, June 2021</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>
<p>Mental health – mental and behavioural conditions Soc04.03.01 The proportion of Australians experiencing a</p>	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2017-18, one in five (20.1%) or 4.8 million Australians had a mental or behavioural condition, an increase from 4.0 million Australians (17.5%) in 2014-15.</p>	<p>No new data available.</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
mental or behavioural condition is continuously declining.		Source: ABS, National Health Survey First results Australia 2017-18	
Mental health – anxiety Soc04.03.02 The proportion of Australians experiencing an anxiety-related condition is continuously declining.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	In 2017-18, 3.2 million Australians (13.1%) had an anxiety-related condition, an increase from 11.2% in 2014-15. Source: ABS, National Health Survey First results Australia 2017-18	No new data available.  The longer term trend is negative. 
Mental health – depression Soc04.03.03 The proportion of Australians experiencing depression is continuously declining.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	One in ten people (10.4%) had depression or feelings of depression, an increase from 8.9% in 2014-15. Source: ABS, National Health Survey First results Australia 2017-18	No new data available.  The longer term trend is negative. 
Burden of disease Soc04.04 The burden of disease, expressed as the age-standardised DALY rate (Disability Adjusted Life Years – a measure of the number of years of healthy life lost due either to premature death or to living with ill health), is steady or decreasing.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	In 2011, the age standardised rate was 189.9 DALY per 1,000 population, improved from 2003 when it was 208 DALY per 1000 population. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018	In 2015, the age standardised rate was 184 DALY per 1,000 population. This rate has seen steady improvement over the years. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018, AIHW Australian Burden of Disease Study 2015 website updated 6 August 2020  The longer term trend is positive. 
Physical health – obesity Soc04.05 The prevalence of obesity in persons aged 15 and over declines and is below the OECD average.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	In 2015, the prevalence of obesity in Australians above the age of 15 was 27.9% compared to the OECD average of 19.4%. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018	In 2017/18, the prevalence of obesity in adult Australians was 31.3%. In 2017/18, two thirds (67.0%) of Australian adults were overweight or obese (12.5 million people), an increase from 63.4% in 2014-15.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018, updated.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Australia also still ranked below the OECD average for obesity.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Australia's Health in Brief, 2020</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Physical health – diabetes Soc04.05.01 The age standardised prevalence rate of diabetes declines continuously.</p> <p>The age standardised mortality rate for diabetes declines continuously.</p>	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2017-18, the age standardised prevalence rate of self-reported diabetes was 4.4% (3.8% among females, 5% among males).</p> <p>In 2018, the age standardised mortality rate for diabetes was 53 persons per 100,000 population (68 males, 41 females).</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018</p>	<p>No short term update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>Since 2001, the age standardised prevalence rate of self-reported diabetes has increased from 3.3% (3.3% females, 3.4% males) to 4.4% in 2017/18 (3.8% among females, 5% among males).</p> <p>The age standardised mortality rate for diabetes has remained fairly stable over the long term, with a rate of 56 persons per 100,000 in 1997 compared to a rate of 53 persons per 100,000 persons in 2018.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Australia's Health Diabetes webpage, 15 July 2020</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Physical health – cardiovascular disease Soc04.05.02</p>	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2017/18, the age standardised hospitalisation rate for cardiovascular disease was 2,252 per 100,000</p>	<p>In 2018/19, the age standardised hospitalisation rate for cardiovascular disease was 2,219 per 100,000</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>The age standardised hospitalisation rate for cardiovascular disease declines continuously.</p> <p>The age standardised mortality rate for cardiovascular disease declines continuously.</p>		<p>population among males and 1,419 per 100,000 population among females.</p> <p>In 2019, the age standardised mortality rate for cardiovascular disease was 106.8 per 100,000 for females and, 150 per 100,000 for males.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Heart, Stroke & Vascular Disease webpage, September 2021</p>	<p>population among males, and 1,398 per 100,000 population among females.</p> <p>There is no updated data on the age standardised mortality rate from the baseline figures.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Heart, Stroke & Vascular Disease webpage, September 2021</p> <p>➡</p> <p>Between the years 2000/01 to 2017/18, the age standardised hospitalisation rate for cardiovascular disease has been gradually decreasing for both men and women, with rates dropping from 2,570 to 2,219 per 100,000 population for men and from 1,614 to 1,398 per 100,000 population for women.</p> <p>The age standardised mortality rate for cardiovascular disease has declined considerably over the long term, from 830 deaths per 100,000 persons in 1968 to 151 per 100,000 in 2015.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Heart, Stroke & Vascular Disease webpage, September 2021; AIHW, Trends in Cardiovascular Disease, September 2017.</p> <p>The longer term trend is positive.</p> <p>➡</p>
<p>Physical health – cancer Soc04.05.03</p>	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2019, the age standardised mortality rate for all cancers</p>	<p>In 2021, the age standardised mortality rate for all cancers</p>




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>The age standardised mortality rate of all cancers combined declines continuously.</p> <p>The incidence rate of all cancers combined declines continuously.</p>		<p>combined was 156 deaths per 100,000 persons.</p> <p>In 2017, the age standardised incidence rate for all cancers combined was 492 per 100,000 persons (gender specific rates were 430 for females and 565 for males per 100,000).</p> <p>Source: AIHW Cancer in Australia 2021 and Australian Government, Cancer Australia, Cancer in Australia Statistics</p>	<p>combined is estimated to be 149 deaths per 100,000 persons, a decrease from the baseline measure. It is estimated that in 2021, the age standardised incidence rate for all cancers combined reduced to 486 cases per 100,000 population (444 for females, 537 for males), a reduction from the baseline data.</p> <p>→</p> <p>Since 1982, the age standardised mortality rate from all cancers combined has decreased from 209 death per 100,000 persons to 156 deaths per 100,000 persons. However, over the long-term, the age standardised incidence rate for all cancers combined has increased significantly from 384 cases per 100,000 persons in 1982, to 492 cases per 100,000 in 2017.</p> <p>The long-term trend in mortality rates is positive, however, the age standardised incidence rate has seen significant increases since the 1980's. This rise can be seen to have slowed in recent years.</p> <p>→</p>
<p>Physical health – musculoskeletal conditions Soc04.05.04</p> <p>The prevalence of musculoskeletal</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2014-15, approximately 30% of Australians (almost 6.9 million) self-reported as suffering from a musculoskeletal condition</p>	<p>No new data available.</p> <p>← / →</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
conditions declines continuously.		including arthritis, back pain and osteoporosis. Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018	No data accessed to determine a longer term trend. 
<p>Physical health – respiratory conditions Soc04.05.05</p> <p>The age standardised mortality rate of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma, and bronchiectasis declines continuously.</p> <p>The incidence of hospitalisation attributable to COPD, asthma, and bronchiectasis declines continuously.</p> <p>The prevalence of chronic respiratory conditions declines continuously.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2014-15, approximately 31% of Australians (almost 7 million) suffered from chronic respiratory conditions including COPD, hay fever, and asthma.</p> <p>In 2017, the age standardised mortality rate for each measured condition was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COPD: 63.3 per 100,000 persons • Asthma: 1.3 per 100,000 persons • 6.8 per 100,000 persons <p>In 2017, the age standardised hospitalisation rate for each measured condition was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COPD: 732 per 100,000 persons • Asthma: 158 per 100,000 persons • 27 per 100,000 persons <p>Source: AIHW, Australia's Health 2018; AIHW, Australia's Health - Chronic respiratory conditions, August 2020.</p>	<p>No new data available. </p> <p>The long term trends for both mortality and hospitalisation rates have remained stable for all conditions over the long term. </p>
<p>Happiness and wellbeing – world ranking Soc04.06</p> <p>Australia's ranking in the World Happiness Report does not decline.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2020, Australia was ranked as the 12th happiest country in the world, down from 9th place in 2017. Source: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, World Happiness Report 2020</p>	<p>In 2021, Australia was ranked as the 12th happiest country in the world, down from 9th place in 2017. Source: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, World Happiness Report 2021 No change from 2020.</p>


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>No new data available for 2022.</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>
<p>Happiness and wellbeing – reported by Australians Soc04.06.01</p> <p>The proportion of Australians reporting that they are happy or very happy does not decline from the baseline.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2019, 23% of Australians reported they had been “very happy” in the last year, down from 34% in 2007.</p> <p>In 2019, 84% of Australians reported they had been happy or very happy in the last year, down from 89% in 2015.</p> <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019</p>	<p>In November 2020, 10% of Australians reported they had been “very happy” in the last year and 79% reported they had been happy or very happy in the last year.</p> <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020</p> <p>Short term trend</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>
<p>Happiness and wellbeing – optimism/pessimism Soc04.06.02</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who are optimistic about their future “overall” does not decline.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>In 2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic, 80% of Australians said that “overall” they were optimistic or very optimistic about their future, up from 78% in the pre-Covid period.</p> <p>Source: Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2021</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p>The short term result is positive.</p> <p></p> <p>No longer term trend established.</p> <p></p>
<p>Happiness and wellbeing – life satisfaction for the youngest to oldest generations Soc04.06.03</p> <p>All generations of Australians report that their life satisfaction is rising continuously.</p>	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p> <p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>Between 2014 and 2020, all age groups of Australians reported drops on average in life satisfaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-24 years = 7.7 down to 6.9; 25-39 years = 7.7 down to 7.1; 40-54 years = 7.4 down to 7.0; 55-69 years = 7.6 down to 7.1; and 70+ years = 8.1 down to 7.9. 	<p>No data update available.</p> <p></p> <p>The only group that showed an improvement in life satisfaction during the Covid-19 pandemic was the 70+ years age group.</p> <p>Source: ABS General Social Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2020, Table 8.1</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative for all age groups.</p>



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		Source: ABS General Social Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2020, Table 8.1	←
<p>Happiness and wellbeing – life satisfaction for diverse elements of the community Soc04.06.04 All groups of Australians report that their life satisfaction is rising continuously.</p>	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	Between 2014 and 2020, diverse Australians – regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, migrant status, and physical or mental health – all reported drops on average in life satisfaction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men = 7.6 down to 7.1; Women = 7.7 down to 7.2; Migrants and temporary residents = 7.7 down to 7.1; Not migrants and temporary residents = 7.6 down to 7.2; With a mental health condition = 6.6 down to 5.8; Without a mental health condition = 7.9 down to 7.4 With a long term health condition = 7.5 down to 6.9; Without a long term health condition = 7.9 down to 7.4; With a disability = 7.2 down to 6.7; Without a disability = 7.8 down to 7.4; Heterosexual = 7.7 down to 7.2; and Not heterosexual (defined as “gay, lesbian or bisexual”) = 7.0 down to 6.3. The two groups with the largest decline in life satisfaction were those with a mental health condition and those in	No further updates available.  Across the board, Australians are experiencing a sustained decline in their life satisfaction.
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		The longer term trend is negative for all groups. ←

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 4 – Health & wellbeing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		the LGBTIQ+ group. The ABS appears not to have surveyed life satisfaction for Indigenous groups. Source: ABS General Social Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2020, Table 8.1	
Health funding Soc04.07 By 2026, ensure that the health costs of Australians are securely funded by a legislated floor in expenditure as a proportion of GDP – a floor which ramps up federal health funding from its baseline of 4.27% of GDP in 2018/19 to at least 7% of GDP by 2055, unless fully transparent comprehensive investigations result in revisions of projected costs. These revisions should occur every five years with a legislative obligation to adjust budgeted funding to ensure full coverage of expected costs.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	In 2018/19, federal government total expenditure on health including medical services and benefits, pharmaceutical benefits, assistance to states for public hospitals, and other health items was 4.27% of GDP and was expected to rise, but not to a level sufficient to cover expected increases in costs and demand. In the “2015 Intergenerational Report – Australia in 2055” the federal Treasurer noted that while the Australian Government was spending 4.2% of the nation’s GDP on health and would expect that to rise to 5.5% in 2055, the real expected spending level that will be a necessity by 2055 on our health is 7.1% of GDP. Subsequent federal budget papers have made no commitment to establish funding sufficient to meet expected demand. Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Budget 2019-20, Budget Paper No. 1, Statement 5: Expenses and Net Capital Investment, page 5-19, & “2015 Intergenerational Report”, pages 76-77 and page xvi	In the “2021 Intergenerational Report – Australia over the next 40 years” it was noted that the Australian Government was spending 4.6% of the nation’s GDP on health in 2021 but that this would drop to 4.4% by 2031 and then rise to 6.2% over the 30 years to 2061. However, real expected spending that will be a necessity by 2061 on our health is a minimum of 7.1% of GDP. Current health spending is also insufficient. Source: “2021 Intergenerational Report”, page 92.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		Planned funding increases denoted in the 2015 and 2021 Intergenerational Reports are insufficient to meet projected health needs and demand. Also, no progress has been made towards the target of introducing a protected floor expenditure for health in the federal budget.

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Tertiary education</p> <p>Top Priority</p> <p>Target/Strategy: Re-introduction of fee-free tertiary education Soc05.01</p> <p>By 2026, tertiary education, (university, technical and vocational) is fee-free for all Australians aged over 18, securely funded by a legislated floor in expenditure on tertiary education as a proportion of GDP – a floor which ramps up federal tertiary education funding from its baseline of 0.6% of GDP in 2018/19 to at least 1.2% of GDP by 2030. Thereafter, 5-yearly reviews of funding adequacy should be required to ensure full coverage of places and indexation of places to population growth.</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” especially: Target 4.3: “By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.” Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.”</p>	Soc 5	A model of educational opportunity.	<p>In the 2021/22 federal budget the tertiary education budget was set to decline by 9% over the four years to 2024/25. Over the same period, vocational and other education was set to be cut by 26%. Source: Federal Budget 2021/22, Budget Paper No. 1, page 169.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Note: While for higher education the budget will be 7% higher in 2025 than actual expenditure in 2018/19, the loss of funding from overseas students has not been replaced by the government. University funding has been smashed in Australia.</p> <p>For the longer term the outlook is bleak. The “2021 Intergenerational Report – Australia over the next 40 years” indicates that while in 2021 actual federal expenditure on education was 1.9% of GDP, the intention is to scale that down to 1.2% of GDP by 2061, implying an intention to drop spending on education as a proportion of GDP by almost 40%.</p>
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	
	Econ 7	A collaborative intelligent nation.	
	Econ 8	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		Source: Mike Seccombe, "Turnbull's war on universities", The Saturday Paper, 6-12 May 2017	Source: "2021 Intergenerational Report", page 126. The longer term trend is negative. 
Tertiary education – Cancellation of student debt for social services workers Soc05.01.01 By 2026, commence full cancellation of outstanding student loan (HELP) debt for any graduate working in teaching, childcare, aged care, disability services, nursing, social work, legal aid and any graduate who by 2026 is earning less than the average weekly earnings.	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.	In 2017/18, the total amount of outstanding HELP debt was \$60.2 billion. Source: Parliament of Australia, Updated Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt statistics – 2017/18 webpage	In 2017/18, the total amount of outstanding HELP debt was \$61.9 billion. Source: Parliament of Australia, Updated Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt statistics – 2017/18 webpage – updated by the government at an unknown date  No progress has been made towards the target cancelling outstanding student debt for social services workers. No longer term result. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
Tertiary education – funding for universities and vocational education Soc05.01.02 By 2026, acknowledging that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fee-free tertiary education is vital for Australia's people and economy, and • the current funding structure relying heavily on income from overseas students is no longer viable and will not 	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.	In 2019/20, actual expenditure by universities and vocational training institutions was \$14.487 billion (approximately 0.7% of GDP). However, the federal government budget for higher education was only \$9.652 billion (approximately 0.6% of GDP). The remainder of expenses was funded by fees and contributions from various sources.	Funding for the university sector was not restored in the 2021/22 federal budget. By 2024/25 it is estimated by ACFP that the higher education budget will be 5.6% below where it should be if it is to keep pace with expected inflation and approximately \$1.3 billion below necessary revenues for the year (taking into account the losses projected from the removal of overseas student fees).
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>provide a sustainable base of income for the higher education sector,</p> <p>ensure that the tertiary education needs of Australians are securely funded by a legislated floor in expenditure as a proportion of GDP – a floor which ramps up federal higher education funding (university and vocational) from a baseline of \$14.487 billion in 2019/20 until budgeted funding reaches at least 0.7% of GDP (preferably by 2022/23) and maintains funding at not less than 0.7% of GDP for at least 5 years, unless fully transparent comprehensive investigations result in revisions of projected costs. These revisions should occur every five years with a legislative obligation to adjust budgeted funding to ensure full coverage of expected costs.</p>	<p>Econ 6</p> <p>An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.</p>	<p>Source: ABS 5518.0, Government Finance Statistics Education Australia 2019/20; Federal Budget 2020/21; and Parliamentary Library, Hazel Ferguson and Marilyn Harrington, Budget Review 2019-20.</p>	<p>This loss will be in addition to losses totalling \$4.2 billion over the three years 2023/24.</p> <p>Source: Federal Budget Papers for 2021/22.</p>
	<p>Econ 7</p> <p>A collaborative intelligent nation.</p>	<p>In 2020, sources of funding from overseas students were lost due to Covid-19 (see Econ02.05.02), leaving a significant proportion of higher education expenses unfunded and resulting in a loss of 40,000 jobs in the sector and a significant reduction in Gross Value Added by the sector to the Australian economy.</p> <p>Source: The Australia Institute, An Avoidable Catastrophe: Pandemic Job Losses in Higher Education and their Consequences, September 2021</p>	<p>←</p> <p>In 2021, the federal government projected that “while increasing in absolute and real terms, spending on education and training is projected to decrease from 1.9 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 to 1.2 per cent in 2060-61”. Since within that allocation, the government has projected that per capita spending on schools will increase by twice as much (proportionally) as tertiary education, it is clear that shares of economic growth to be returned to tertiary education are set to decline very significantly.</p> <p>Source: Australian Treasury, Intergenerational Plan 2021</p> <p>←</p> <p>The tertiary education sector is under attack from the Coalition federal government.</p> <p>←</p> <p>No progress has been made on this strategy.</p> <p>←</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
School education – funding Soc05.02 Federal funding for school education is maintained at no less than 1.1% of GDP as per its baseline in 2018/19.	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.	In 2018/19, federal government expenditure on school education (excluding student assistance and administration) was 1.08% of GDP and was scheduled to decline. Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Budget 2019-20, Budget Paper No. 1, Statement 5: Expenses and Net Capital Investment, page 5-17, & “2015 Intergenerational Report”, pages 76-77	In 2020/21, federal government expenditure on school education (excluding student assistance and administration) was approximately 1.19%. Source: Federal Budget 2021/22, Budget Paper No. 1, page 169. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		Over the long term, federal funding in real terms for school education is expected to increase per person but distribution is likely to favour private schools over state schools and will increase inequity. Source: Intergenerational Report 2021, pages 125 to 127. The longer term trend is mixed: better news for private schools, worse news for state schools. 
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
School education – funding equity Top Priority Target/Strategy: Reversal of public school underfunding and private school overfunding. Soc05.02.01 By 2024, recognising that:	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.	In 2018/19, non-government schools received 61% of taxpayer funded federal funding while teaching only 34.3% of Australian students. In 2018/19, government schools received only 39% of taxpayer funded federal funding	In the 2021/22 federal budget, non-government schools were set to continue to receive an average of 60% of federal funding over the four years to 2024/24 while government schools were set to receive an average of 40%, despite teaching more
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>a) government schools enrol more than two-thirds of children and over 80% of the nation's disadvantaged children, and that</p> <p>b) between 2009 and 2019 government funding per private school student increased by 22.4% compared to only 2.4% for public schools; and that</p> <p>c) taxpayers should not fund luxury levels of education for private school students, ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> total federal and state funding for non-government schools and government schools is redistributed so that the proportion of taxpayer funding for the government system is, as a minimum, commensurate with the proportion of students within the government schools, and that between 2024 and 2030, consistent with recognitions a), b) and c) above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> government schools are all 	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>	<p>while teaching 65.7% of Australian students. Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Budget 2019-20, Budget Paper No. 1, Statement 5: Expenses and Net Capital Investment, page 5-17 ABS, 4221.0, Schools Australia, 2019</p>	<p>than 65% of students. Total school funding overall was set to increase by 28% over the four years to 2024/25 but within that, non-government funding was distributed to increase by 29% while government school funding would increase by only 26%. Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Budget 2021-22, Budget Paper No. 1, page 169.</p>
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>	<p>In 2021, bilateral school funding agreements between the Commonwealth and state governments were set such that public schools in all states except the ACT would only ever be funded at 91% of their</p>	<p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.</p>	<p>Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) – leading to a cumulative under-funding to 2029 for government schools estimated at \$60 billion – while special deals for private schools by the Morrison Government and continuing over-funding by several</p>	<p>←</p>
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>state governments would ensure that private schools would be funded at over 100% of their SRS until at least 2029. The cumulative over-funding of private schools to 2029 is estimated at \$6 billion. In 2021, over 80% of disadvantaged students were enrolled in public schools and over 90% of disadvantaged schools were public schools.</p>	<p>The longer term trend is mixed: better news for private schools, worse news for state schools. This amounts to a negative longer term trend for the majority of Australian school children and a negative trend in terms of equity.</p>
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		<p>←</p>
	<p>Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
	<p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>funded at no less than 110% of their Schooling Resource Standard; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> private schools are all funded at no more than 90% of their Schooling Resource Standard. <p>Review the equity of the funding situation in 2030.</p>		<p>Between 2009-10 and 2018-19, private school funding increased by \$2,164 per student, adjusted for inflation, compared to \$334 per student for public schools and funding per private school student increased by 22.4%, nearly ten times the increase of only 2.4% for public schools.</p> <p>Source: Save Our Schools Education Research Paper by Trevor Cobbold, "Private School Funding Increase is Six Times the Public School Increase", March 2021</p>	
<p>School education – years of attendance Soc05.02.02</p> <p>The proportion of students staying in school until year 12 equals 90% (for both males and females).</p>	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>	<p>In 2018, the proportion of students staying in school until Year 12 was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males 81%, and Females 89%. <p>Source: AIHW, "Australia's Welfare 2019 in brief"</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p></p> <p>However, in 2021, AIHW reported that "89% of people aged 20–24 had attained Year 12 (or equivalent) or a non-school qualification of Certificate III or above, an increase from 83% in 2008".</p> <p>Source: Australia's welfare 2021 In brief, page 36.</p> <p>A lack of comparable data makes conclusions about progress unreliable. Progress is not discernible one way or the other.</p> <p></p>
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
<p>School education – educational attainment Soc05.02.03</p>	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>	<p>Between 2000 and 2018, mean performance by Australian children on</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p></p>



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>The scores of Australian 15-year old students in the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) are consistently above the OECD average, are consistently improving, and by 2030 return to the levels attained in 2000.</p>	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>	<p>PISA scores declined steadily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In reading from a score of 528 points to 503, In mathematics from a score of 524 to 491 (below the OECD average), and In science from a score of 527 to 503. <p>Source: OECD PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) Results 2018</p>	<p>The longer term trend is clearly negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
<p>Pre-school education – early development performance Soc05.03</p> <p>The developmental health and wellbeing of children starting school shows no significant decline.</p>	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>	<p>In 2018, Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) scores showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a significant decrease in the proportion of children developmentally on track to start school in terms of language and cognitive skills, and significant increases in the proportion of children starting school who were developmentally vulnerable in emotional maturity and language and cognitive skills, compared to the 2015 AEDC. <p>Source: Australian Early Development Census National Report 2018</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Pre-school education – accessibility of early learning as a factor in educational attainment at school Soc05.03.01</p> <p>From 2024, in line with initiatives for provision of universal access to free childcare under Soc11.01 and recognising that among OECD countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-year-olds who report having had more than one year of pre-primary education do substantially better at reading than those with no pre-primary education, even after accounting for the child's economic and social position; children who attend preschool are more likely to complete other levels of school and graduate from university and tend to have more years of education; those who benefit most from pre-school attendance are children from poorer families; and that providing universal access to early childhood learning and care is a significant 	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>	<p>In 2018, Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> scored in the bottom third of developed countries for equality of attendance at preschool, and educational attainment in primary and secondary school; ranked 30th out of 38 rich countries, indicating that the disparity of educational attainment across all three levels of pre-school enrolment, primary school reading scores and secondary school reading scores was comparatively and unhealthily wide; and had a greater proportion of our children left at the bottom of the literacy scale than 29 other developed countries. <p>In 2018, Australian children attended preschool less than 35 other wealthy OECD countries. Source: UNICEF: Innocenti Report Card 15, 2018</p> <p>In 2020, a total 321,317 Australian children were enrolled for 600 hours or more of pre-school</p>	<p>No further updates available.</p> <p></p> <p>Based on the deterioration of measured results in UNICEF studies of education in OECD countries between 2007 and 2018, and PISA scores since 2003, children's educational attainment and opportunity in Australia has declined compared to OECD countries.</p> <p>Source: Comparison of UNICEF Innocenti Report Cards 7 and 15 and OECD PISA Program result 2018.</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>		
	<p>Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 5 – Education




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>means of reducing inequality, develop pre-school enrolment programs to ensure that:</p> <p>a) the number of children enrolled for at least 600 hours per annum of pre-school education rises continuously; and the proportion of children in the two most disadvantaged socioeconomic quintiles who are enrolled for at least 600 hours of pre-school per annum increases continuously until it reaches or exceeds the proportion in the two least disadvantaged socioeconomic quintiles.</p>	<p>Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.</p>	<p>education for the year.</p> <p>Per SEIFA quintile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.7% resided in Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged), • 18.6% resided in Quintile 2 • 20.7% resided in Quintile 3 • 22.9% resided in Quintile 4 • 21.1% resided in Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged). <p>Source: ABS 4240.0, Preschool education Australia 2020</p>	
	<p>Env 5 An environmentally educated community.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		
	<p>Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.</p>		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 6 – Equality			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Gender equality – economic gap Soc06.01 Australia ranks in the top 15 in the Global Gender Gap Report for all four aspects of educational attainment, economic participation and opportunity, health and survival, and political empowerment.	Soc 6 A society of equals.	In 2006, Australia was ranked No. 15 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report. From there onwards Australia slipped to No. 23 in 2011, No. 45 in 2016 and No. 50 in 2021. The gender gap has been widening steeply despite Australia's wealth. Within the Reports, despite retaining the No. 1 ranking for educational attainment, all other rankings dropped: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in economic participation and opportunity – Australia ranked 12th in 2006 but 70th in 2021; in health and survival – Australia ranked 57th in 2006 but 99th in 2021; in political empowerment – Australia ranked 32 in 2006 but 70th in 2021. Source: World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2021 and Wikipedia Global Gender Gap Report.	No data update available. The short term trend is negative.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
Gender equality in income and wealth – cash earnings Soc06.02 The female to male ratio of adult weekly total cash earnings improves continuously and = 1.0 by 2030.	Soc 6 A society of equals.	In 2014, the female to male ratio of adult weekly total cash earnings was 0.66 (average) and 0.69 (median). In 2018, the female to male ratio of adult weekly total cash	In 2021, the female to male ratio of adult employees average weekly total earnings was 0.69, indicating no progress. Source: ABS 6302.0, Table 3
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections &		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 6 – Equality






Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	without domestic abuse.	earnings was 0.69 (average) and 0.70 (median).	No update data are available for median earnings.
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	No significant progress has been made to improve this ratio since at least 2006. Source: ABS 4125.0, Gender Indicators Australia Dec 2020	The short and longer term trends appear to be stagnant. 
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		Note that in 2021, the Australian Government Workplace Gender Equality Agency reported that, “The gender pay gap has fallen from 24.7 per cent to 20.1 per cent and at this rate of change will take another 26 years for the full-time gender pay gap for total remuneration to close.” Source: Australian Government Workplace Gender Equality Agency website 2021 The longer term trend for gender equality in weekly cash earnings is generally positive but too slow to meet the target. 
Gender equality in income and wealth – superannuation balances Soc06.02.01 The female to male ratio of superannuation balances for those at, or approaching, retirement age improves continuously and equals 1.0 by 2030.	Soc 6 A society of equals.	In 2011/12 the median female superannuation balance was \$72,930 while the median male balance was \$120,161, a ratio of 0.607:1.	No data update available.
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.	In 2017/18 the median female superannuation balance was \$118,556 while the median male balance was \$183,000, a ratio of 0.648:1.	
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	Compared to 2003/04 when the ratio was 0.464:1,	The longer term trend of gender equality in superannuation balances is generally positive but too slow to meet the target. 
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 6 – Equality

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>	<i>Direction of movement from baseline</i>
	shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	superannuation inequality is improving but has slowed and is well short of equality. Source: ABS 4125.0, Gender Indicators Australia December 2020	
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 7 – Diversity			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Attitudes to multiculturalism – positive support by Australians Soc07.01 The percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that multiculturalism is a positive for Australia meets or exceeds 85%.</p> <p>Attitudes to multiculturalism – as a strength for Australia Soc07.01.01 The percentage of people who strongly disagree that accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger is no higher than 8%.</p> <p>Attitudes to multiculturalism – experience of cultural and racial discrimination Soc07.01.02 The percentage of people reporting a sense of rejection or experience of discrimination because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion is no higher than 9%.</p>	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.	In 2019, 85% of Australians on survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that “multiculturalism has been good for Australia”.	In 2020, 84% of Australians on survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that “multiculturalism has been good for Australia”.
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2017, 13% of Australians strongly disagreed with the statement that “accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger”, up from 8% in 2007.	 No longer term data. 
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	In 2017, 20% of Australians indicated a sense of rejection and reported experience of discrimination “because of [their] skin colour, ethnic origin or religion”, up from 9% in 2007. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019	
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy &		
			 The longer term trend is positive. 
			In 2020, 18% of Australians indicated a sense of rejection and reported experience of discrimination “because of [their] skin colour, ethnic origin or religion”, up from 9% in 2007.  Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 7 – Diversity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	global cohesion.		<p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Note, however, that in late 2020 Scanlon reported an unexpected growth in acceptance of multiculturalism. No information is yet available to suggest that this will be a permanent reversal of the longer term trend.</p>
<p>Freedom from discrimination on religious grounds Soc07.02</p> <p>Australia remains free of legislation enabling discrimination on religious grounds.</p>	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.	<p>In 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64% of Australians on survey agreed that “No organisations should be allowed to refuse to employ someone on religious grounds.” 30% disagreed; 52% agreed that “religion divides Australians more than it unites us”. 33% disagreed; and 78% agreed that “respecting religious traditions and beliefs should be an important part of a multicultural society”. <p>Source: CIS YouGov/Galaxy Poll 2019</p> <p>In 2019, the federal Coalition government introduced the “Religious Discrimination Bill 2019”. The bill was marketed as legislation to “outlaw religious</p>	No updates are available on the baseline survey.
	Soc 1 A safe home.		However, indications are that prevailing attitudes among Australians are such as to reject legislation enabling discrimination on the grounds of religion and that in fact these attitudes (rejecting legislation enabling religious discrimination) have hardened since 2019. In 2022, on survey:
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 out of 5 Australians opposed laws allowing discrimination against gay and lesbian students and teachers at religious schools;
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the same proportion opposed allowing discrimination against transgender students and
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 7 – Diversity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>discrimination” whereas in reality it was legislation to <i>legalise</i> discrimination by religious groups, granting them rights no other group has in Australia. Prevailing Australian attitudes do not support legislation allowing discrimination on religious grounds.</p>	<p>teachers at religious schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79% said LGBTI teachers should not be sacked if they marry a same-sex partner, and • almost 80% said that religious schools which discriminate against LGBTI students and teachers should not receive government funding. <p>During the 46th parliament the Morrison government, contrary to the weight of public opinion, attempted to introduce legislation legalising discrimination on religious grounds. The bill passed in the lower house but was withdrawn as unacceptable to sectional interests.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	<p>Gov 2</p> <p>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
	<p>Gov 3</p> <p>A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		





Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Women in power and leadership – federal parliament Soc08.01</p> <p>The percentage of women in federal parliament in both the House of Representatives and the Senate reaches 50% by 2030.</p>	<p>Soc 8</p> <p>A success because of gender equality.</p>	<p>In 2019, women held 36% of seats in both houses of federal parliament (29.8% in the House of Representatives and 48.7% in the Senate). Source: Wikipedia</p>	<p>In 2021, the Parliament of Australia reported that, “Across state and territory parliaments, 36.9 per cent of parliamentarians are women.” In 2020, IPU Parline reported that women held 30% of seats in the House of Representatives and 50% in the Senate. Source: IPU Parline, Global data on Parliaments 2020</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>No long term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
<p>Women in power and leadership – CEO and board positions Soc08.01.01</p> <p>The percentage of women in CEO and board positions reaches 50% by 2035.</p>	<p>Soc 8</p> <p>A success because of gender equality.</p>	<p>In 2019, 17.1% of CEO positions and 26.8% of board positions were held by women. Source: Australian Government, Workplace Gender Equality Agency “Australia’s Gender Equality Scorecard 2019”</p>	<p>In 2020, female CEOs increased slightly to 18.3% (up 1.2pp) and female representation on boards increased by 1.3pp to 28.1%. Source: Australian Government, Workplace Gender Equality Agency “Australia’s Gender Equality Scorecard 2020”</p> <p>→</p> <p>The longer term trend is generally positive but too slow to meet the target.</p> <p>← / →</p>
<p>Women in power and leadership – managerial positions Soc08.01.02</p> <p>The percentage of women in</p>	<p>Soc 8</p> <p>A success because of gender equality.</p>	<p>In 2019, 39.4% of managerial positions were held by women. Source: Australian Government, Workplace Gender Equality Agency “Australia’s Gender Equality Scorecard 2019”</p>	<p>In 2020, women comprised 39.9% of all managers, with 44.7% of manager appointments in 2019-20 going to women.</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
managerial positions reaches 50% by 2035.			Source: Australian Government, Workplace Gender Equality Agency "Australia's Gender Equality Scorecard 2020" No change.  The longer term trend is generally positive but too slow to meet the target. 
Top Priority Target/Strategy: Women's National Integrated Reform Program for Safety, Respect and Equity Soc08.02 By 2023, recognising that unless we address the social determinants and causes of violence, disrespect and inequity for women and girls there will be no possibility of achieving what women are calling for, establish a national reform program for safety, respect and equity for women and girls that integrates the strategies and initiatives necessary to ensure safe workplaces, fair and equal pay, high quality free early learning, and effective justice and support systems for survivors of abuse.	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.	In 2021 and 2022, Australia witnessed a surge in calls for safety, respect and equity for women and girls throughout their lives – in the workplace, in schools, in all other public places and in the home. The call went out to women from survivors of sexual abuse including but not limited to Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins. Calls from previous decades from women of colour, disability, and genderqueer women. It was a momentous time. The essence of the call for safety, respect and equity and was specific in the following terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create free and accessible early childhood education and care. • Expand paid parental leave. • Act on the national plan for first Nations women and girls. 	Apart from development of the strategic directions in <i>Australia Together</i> that are already fully supportive of any program for achieving safety, respect and equity for women and girls – none of which have been adopted yet by the Australian government – no progress has been made in development of an integrated, holistic approach to women's inequality that deals with causality and social determinants. Progress in the short term has been positive due to the success of brave women in making their calls heard.  Progress in the longer term has been too slow to be called anything but negative. 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health and wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service &		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Within the program, link all the strategies called for with any related strategies as they arise including those already included in <i>Australia Together</i> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fee-free tertiary education under Soc05.01; • cancellation of student debt under Soc05.01.01; • universal access to free childcare under Soc11.01; • equal pay and superannuation under Soc06.02 and Soc06.02.01; • introduction of a social wage for all adult Australians under Econ02.04 and Econ02.04.02; and • growth in income and wealth for welfare workers under Econ03.02.04. <p>National Women's Council for oversight of the Women's National Integrated Reform</p>	responsible exercise of authority in policing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver strong and consistent child sexual assault laws. • Insist employers step up to prevent sexual harassment and bullying. • Establish 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave. • Support laws to get rid of the gender pay gap. <p>Source: Safety. Respect. Equity. Brittany Higgins, Grace Tame, Julia Banks, Christine Holgate, Chanel Contos, Wendy McCarthy, Lucy Hughes Turnbull, Madison de Rozario, Michele O'Neil, Larissa Behrendt, Yasmin Poole, Georgie Dent</p>	
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Program for Safety, Respect and Equity Soc08.02.01</p> <p>By 2023, establish and fund a National Women's Council charged with responsibility for development and oversight of the Integrated Reform Program under Soc08.02, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with the community on all aspects of the Program; • monitoring Australia's progress towards the goals of the Program; and • advising on the adequacy and allocation of funds in federal and state budgets when shortfalls in progress towards the Program goals are detected. 			
<p>Workplace safety for women and LGBTIQ+ Soc08.03</p> <p>Implement and monitor progress with all 55 recommendations in the Respect@Work report including a positive duty on employers.</p>	Soc 8	A success because of gender equality.	<p>In 2020, the Australian Human Rights Commission released "Respect@Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces". The report noted that Australia was once at the forefront of tackling sexual harassment globally and had played a strong leadership role</p>
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health and wellbeing.	
			<p>In 2022, the federal government reported that in response to Respect@Work it had fully implemented 12 recommendations, fully funded and commenced work on 30 recommendations, commenced work on a further 12 recommendations and would leave the</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+






Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<div>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</div> <div>Soc 6 A society of equals.</div> <div>Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.</div> <div>Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.</div> <div>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</div>	<p>in the 1970s and 1980s by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ratifying the International Labour Organization's Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention in 1973 and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ('CEDAW') in 1983, and by introducing anti-discrimination laws. <p>However, over 35 years on, the rate of change has been disappointingly slow. Australia now lags behind other countries in preventing and responding to sexual harassment. Since 2003, the Australian Human Rights Commission has conducted four periodic surveys on the national experience of sexual harassment. The most recent survey conducted in 2018 showed that sexual harassment in Australian workplaces is widespread and pervasive. One in three people experienced sexual harassment at work in the past five years.</p> <p>Respect@Work contained 55 recommendations to help prevent sexual</p>	<p>remaining four to the private sector. Source: Commonwealth Government, Attorney-General, A Roadmap for Respect: Detailed status update February 2022</p> <p>However, this was an attempt to imply that the government accepted all recommendations when in fact it did not.</p> <p>It took more than a year for the federal government to respond to Respect@Work. After significant pressure (occasioned by allegations of the rape of Brittany Higgins in Parliament House), it released "A Roadmap for Respect: Preventing and addressing sexual harassment in Australian workplaces". The roadmap in effect showed that the government did not accept at least eight of the recommendations, including key reforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> amend the Sex Discrimination Act to introduce a positive duty on all employers to take reasonable and proportionate measures to eliminate sex discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation, as far as possible; and establish a disclosure process that enables victims
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 8 – Women & LGBTIQ+


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		<p>harassment within and outside workplaces. Source: Australian Human Rights Commission, Respect@Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces 2020</p>	<p>of historical workplace sexual harassment matters to have their experience heard and documented with a view to promoting recovery. Source: Commonwealth Government, Attorney-General, A Roadmap for Respect: Preventing and Addressing Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces</p> <p>The federal government's response to Respect@Work does not reflect well on its integrity. The short term trend is too slow and too misleading to be fairly characterised as anything other than stagnant.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 9 – Housing			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Homelessness Soc09.01 The proportion of Australians who experience homelessness declines continuously and is at least halved by 2030 compared to the baseline year (2016).	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	On census night 2016, 116,427 Australians, or 49.8 per 10,000 of population, were experiencing homelessness, an increase from 2011 when 102,439 Australians, or 47.6 per 10,000 of population, were experiencing homelessness. Source ABS, 2049.0 Census of Population and Housing 2016	No data update available.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
Housing affordability – ownership by younger generations Soc09.02 The proportion of young Australians (aged under 35) who own their own home (with or without a mortgage) rises continually and reaches 60% by no later than 2035.	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all and with decent affordable housing for all.	In 2016, 37% of Australians aged 25-29 owned a home, compared to 50% in 1971. In 2016, 50% of Australians aged 30-34 owned a home compared to 64% in 1971. Source: AIHW, "Australia's Welfare 2019 in brief"	In 2021, AIHW reported that, "Home ownership rates have fallen most for younger people. The proportion renting from private landlords has increased among younger households (under 35 years) over recent years (54% in 2016 compared with 47% in 2006)." Source: AIHW, "Australia's Welfare 2021 in brief"  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
Housing affordability – lower income households Soc09.02.01	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	In 2017/18, the proportion of lower income households spending more than 30% of their gross	No data update available. 

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 9 – Housing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
The proportion of lower income households spending more than 30% of their gross weekly income on housing costs declines continuously.	Soc 1 A safe home.	<p>weekly income on housing costs was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56.9% of those renting from a private landlord, and • 41.3% of owners with a mortgage. <p>Source: ABS 4130.0, Housing Occupancy and Costs 2017/18</p>	<p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> 

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Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data
Family and community support – reliability of community support in time of need Soc10.01 The percent of people who know someone they could rely on in time of need exceeds 95%.	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2017, 95% of Australians knew someone they could rely on in time of need. Source: OECD Better Life Index
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
Family and community support – availability of support from outside-the-home sources Soc10.01.01 The proportion of Australians reporting that they have family or friends living outside the household to confide in increases continuously.	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2019, 89% of Australians on survey reporting having “family or friends living outside the household to confide in”, down slightly from 91.5% in 2014. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1.
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
Domestic abuse – violence Soc10.02 The proportion of women and men reporting experience of domestic/relationship violence declines continuously compared to that recorded in 2016.	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2016, 17% of women (1.6 million) and 6% of men (547,600) reported having experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15. Source: ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Soc 8	A success because of gender equality.	
			No data update available. However in 2021 the ABS reported that, “The number of police recorded victims of family and domestic violence related sexual assault increased by 13 per cent in 2020. ... The number of victim-survivors of family and domestic violence (FDV) related sexual assault recorded by police rose to 10,162 from the previous year. This was considerably more than the 2 per cent increase reported between 2018 and 2019.” Source: ABS Recorded Crime Victims 2021








Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</p>		<p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Domestic abuse – emotional Soc10.02.01 The proportion of women and men reporting experience of domestic/relationship emotional abuse declines continuously compared to that recorded in 2016.</p>	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>	<p>In 2016, 1 in 4 women (23% or 2.2 million) and 1 in 6 men (16% or 1.4 million) experienced emotional abuse by a partner since the age of 15. Source: ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p>		
	<p>Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</p>		
<p>Domestic abuse - homicide Soc10.02.02 The number of domestic homicide victims in any 2-year period for which data are available declines compared to that recorded between 2014/15 and 2015/16.</p>	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, the National Homicide Monitoring Program recorded 218 domestic homicide victims (including 107 victims of intimate partner homicide, 45 victims of filicide, 28 victims of parricide, 13 victims of siblicide, 25 victims of other family</p>	<p>The National Homicide Monitoring Program reported in 2018/19 that the domestic homicide rate was 0.30 per 100,000, trending fairly steadily downward from 0.81 per 100,000 in 2001/02 Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, National Homicide Monitoring Program webpage.</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	homicide). The reported number of domestic homicide victims from 2014–15 to 2015–16 is slightly higher than the previous reporting period (213 victims were killed in 200 incidents from 2012–13 to 2013–14). As at 2019, 1 woman is killed every 9 days and 1 man is killed every 29 days by a partner. Source: AIHW & Australian Institute of Criminology	
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		However, in 2021 the ABS reported that, “There were 145 victims of family and domestic violence (FDV) related homicide recorded in 2020, an increase of 12% (15 victims) from the previous year.” Source: ABS Recorded Crime Victims 2021
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.		The longer term trend is positive.  It is too early to tell if the positive longer term trend has been more than temporarily disrupted.
Domestic abuse – hospitalisations Soc10.02.03 The number of hospitalisations due to family and domestic violence declines continuously.	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2016/17, 4,600 women and 1,700 men were hospitalised due to family and domestic violence. Source: AIHW, “Australia’s Welfare 2019, in brief”	No data update available.  /  No longer term data analysed.  / 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible		




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	exercise of authority in policing.		
Domestic abuse – legislative program Soc10.03 By 2023, legislate to make coercive control illegal.	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2020, no plans were in place to develop legislation recognising coercive control as a crime.	In mid 2021, the Meeting of Attorneys-General of Australia (MAG) resolved to “co-design national principles to develop a common understanding of coercive control and matters to be considered in relation to the potential criminalisation of coercive control, in consultation with women’s safety officials, noting criminalisation ultimately remains a matter for decision by individual jurisdictions, and some jurisdictions have already criminalised coercive control”. Source: Meeting of Attorneys-General, Development of National Principles on Addressing Coercive Control, Terms of Reference 1 July 2021  No longer term data analysed. 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
Domestic abuse - education and counselling services Soc10.04 By 2023, establish a permanent national education program on coercive control, its features and illegality	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2021, no plans were in place to develop a national education program on coercive control.	In 2021, education was considered essential to the success of any legislative reform on coercive control. Accordingly, the Meeting of Attorneys-General resolved in Terms of Reference (see
	Soc 1 A safe home.		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
and where to do to seek help.	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		Soc10.03 above) that “a holistic assessment of systems reforms issues, including but not limited to minimum standards for training, and public awareness raising” would be a key “matter that may be the subject of national principles for addressing coercive control”. Source: Meeting of Attorneys-General, Development of National Principles on Addressing Coercive Control, Terms of Reference 1 July 2021  No longer term data analysed. 
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.		
Domestic abuse support and funding Top Priority Target/Strategy: End domestic violence by restoring funding for shelters and support services enabling 100% of women threatened by domestic violence to escape to safety. Soc10.05 By 2022, and until such time as a structure can be established for determination of priority federal budget expenditure under Econ04.02.02 , establish a floor increase in federal funding allocations for	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2019, it was reported that: “It’s been almost half a century since feminists opened the first domestic violence shelters. Ever since, they’ve had to beg for every dollar to keep women safe. The furious words of these women have, in recent years, been stolen by self-serving politicians, who wax lyrical about ending domestic abuse while dabbling with piecemeal initiatives, gutting essential services and forcing the sector to plead for basic funding. No matter how many prime ministers ‘commit’ to ending	Between 2015/16 and 2019/20 the number of people accessing specialist homelessness services increased from 279,000 to 290,500. 76% or approximately 220,000 in 2018/19 needed specific assistance with family and domestic violence. Source: Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019  In the 2021/22 federal budget the government announced that, “As part of the Women’s Safety package, the Government is providing \$164.8 million over three years for
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 10 – Family cohesion & community services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>domestic violence shelters, starting from a position of restoring federal funding to pre-2012 levels (effectively double what they were reduced to by 2020).</p> <p>Ensure the floor increase on the restored annual funding (which should be at least \$160 million) is maintained at a minimum of 5% per annum and guaranteed until 2030.</p> <p>Ensure state funding is set to make up any shortfall such that no women at all are turned away from domestic violence shelters or other accommodation for the homeless.</p>	Soc	9	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	<p>domestic violence, the fact remains: Australia is a rich nation that tolerates abuse towards women and children.” Source: Jess Hill, <i>See What You Made Me Do</i></p> <p>Across Australia in 2019, more than 1 in 2 women were turned away from crisis accommodation every night. Source: Women’s Community Shelters homepage</p> <p>In 2020, the federal government announced funding of \$60 million over three years for a “Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program” as part of its \$328 million “Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022” in the “National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022”. Source: Australian Government, Department of Social Services</p> <p>financial support to help women who escape family and domestic violence. The Government is further contributing \$261.4 million to establish a new agreement with the states and territories for frontline family, domestic and sexual violence supports and \$129.0 million for increased legal assistance to help women access justice.” This funding is welcomed but is not a permanent increase. Meanwhile more than 1 in 2 women are still being turned away from crisis accommodation every night in Australia. Source: Federal Budget 2021-22, Budget Paper No. 1 page 24, Women’s Community Shelters Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
	Soc	11	A land without child disadvantage.	
	Soc	14	A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.	
	Econ	3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ	4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
	Gov	2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov	3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 11 – Early childhood care

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 11 – Early childhood care			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Funding for childcare <u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Universal access to free childcare Soc11.01 By 2024, establish universal access to free childcare for all children under school age as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">for those children with working parents/carers – full coverage for those days on which both parents/carers are working;for those children 3, 4 and 5 years old with a parent who is not working – full coverage for three days per week; andfor those children 2 years old with a parent who is not working – full coverage for one day per week.	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.	In 2021, 60% of Australians supported universal access to free child-care and early learning for families with young children. Only 16% opposed this. Source: Essential Report, 29 March 2021	Free childcare was introduced in Australia during for a brief period during the Covid-19 pandemic and has not been reinstated. ← No longer term data analysed. ← / →
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	In 2012, economists estimated that the benefits of early learning far outweigh the costs. “For every dollar invested, the [economic] return ranges from roughly 1.5 to almost 3 dollars, with the benefit ratio for disadvantaged children being in the double digits.” Source: TD Economics, “Early Childhood Education has Widespread and Long Lasting Benefits”, November 2012.	
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.	In 2020, the Australia Institute noted that free childcare was vital to increasing female participation rates in the workforce which is in turn vital to economic growth. “If average Nordic country participation rates by age and gender were applied to Australia ... overall the increase in the wages would be \$31.7 billion while the increase in GDP would be \$60.4 billion or a lift in GDP of 3.2 percent. ... The empirical evidence makes clear that	
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve			

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 11 – Early childhood care

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>	<i>Direction of movement from baseline</i>
	continuously for all.	expenditure on services like childcare, and indeed general consumer spending, creates more jobs per \$1 million spent than expenditure on construction.”	
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Source: Australia Institute, “Participating in Growth: Free childcare and increased participation” June 2020.	

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 12 – Aged care & disability services			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Aged care package waiting times Soc12.01</p> <p>Aged care package waiting times are reduced to: Level 1 = 3 months Level 2-4 = <4 months</p>	<p>Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>	<p>In 2020, aged care package waiting times were reported as Level 1 (basic in-home care) = 3-6 months Levels 2, 3 & 4 (higher care levels) = 12+ months Source: Australian Government, myagedcare.gov.au</p>	<p>In October 2021, aged care package waiting times were reported as Level 1 (basic in-home care) = 3-6 months Levels 2, 3 & 4 (higher care levels) = 6-9 months Source: Australian Government, myagedcare.gov.au, updated October 2021</p> <p>➡</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>↔</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Aged care system performance monitoring – confidence in the aged care system Soc12.02</p> <p>The proportion of Australians reporting high and very high confidence in the aged care system rises continuously.</p>	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	<p>In 2021, “more than half of Australians (55.2 per cent) were estimated to have not very much confidence [in the aged care system], with a further 12.0 per cent who had no confidence at all. ... Only 1.8 per cent of Australians said they had a great deal of confidence, alongside 31.1 per cent who had quite a lot of confidence (32.8 per cent in total who were confident).”</p> <p>Source: Australian National University, Centre for Social Research Methods, Views and experience of the aged care system in Australia, April 2021</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Aged care system performance monitoring – safety, quality and user experience indicators Soc12.02.01</p> <p>The proportion of Australians reporting positive experiences with aged care services increases continuously from the baseline performance survey of 2022.</p>	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	<p>In 2021, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recommended the introduction and implementation of aged care quality indicators. The government agreed in principle. The government also accepted recommendations to report on the experience of people receiving care from an aged care service and to implement a graded assessment of service performance against the Aged Care Quality Standards. The government committed to establishing baseline surveys for purposes of performance monitoring and star ratings of service providers by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Recommendations 22, 94 & 95.</p>	<p>No data update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	ethics & community partnership.		
<p>Aged Care Royal Commission, implementation of recommendations – A new Aged Care Act Soc12.03</p> <p>By 2023 legislate to replace the Aged Care Act 1997 with a new Act consistent in its entirety with all the objects, rights and principles for aged care specified by the Aged Care Royal Commissioners, including in particular objects to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist older people to live an active, self-determined and meaningful life, ensure older people receive high quality care in a safe and caring environment for dignified living in old age, protect and advance the rights of older people receiving aged care to be free from mistreatment and neglect, and harm from poor quality or unsafe care, ensure equity of access to aged care, promote positive community attitudes to 	<p>Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>	<p>In 2021, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety made 148 recommendations of which the federal government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accepted 106, qualified its support for 20, and rejected (in effect or outright) 22. <p>Critically, the government accepted recommendations that “The Aged Care Act 1997 (Cth) should be replaced with a new Act to come into force by no later than 1 July 2023.”</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.</p>	<p>The Australian Government has committed \$26.7 million over 4 years, from 2021–22 for the introduction of a new Aged Care Act.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Department of Health, Governance (Pillar 5 of the Royal Commission response) – a new Aged Care Act – Announcement re Budget 2021-22.</p> <p>➡</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>⬅ / ➡</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>enhance social and economic participation by people receiving aged care, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specify a list of rights of people seeking and receiving aged care. 	<p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Aged Care Royal Commission, implementation of recommendations – New independent and accountable institutional arrangements Soc12.03.01</p> <p>By 1 July 2023, recognising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> acceptance of Commissioner Briggs' recommendation on maintaining institutional arrangements for aged care within a politicised Ministerial framework would be more likely to perpetuate the failures exhibited in aged care, and that other recommendations were accepted by the government which do nothing to increase the accountability of service providers 	<p>Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p> <p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p> <p>Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.</p> <p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p> <p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p> <p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p> <p>Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p> <p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p> <p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption</p>	<p>In 2021, Aged Care Royal Commissioner Pagone recommended new institutional arrangements involving three main players to ensure quality and safety in aged care, free of political interference and to ensure accountability for management of the aged care system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an Australian Aged Care Commission (a body corporate with perpetual succession, "able to sue and be sued in its corporate name", and "independent of ministerial direction"); an Inspector General of Aged Care; and an Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health and Aged Care (which is to be responsible under the new Act for review and setting of quality and safety standards and quality indicators). <p>An alternative set of institutional</p>	<p>No progress.</p> <p>←</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
for proper use of taxpayer funding, legislate to implement Commissioner Pagone's recommendation that an Australian Aged Care Commission should be established under the new Act as corporate Commonwealth entity within the meaning of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth), with all functions and accountabilities as specified within Commissioner Pagone's recommendation.	to sustainability.	arrangements was proposed by Aged Care Royal Commissioner Briggs which perpetuated Ministerial control instead of the independent and accountable model recommended by Commissioner Pagone. The government accepted Commissioner Briggs' recommendation and rejected the model proposed by Commissioner Pagone, despite the fact that the Briggs model, which reflects the status quo, had clearly failed to deliver both safety and accountability for proper use of taxpayer funds in aged care.	
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
Aged care funding – federal budget minimums Soc12.04 To maximise the chances of success of the model proposed under Soc12.03.01 , legislate to secure a funding system for aged care which establishes a floor for Aged Care Services funding as follows: By 2022/23 increase federal funding for aged care by a minimum of \$7 billion compared to the federal actual expenditure in 2019/20 of \$20.03 billion, taking total funding for the sector to \$27.03 billion. Thereafter, increase this funding by at least 4% per annum until 2031, after which a	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	In 2020, after extensive research, reviews of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, and reviews of the adequacy of spending in the sector, the Grattan Institute proposed that: "The federal government should create a new Aged Care Act to enshrine a rights-based system that will require an additional \$7 billion of government spending per year." Source: Grattan Institute, Reforming Aged Care: A practical plan for a rights-based system, November 2020 Note: Other sources have been reported as suggesting that an extra \$10 billion per year is required. Note also: The Parliamentary Budget Office has estimated that beyond 2022/23 it will	In response to the Aged Care Royal Commission the federal budget 2021/22 made provision not for \$7 billion per year as recommended by the Grattan Institute but for a mere \$684 million extra in 2021/22, compared to commitments in 2020/21 budget. Over three years from 2022/24 the government projected an additional \$8.2 million in total over and above the estimates committed in the 2020/21 budget. In short, only a fraction of the amounts necessary for a stable aged care system have been committed. Source: Federal Budget 2021-22 Budget Paper No. 1, page 164 Also, in the 2021 Intergenerational Report it was estimated that funding for aged care
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>review should be conducted to determine new funding requirements.</p> <p>(Note: This target will be subject to revision after further analysis of funding necessary to meet the objectives of a new Aged Care Act proposed by the Royal Commission into Aged Care. Note also: The federal government's 2021/22 budget for expenditure on Aged Care Services in 2022/23 was announced as \$27.6 billion.)</p>	from excessive consumption to sustainability.	<p>be necessary to increase funding to cover the cost of demand for aged care services (to a level that reflects "common cost pressures") by annual real growth of at least 4%.</p> <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office 2020/21 Medium Term Fiscal Projections</p>	<p>would increase over 40 years from 1.2% of GDP in 2021 to 2.1% of GDP in 2061. However, over the same 40 year period, pensions are slated to be reduced from 2.7% of GDP in 2021 to 2.1% of GDP in 2061. This will fully offset the increased expense of aged care. Aged care funding is in total set to decline.</p> <p>Source: Intergenerational Report 2021, page 104</p> <p>←</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
<p>Aged care funding – levies</p> <p>Soc12.04.01</p> <p>By 2022/23 introduce an Aged Care Funding Levy of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5% for all taxpayers earning below \$120,000; 1% for those earning between \$120,000 and 179,999; and 1.5% for those earning above \$180,000 <p>in addition to the Medicare Levy.</p>	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	<p>In 2021, the Aged Care Royal Commissioners both recommended a Medicare style levy as a means of hypothecating tax revenues to securely finance aged care quality and safety to a level necessary to meet the objectives of the proposed new Aged Care Act. (Recommendations 138 and 144). The government accepted neither of these recommendations.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.</p>	<p>No progress.</p> <p>Funding for aged care is insecure in Australia.</p> <p>←</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	& with decent affordable housing for all.	<p>But in 2021, ANU researchers reported that: “Despite government rejecting a targeted levy, the majority of Australians support a levy. Only 14.6 per cent of respondents said that they would not support such a levy. Of those who were supportive, 33.5 per cent said ‘Yes, for all taxpayers’, 31.9 per cent said ‘Yes, for taxpayers in the top 2 tax brackets (\$120,001 or more per year)’, and 19.9 per cent said ‘Yes, for taxpayers in the top tax bracket (\$180,001 or more per year).”</p> <p>Source: Australian National University, Centre for Social Research Methods, Views and experience of the aged care system in Australia, April 2021</p>	
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
<p>Aged care funding – Accountability of service providers in return for public funding Soc12.04.02 By 2025, in order to remove the profit motive from the publicly funded but largely privately run aged care sector, and consistent with Gov09.03, legislate to prohibit for-profit companies from qualifying for any form of taxpayer assistance – including but not limited to direct funding, subsidies and</p>	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.	<p>In 2021 the Aged Care Royal Commission made several recommendations to improve accountability of aged care service providers for their use of public funds. Some were accepted by the government but some were not, leaving taxpayers with a lower standard of accountability for use of the funding they provide.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety</p>	<p>In 2021, the federal government allocated \$6.5 billion of the abovementioned budget increase for aged care over four years to private sector aged care providers without putting in place any accountability measures to stop exploitation of the system and proven poor quality in service delivery.</p> <p>Source: The Senior, Eileen Wood, July 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">←</p> <p>No longer term data analysed.</p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>tax breaks – for provision of services in aged care.</p> <p>(Note: Essentially this means that until the government accepts that much higher standards of accountability for expenditure of public funds should be imposed – such as accountability for spending food supplements on provision of food for residents – private sector participation in the aged care sector should be restricted to non-profit incorporated bodies).</p>	affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent &		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 12 – Aged care & disability services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		





Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 13 – Arts & culture





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society		
Society 13 – Arts & culture		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Soc02.14 Soc03.01.01 Soc07.01 Soc07.01.01 Soc07.01.02 Gov02.01</p>	<p>Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available relevant to this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Society 14 – Police services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 14 – Police services			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Trust in federal police Soc14.01 Trust in the federal police is steady or increasing.	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.	In 2019, 66% of Australians (net) said they trusted the federal police. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019	In 2021, 61% of Australians said they trusted the police, courts and justice system. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions October 2021 Note: This level of confidence may not apply to the NSW police in the light of recent controversial performance of the Fixated Persons Unit. No data are available. 
Trust in state police Soc14.02 Trust in the state police is steady or increasing.	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.	In 2019, 66% of Australians (net) said they trusted the state police. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019	No longer term data analysed. 
Trust in police nation-wide Soc14.03 Trust in police is steady or increasing.	Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.	In 2019, 76.8% of Australians on survey felt that police could be trusted. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 1.3	In 2020, 79.3% of Australians on survey felt that police could be trusted. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 1.3 
	Soc 1 A safe home.		No longer term data analysed. 

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 15 – Justice			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
High Court Soc15.01 Trust in the High Court is steady or increasing.	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.	In 2019, 58% of Australians (net) said they trusted the High Court. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019	In 2020, 61% of Australians (net) said they trusted the High Court. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2020  No longer term data analysed. 
Trust in the justice system Soc15.02 Trust in the justice system is steady or increasing.	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.	In 2019, 57.6% of Australians felt the justice system could be trusted. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 1.3	In 2020, 62.9% of Australians felt the justice system could be trusted. Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 1.3 However, in 2021, Next25 reported that only 46% of Australians believe Australia has a fair, honest and capable legal system, with poorer people and women having a significantly lower level of confidence than richer people and men. Source: Source: Next25 Navigator, Social Research report 2021, page 17.  No longer term data analysed. 

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society			
Society 16 – Emergency services			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Preparedness for global crises</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Sovereign Capability Strategy for National Resilience in Global Crises</p> <p>Soc16.01</p> <p>By 2023, develop a draft comprehensive strategy to build “sovereign capability” in areas of economic activity and human capital necessary to ensure Australia is prepared for global crises arising from climate change, pandemics, global economic downturns and wars, the overall objective being to ensure Australia can scale up to provide security for Australians in times of crisis by establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manufacturing capability in critical medicines and PPE; • minimum stocking levels for imported medical supplies and fuels; • scale-up capacity for emergency facilities, hospitals and quarantine; • a skilled and experienced 	<p>Soc 16</p> <p>A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.</p>	<p>In 2020, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic Australia had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% less total hospital beds than the OECD average, and • only 9.4 intensive care beds per 100,000 population, in contrast to Germany (33.9), the US (25.8) and Canada (12.9). <p>In 2020, Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • imported over 90% of medicines; • was import dependent for almost all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); • had no mandated minimum stocking levels for critical medical items; • imported 90% of fuels; and • was reliant on the foreign owned / controlled maritime trade system for 98% of imports and exports. <p>Source: Institute for Integrated Economic Research Australia, “Smart Sovereignty & Trusted Supply Chains: A National Sovereignty / Resilience Imperative” and Global Access Partners & Institute for Integrated</p>	<p>No comparable update data available.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative with Australians becoming concerned about self-sufficiency and resilience.</p> <p>←</p> <p>In 2021, Next25 reported that the poorest-tracking aspiration of Australians in their Next25 Navigator survey is “Australia being self-sufficient and able to stand on its own two feet as a country. Fewer than four in 10 are confident Australia is self-sufficient.”</p> <p>Source: Next25 Navigator, Social Research report 2021, page 16</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 1</p> <p>A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 5</p> <p>A model of educational opportunity.</p>		
	<p>Env 1</p> <p>A leading global advocate for action on climate change.</p>		
	<p>Env 5</p> <p>An environmentally educated community.</p>		
	<p>Env 6</p> <p>A renewable energy superpower.</p>		
	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>		
	<p>Econ 7</p> <p>A collaborative intelligent nation.</p>		
	<p>Econ 9</p> <p>Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 16 – Emergency services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>workforce in both crisis prevention and response, underpinned by expanded and internationally collaborative research and development capability and elevated diplomacy programs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian ownership and/or control over critical capabilities; • public ownership and control of vital resources including water and power transmission; and • risk minimisation and response programs for disruptions in foreign trade. <p>By 2024, undertake widespread community engagement on the draft Sovereign Capability Strategy and the funding required. By 2025, finalise the Strategy and embed the necessary funding in federal, state, and local government budgets.</p>	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>	<p>Economic Research Australia “The Australian Health System: ‘Just in time’ or ‘Just in case’?” December 2020</p>	
	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		
<p>Preparedness for and prevention of disasters in Australia</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Statement of</p>	<p>Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.</p>	<p>In 2018, the federal government released a “National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework”, with four priority actions:</p>	<p>In 2021, in response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, the federal government established the National Recovery and Resilience</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 16 – Emergency services


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Adherence to and Performance on the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Soc16.02</p> <p>By 2023, consistent with Strategies for a National Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation and Adaptation Commission under Env03.01 and the Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security under Gov12.04, enact legislation making it obligatory for federal, state and local governments to prepare annual Statements of Adherence to and Performance on the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, such statements to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> actions taken during the year that have positively reduced the risk of natural and other national disasters by dealing with or reducing causal factors (most 	Soc	4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	<p>Agency. The Agency is tasked with supporting communities impacted by disaster with a strong on-the-ground presence and a guiding principle of locally-led recovery. It also proposes to deliver initiatives to reduce risk and lessen the impacts of future shocks. This is a small positive step but it does not deliver the level of institutional reform and integration required to prevent avoidable natural and national disasters. It is focussed more on recovery than prevention.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>If Australia is to create the “enabling conditions”²⁰ necessary to deal with climate change, it will need a fully integrated set of strategies and institutional reform across all levels of government to integrate efforts. No progress has been made in development of a blueprint for such</p>
	Env	1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env	2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env	3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	
	Env	8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env	9	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	
	Env	10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env	14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env	15	A marine wildlife haven.	
	Gov	5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	<p>The framework was also not integrated with any other strategy for dealing with the key causes of either natural disasters or other types of national disaster such as an invasion or military attack.</p>
	Gov	6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	

¹⁹ The [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) 2018, page 8.

²⁰ See [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Working Group II](#), page TS-87: “Prospects for transformation towards climate resilient development increase when key governance actors work together in inclusive and constructive ways to create a set of appropriate enabling conditions. These enabling conditions include effective governance and information flow, policy frameworks that incentivize sustainability solutions; adequate financing for adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development; institutional capacity; science, technology and innovation; monitoring and evaluation of climate resilient development policies, programs, and practices; and international cooperation.”

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 16 – Emergency services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>notably by preventing climate change and the risk of war in Australian territory);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> actions taken during the year that have increased the risk of natural and other national disasters; and whether Australia has therefore moved towards or away from fulfilment of the “2030 Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia” as expressed in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2018¹⁸. <p>The intent of the Statement is to increase the ability of Australians to hold governments to account for decisions which expose Australia to avoidable risk and to provide early warning of the nature of major risks requiring management.</p> <p>National Community Council for Risk</p>	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>	<p>The effect is that the framework is likely to be ineffective in preventing disasters.</p> <p>Source: Commonwealth of Australia, National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, 2018.</p>	<p>an institutional transformation.</p> <p></p>
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>		

¹⁸ The [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) includes a “2030 Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia: In Australia, we are enabled and supported to actively reduce disaster risk and limit the impacts of disasters on communities and economies. All sectors of society understand and respond to social, environmental, technological and demographic changes which have the potential to prevent, create or exacerbate disaster risks. All sectors of society make disaster risk-informed decisions, are accountable for reducing risks within their control, and invest in reducing disaster risk in order to limit the cost of disasters when they occur.”

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Society

Society 16 – Emergency services

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Reduction Review Soc16.02.01 Within the legislation proposed for the Statements of Adherence to and Performance on the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, under Soc16.02, make all necessary provisions to establish a National Community Council for Risk Reduction Review and charge the Council with responsibility for steering consultation with Australians enabling the production of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an independent response to the Statements, • annual audits of compliance with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework itself and • annual reports on the perceived risks identified by Australians that pose the greatest threats to national wellbeing and security and therefore require priority for solutions. 			

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Chapter 8 – National Wellbeing Index – Baseline & Update Data for Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment			
Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Reformation of Australia's negotiating stance and conduct in Paris Agreement negotiations – Commitment to emitting no more than a fair share of a global carbon budget Env01.01 By the 2021 COP26 meeting in Glasgow (or as soon as possible thereafter), recognising that:</p> <p>a) Australia has everything to lose (economically and in all other respects) by failing to support the UNFCCC negotiations to cap heating at 1.5° Celsius, and can gain more than any other nation by ensuring heating does not rise above that temperature, and that</p> <p>b) it is not possible to keep global heating below 1.5° Celsius without adoption of a global carbon budget and an agreement by all nations to emit no more than their fair shares of that budget, attend the COP26 meeting offering a new</p>	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	<p>In 2021, Australia's stance and conduct in relation to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was to negotiate on the basis of offering percentage reductions in carbon emissions compared to a baseline year. In mid 2021, the reduction on offer from Australia was 26%-28% on 2005 emissions by 2030 and there was no commitment to meet net zero by 2050 or any other date. The percentage reductions on offer from Australia were not only among the weakest of any nation, they were also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. embedding a global negotiation framework that will be wholly insufficient to ensure that temperatures can be capped at 1.5° Celsius; and 2. entirely at odds with the economic interests of Australia. <p>In 2019, the economic loss to Australia as a result of global</p> <p>As at the end of 2021, Australia had adopted a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 but had made no further offer to lift targets for 2030 beyond the pledge made in 2016 to reduce emissions by 26%-28% compared to 2005 levels. Australia foreshadowed a potential emissions reduction of up to 35% by 2030. However, no credible modelling with a transparent foundation was supplied to underpin claims that either the 2030 or 2050 targets would be reached. No reform of the approach to Paris Agreement negotiations can be seen, meaning the expected result as at 2022 is that temperatures will rise by significantly more than the 1.5°C agreed to by Australia under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend and performance is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	
	Env 7	Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.	
	Env 8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env 10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env 11	A replanted and reforested land.	
	Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env 15	A marine wildlife haven.	
	Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>basis for the framework negotiations as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That negotiations within the Framework should be shifted away from pledges to reduce emissions by self-nominated percentages – i.e., that approach should be abandoned. That a new negotiation within the framework should be established to meet the temperature objectives based on pledges to stay permanently within total tonnage limits for emissions – such tonnage limits per country to be determined by the following formula: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a pre-determined budget of total global emissions necessary to ensure a near 100% probability of staying below 1.5°C 	Soc 6 A society of equals.	<p>temperature rises of more than 1.5° Celsius was estimated by Melbourne University's Sustainable Society Institute²² as a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$584.5 billion by 2030, \$762 billion by 2050, and more than \$5 trillion in cumulative damages from now until 2100, <p>whereas the cost to meet the temperature targets would be a mere \$35.5 billion.</p> <p>In 2021, it was acknowledged that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is a road to self-defeat to stick to a negotiating stance that is based on a political and unethical notion that there is no point in Australia doing more to reduce emissions unless the rest of the world does more, and that Australia is “more vulnerable than any other 	
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.		

²² University of Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, “Australia’s Clean Economy Future: Costs and Benefits”, June 2019, page 3: “The potential damages from climate change to Australia at current global emissions patterns are quantified as: • \$584.5 billion in 2030 • \$762 billion in 2050 • more than \$5 trillion in cumulative damages from now until 2100. These costs are conservative – they exclude the bulk of costs of floods and bush fires, pollution, damage to environmental assets and biodiversity losses. Conversely, the national costs of effective emissions reduction – based on a carbon price or renewables target – are estimated at \$35.5 billion from 2019 to 2030, or 0.14% of cumulative GDP; a negligible impact. Overall, the costs of emissions reduction are far less than the damages of inaction – even with modelling underestimating damages from climate change and overestimating the costs of emissions reduction.”

https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/3087786/Australias_Clean_Economy_MSSI_Issues_Paper12.pdf

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>ii. (probably no more than 235 billion tonnes between 2020 and whenever net zero is reached by all countries), <i>multiplied by the percentage of the total load of global carbon emitted by each country to the atmosphere in 2019.</i> (In Australia's case this would be roughly equivalent to $235BT \times 1.5\% = a$ final carbon budget of approx. 3.5BT.²¹)</p> <p>3. That Australia should advocate for this new framework based on its advantages in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the certainty it provides for every country, the flexibility it provides in the dates by which each country may meet the net zero target (understanding that in this system it doesn't matter when a country meets net zero as long as they 	<p>Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.</p>	<p>developed country" to economic losses from climate change but has "more to gain than any other country from the world moving early to zero net emissions necessary for cessation of warming, and from full participation in the global transition to zero emissions".</p> <p>Sources: University of Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, "Australia's Clean Economy Future: Costs and Benefits"; ACFP, Dr Bronwyn Kelly, "By 2050" and "The State of Australia in 2020"; and Professor Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession, 2021.</p>	
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		

²¹ For supporting information on this formula for determination of fair and equitable shares of the world's remaining carbon budget see Episode 6 Part of ACFP's seven part videocast series on The State of Australia in 2020 on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rD6M2qh-CY>



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>meet it before they consume their share of the global carbon budget), and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the opportunities it opens up to poorer developing countries to submit sound proposals for assistance from a fund that may be established by wealthy developed countries as per Gov13.02 in meeting carbon budgets. 			
<p>Climate change performance – action, international cooperation and policy Env01.02</p> <p>By 2030, attain an overall rating of “very high” in the Climate Change Performance Index.</p>	<p>Env 1</p> <p>A leading global advocate for action on climate change.</p>	<p>In 2021, Australia ranked 54th out of 61 countries in the independent international Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) with rankings in four main indicators as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – 44th place In implementing renewable energy – 52nd place In reducing energy use – 51st place In climate policy – 60th (second last) <p>No country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall</p>	<p>In 2022, Australia slipped to 58th place out of 64 countries in the independent international Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) with rankings in four main indicators as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – slipped to 56th place In implementing renewable energy – stable at 52nd place In reducing energy use – slipped to 54th place In climate policy – slipped to 64th place (last).
	<p>Env 2</p> <p>A net zero emissions nation.</p>		
	<p>Env 4</p> <p>A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.</p>		
	<p>Env 6</p> <p>A renewable energy superpower.</p>		
	<p>Env 7</p> <p>Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.</p>		
	<p>Env 8</p> <p>Environmentally and economically sustainable in</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	agriculture and fisheries.	“very high” rating in the index. Source: Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021	 The longer term trend is negative. 
Env 10	A biodiversity haven.		
Env 11	A replanted and reforested land.		
Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.		
Env 15	A marine wildlife haven.		
Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
Soc 1	A safe home.		
Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
Soc 6	A society of equals.		
Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
Econ 9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		
Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 1 – Environmental advocacy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment			
Environment 2 – Climate change prevention			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Carbon emissions reduction</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Achievement of net zero carbon emissions within a carbon budget that will maximise chances of limiting global heating to 1.5° Celsius</p> <p>Env02.01 By 2022, adopt a maximum carbon emissions budget for total emissions from domestic sources of 3.53 billion tonnes and acknowledge that emissions beyond this budget will result in Australia disproportionately contributing to heating of the earth by more than 1.5° Celsius above pre-Industrial levels and consequent unaffordable economic loss for Australia.</p> <p>Emissions reduction target for 2030 Env02.01.01 By 2022, adopt a carbon emissions reduction interim target of 79% reduction by 2030 on annual emissions in 2019 (Australia's domestic emissions in 2019 were 532 million tonnes), to be achieved by annual tonnage emission load reductions of at least 55 million tonnes, year-on-</p>	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	<p>As at March 2022, Australia still had no carbon emissions budget – a necessity if we are to meet the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>In 2021, Australia adopted a target date of 2050 for achievement of net zero but did not adopt a trajectory of emissions reduction (in either percentage or tonnage terms) capable of meeting that target.</p> <p>←</p> <p>In 2020, Australia's domestic emissions (excluding exports) were 510 MT of CO₂-e. In 2021, this declined to 499Mt, due to the impact of Covid-19. Should this trajectory continue to 2030, Australia will meet its 2030 target of 26%-28% below 2005 levels but temperatures will still rise by more than 1.5°C. This trajectory locks in failure on temperature targets of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>←</p>
	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	
	Env 7	Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.	
	Env 8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env 9	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	
	Env 10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env 11	A replanted and reforested land.	
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env 15	A marine wildlife haven.	
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
year, in order to avoid exceeding the 3.53 billion tonne emissions budget. Achievement of net zero emissions by 2033 within the carbon budget Env02.01.02 By 2033, achieve net zero CO ₂ -e emissions to ensure the adopted carbon budget (3.53 billion tonnes) is not exceeded.	Econ	2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ	3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ	4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Soc	1 A safe home.		
Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies Env02.02 Fossil fuel subsidies are wound back to zero by 2025.	Env	2 A net zero emissions nation.	In 2019, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated Australia’s subsidies to the fossil fuel industry was AU\$42 billion in the 2015 year or approximately 2.3% of GDP. This equated to AU\$1,700 per capita approximately. Source: International Monetary Fund	No further data update from the IMF is available. However, in 2021, using different methodologies to that used by the IMF for calculating the extent of the fossil fuel subsidy in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">the Australia Institute estimated that in 2020/21 the federal and state governments provided a total of \$10.3 billion worth of spending and tax breaks to assist fossil fuel industries; andMarket Forces estimated that in 2020/21 a total of \$11.9 billion was provided by federal taxation
	Env	1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env	4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env	6 A renewable energy superpower.	In 2021, the Australia Institute survey, “Climate of the Nation” found that: “23% of Australians support the current level of fossil fuel industry subsidisation, compared to 57% that oppose it.” Source: Australia Institute Climate of the Nation Survey 2021	
	Env	12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Econ	1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ	2 A model of employment planning & justice in		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	industry transition.		<p>funding to subsidise fossil fuels, although this does not include state-level subsidies, direct government handouts to coal, oil and gas projects, or public financing of international projects through export credit agencies or international financial institutions.</p> <p>Source: Australia Institute, Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Australia, April 2021 and Market Forces, How Your Tax Dollars Subsidise Fossil Fuels webpage, 2021</p> <p>Methods for calculating the fossil subsidy differ but none are invalid based on what they measure. What is certain is that the fossil fuel subsidy in Australia is contributing materially to climate change. As at 2021, there are no signs that the subsidy will be stopped, despite the resistance to continuation of the subsidy by the majority of Australians.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Cessation of new coal, gas and oil investments – legislative program Env02.03</p> <p>By 2022, legislate to help ensure carbon emissions reduction targets of net zero are met by 2033 as per Env02.01 by prohibiting approval of any and every new coal, oil and gas energy project (including mining, exploration for new fields, power generation and export).</p>	<p>Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.</p>	<p>In 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that fossil fuel expansion must end now if the planet is to address the climate crisis and specifically stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The path to net-zero emissions is narrow: staying on it requires immediate and massive deployment of all available clean and efficient energy technologies.” • “There is no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply in our net zero Pathway. Beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required.” • “In the net-zero emissions pathway presented in this report, the world economy in 2030 is some 40% larger than today but uses 7% less energy.” <p>In 2020, the Australia Institute survey, “Climate of the</p>	<p>In 2021, federal and state governments were still approving new coal mines. In October 2021 alone, the federal government approved three new coals mines and no government had made a commitment to phasing out coal, oil or gas extraction. In 2021, the Australia Institute survey, “Climate of the Nation” found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “66% of Australians think the Australian government should stop new coal mines”, and • “60% of Australians support Australia following the IEA pathway and not approving new gas, coal or oil projects”. <p>Source: Australia Institute, Climate of the Nation 2021</p> <p>Government approvals of new coal mines run contrary to the repeated wishes of the majority of Australians.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.</p>		
	<p>Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.</p>		
	<p>Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.</p>		
	<p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>		
	<p>Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		Nation” found that “65% of Australians think the Australian government should stop new coal mines.” Sources: International Energy Agency, Net Zero by 2050 – A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector 2021, Australia Institute, Climate of the Nation 2020	
<p>Phase out of existing investments in coal, oil and gas – legislative program Env02.04</p> <p>By 2023, consistent with carbon emissions reduction targets of net zero by 2033 as per Env02.01, legislate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> phase out all existing coal operations (mining, power generation and export) completely by 2030; reduce gas production to a maximum of the levels required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian grid security (after all other accessible supplies of renewable energy have been utilised) as determined by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in their Integrated Systems Plans as amended from time to time, and for 	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.	<p>In 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that in order to reach net zero global carbon emissions by 2050, consistent with the Paris Agreement, existing unabated fossil fuel production would need to be phased out in developed countries by 2030 and in all countries by 2040. However, this modelling assumed a range of other actions vital to achieving carbon neutrality would be implemented in parallel, including Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage.</p> <p>Given that CCUS is not viable for purposes of abatement of fossil fuels, it cannot be relied on for planning purposes. Moreover, strategies which seek to achieve net zero by 2050 are highly unreliable in capping global heating to 1.5° Celsius.</p> <p>Noting the IEA Report and the AEMO’s ISP</p>	<p>In 2021, the federal government released its “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way”. The “Plan” included no proposals to phase out coal, oil or gas as sources of energy and made no statement on phasing out combustion vehicles. Instead it proposed to rely on technology developments for abating emissions and on buying (rather than producing) carbon offsets. No data were provided to verify the emissions reductions purported to arise from the plan. In stating that: “Our plan ... will not shut down coal or gas production, or require displacement of productive agricultural land”, the “Plan” runs directly contrary to IEA conclusions that no further fossil fuel projects are needed or can be permitted if the world is to achieve net zero. It also runs contrary to both AEMO’s 2020 Integrated System Plan</p>
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 3 A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.		
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 2 – Climate change prevention

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ supply of domestic non-industrial customers; and ● prohibit sales of new internal combustion engine cars by 2024 and heavy vehicles by 2026. 	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	2020 (see Env06.02) it is apparent that in 2021, global energy policy and planning agencies were developing plans to phase out coal, gas, and oil before world emissions exceed limits required to keep temperature increases below 1.5° or 2° Celsius.	for the energy market and their 2022 draft ISP. In 2021, the Australia Institute survey, “Climate of the Nation” found that “82% of Australians support a phase-out of coal-fired power stations.” Source: Australia Institute, Climate of the Nation 2021
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	In 2020, the Australia Institute survey, “Climate of the Nation” found that “83% of Australians support a phase-out of coal-fired power stations.” Sources: International Energy Agency, Net Zero by 2050 – A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector 2021 and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Integrated System Plan 2020, Australia Institute, Climate of the Nation 2020	If implemented, the federal government’s “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way” will result in total failure on temperature targets in the Paris Agreement. ←
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		← The longer term trend has been negative.

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 3 – Climate change adaptation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment			
Environment 3 – Climate change adaptation			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: National Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Env03.01</p> <p>By 2022 – recognising that necessity for a detailed risk assessment of potential impacts of climate change on Australia and the need for a fully detailed, costed and funded national prevention, mitigation and adaptation plan, complete with regulatory enforcement protocols – legislate to establish an independent National Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation and Adaptation Commission responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of comprehensive risk assessments for climate change; development of national climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation plans that align with targets for temperature caps and emissions 	Env 3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	<p>In 2015, the Australian government adopted a “National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy”. However, beyond some guiding principles and some statements about actions being taken in some locations, the Strategy was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unsupported through funding, lacked targets, and imposed no obligations for or incentives to compliance. <p>Nor was the Strategy integrated with any other strategy for dealing with either the key causes or adverse socioeconomic effects of climate change. The high level “strategies” laid out have not been implemented and no reports on success or failure in implementation appear to have been published.</p> <p>In 2021, the federal government announced consultation on a new strategy but provided no draft for comment, stating merely that “The new strategy will provide a roadmap towards a climate resilient Australia.” No assurances of a legislated framework for risk assessment and</p>
	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	
	Env 7	Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.	
	Env 8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env 9	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	
	Env 10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env 11	A replanted and reforested land.	
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env 15	A marine wildlife haven.	
	Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
			<p>In 2021, the federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment released a new “National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025”, updating the 2015 Strategy. The new Strategy referenced some funding for droughts and a reinsurance pool for damage but otherwise added nothing to achievement of resilience.</p> <p>In 2022 there are still no national plans for preventing or mitigating climate change and the revised “National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025” included no measures to make adaptation easier and less costly by preventing climate change in the first place.</p> <p>The new Strategy contributes nothing new to national resilience in the face of climate change and charts no clear path to security for Australians against the impacts of climate change. Worse than that, because it includes no actions whatsoever to mitigate</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 3 – Climate change adaptation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>reductions as per Env01.01 and Env02.01;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> integration of such plans with other related plans and strategies for managing climate change and its impacts; and reports to Parliament on progress against those plans; and ensure alignment of any plans for climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation with the objectives of all other related strategies in this plan including, in particular, Soc16.01, Soc16.02 and Soc 16.02.01. 	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	<p>management were provided.</p> <p>In 2020, the Member for Warringah proposed a Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill in the federal parliament. The Bill was not debated.</p> <p>In 2021, there were no national plans for preventing or mitigating climate change.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy; Parliament of Australia, Climate Change Bill 2020</p>	<p>or prevent climate change it proactively sets up Australians and the insurance industry to incur massive financial losses, and then uses taxpayer funding, not to protect Australians but to bail out private insurers (by reinsuring them) for losses that should be prevented rather than courted. The Strategy increases the chances and magnitude of future loss by insurers but promises that taxpayers will cover their loss. It's a strategy to ensure private financiers will make money out of the misery of Australians.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 4 – Environmental regulation & approvals

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
Environment 4 – Environmental regulation & approvals		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env01.01 Env01.02 Env02.01 Env02.02 Env02.03 Env02.04 Env06.01 Env06.01.01 Env06.01.02 Env06.01.03 Env06.01.04 Env06.01.05 Env06.02 Env06.03 Env11.01 Env14.01 Econ01.07 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ02.05 Econ02.05.01 Econ05.02 Econ05.03 Gov05.05 Gov09.04 Gov13.02</p>	<p>Env 4</p> <p>A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 5 – Environmental education

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
Environment 5 – Environmental education		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>Education for sustainable development Env05.01 Consistent with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”</p> <p>No specific Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are currently incorporated into the plan under: Soc16.01 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Gov10.02 Gov10.02.01 Gov10.02.02</p>	<p>Env 5 An environmentally educated community.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>
	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>	



Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment			
Environment 6 – Energy			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Renewable energy – electricity Env06.01 100% of electricity comes from renewable sources by no later than 2030 and no later than 2025 if other sectors do not reach emissions reduction targets.</p> <p>Renewable energy – vehicles Env06.01.01 100% of vehicles are powered by electricity from renewable sources by no later than 2028. (This target is set to incentivise and accelerate delivery of new infrastructure for affordable power supply to vehicles.)</p> <p>Renewable energy – road transport systems, services and fleets Env06.01.02 100% of road transport systems, services and fleets is powered by electricity from renewable sources by no later than 2026 (This target is set to stimulate creation of an affordable second-hand electric vehicle market.)</p>	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.	<p>In 2019, the renewable energy power percentage (RPP) was 18.60%.</p> <p>In 2021, the renewable energy power percentage (RPP) fell slightly to 18.54%.</p> <p>In 2020, 27.7% of Australia's electricity generation came from renewable sources.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator and the Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2021</p>	<p>The longer term trend for electricity generated from renewable sources is positive, although it has flattened out since the Renewable Energy Target was reached in 2019 and was not extended.</p> <p>➔</p> <p>Is Australia on track to meet the target of “100% of electricity comes from renewable sources by no later than 2030”?</p> <p>It is too early to say, but Australia, through the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), has a very capable independent planner for the National Energy Market. AEMO produces Integrated Systems Plans (ISPs) with 30-year horizons every two years for the National Electricity Market. These ISPs present “optimal development paths” – coordinated generation and transmission investment plans to transition the power system. They position Australia to follow the most efficient development path for the NEM. In the 2022 draft ISP, the preferred</p>
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 3 A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.		
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity,		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Renewable energy – manufacturing and agriculture Env06.01.03 100% of manufacturing and agriculture is powered by electricity from renewable sources by no later than 2028.	growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all. Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		Step Change Path phases out coal power by about 2041 and reduces gas as a source of electricity generation to about 15% by 2050 (9GW out of about 61GW), noting however that: “over time, [gas] emissions will need to be offset, or natural gas will need to be replaced by net-zero carbon fuels such as green hydrogen or biogas”. As such, Australia is not yet on track to meet the target of “100% of electricity comes from renewable sources by no later than 2030”, but there is planning capacity that is up to the challenge. 
Renewable energy – industry and construction Env06.01.04 By 2030, 100% of industry including mining, metals processing, heavy equipment construction, building, and chemicals production is powered solely by energy from genuine renewable sources produced with the highest level of efficiency unless genuine offsets are certified by the Australian Clean Energy Regulator as available and unavoidable.	Soc 1 A safe home.		No data have been analysed on trends renewable energy use in vehicles, road transport systems, service and fleets, manufacturing, agriculture, industry, construction or air and sea transport. 
Renewable energy – air and sea transport Env06.01.05 TBA.			
Top Priority Target/Strategy: National Electricity Market system investment and security Env06.02	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower. Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	In 2020, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) released an Integrated System Plan for the National Electricity Market which set out a	No progress has been made on the establishment of a publicly owned Australian Renewable Electricity Investment & Security Corporation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>By 2023, recognising that consumer-led and technology-led transitions in energy use and supply will occur in the midst of aggressive global decarbonisation, and that necessary investment in transmission is beyond the appetite and capability of the private sector, establish a fully government-owned corporate Commonwealth entity, the Australian Renewable Electricity Investment & Security Corporation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rebuild and modernise the electricity grid, establish renewable energy zone infrastructure as set out in the AEMO Integrated System Plan 2020 (as revised from time to time), make arrangements as needed with private sector contractors for delivery of infrastructure works, and borrow and invest for purposes of electricity security and for purposes of ensuring all net 	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	<p>necessary to ensure that taxpayers share fully in the benefits of investment in the National Electricity Market.</p> <p></p> <p>However, in 2021, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) released a new draft ISP, updating the 2020 ISP. This new plan foreshadowed the volume of development required in energy generation and transmission for the National Electricity Market, building on the 2020 ISP Step Change Program. The proposed transmission investment brings major benefits, with AEMO estimating a net market benefit of \$29 billion and returning 2.5 times its investment value. Source: Draft 2022 Integrated System Plan December 2021 for the National Electricity Market.</p> <p>The longer term has been trending towards the positive.</p> <p></p>
	Env 3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
returns to the public.	sector participation.		
	Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
Top Priority Target/Strategy: Reintroduction of a National Renewable Energy Target Env06.03 By 2023, recognising that job growth in fossil fuels is set to decline and that job growth in renewable energy requires policy settings that signal a future for renewables, legislate to renew the Renewable Energy Target (RET), setting it at a minimum of 100% for the nation by 2030, and support the new RET by re-introducing a price on carbon as per Econ01.08 .	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.	In 2001, Australia introduced a mandatory Renewable Energy Target (RET). The Target provided a financial incentive to encourage the additional generation of electricity from sustainable and renewable sources. In 2010, the mandatory RET was increased to 41,000 gigawatt-hours of renewable generation from power stations. This was subsequently reduced to 33,000 gigawatt-hours by the Abbott Government. In 2012, the RET and other policies incentivising renewables were supplemented by a carbon price and a	In 2021, the federal government had not extended the Renewable Energy Target beyond the 33,000 gigawatt hours reached in 2019. State governments had introduced various targets, with some already reaching 100% renewables for electricity but others not planning to reach the target of 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2030. No proposals by any major party were announced for reintroduction of a price on carbon.
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 3 A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.		
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline	
	Env	14	A pollution free biosphere.	\$10 billion-dollar fund to finance renewable energy projects. These initiatives were later withdrawn by the Abbott Federal Government. In 2019, Australia met its 2020 renewable energy target of 23.5% and 33,000 gigawatt-hours. The target was not renewed, which resulted in retailers withdrawing from the renewable energy market. In 2020, the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney and the Clean Energy Council demonstrated that if policies are set to signal a future for renewables, the renewable energy industry could create 20,000 extra jobs in five years, increasing the total jobs from 25,000 to 45,000. But if no additional policies are provided to incentivise investment in renewables – either by large scale generators or households and businesses – then jobs will drop by 11,000, down to 14,000 by 2022. As at 2021, several states and territories had set their own	In summary, policies to support achievement of 100% renewable energy by 2030 were not in place in 2022. The longer term trend has been negative. ←
	Env	16	Regenerative by design in consumption & production.		
	Env	19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Soc	1	A safe home.		
	Soc	4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc	16	A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.		
	Econ	1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ	2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ	5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ	7	A collaborative intelligent nation.		
	Econ	9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		
	Gov	6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov	9	A nation outlawing		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 6 – Energy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	renewable energy targets. ²³ Source: Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2021; Wikipedia, Renewable energy in Australia webpage; and UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures, Renewable Energy Jobs in Australia, Stage One, June 2020.	
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

²³ Clean Energy Council, “Clean Energy Australia Report 2021”, <https://assets.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/documents/resources/reports/clean-energy-australia/clean-energy-australia-report-2021.pdf>. As at 2021:

- Tasmania: was the first Australian state to source 100 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources and set a 200 per cent renewable energy target by 2040.
- ACT: reached 100% renewable energy in 2019.
- South Australia: was expected to reach its 100% renewable energy target by 2025 and set a plan for renewable energy to account for more than 500 per cent of the state’s electricity demand.
- Northern Territory: had a target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030.
- Queensland: had a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.
- Victoria: announced a renewable energy auction to procure 600 MW of new solar and wind energy and committed \$540 million to establish six renewable energy zones.
- Western Australia: had no target but expected Renewables expected to account for 70 per cent of generation by 2040.
- New South Wales: had no target but their Energy Infrastructure Roadmap to deliver 12 GW of new transmission capacity will increase NSW's renewable energy penetration to over 60 per cent by 2030.

Environment 7 – Transport

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment</i>		
<i>Environment 7 – Transport</i>		
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env02.04 Env14.01 Env 01.01 Env 01.02 Env 02.01 Env 02.04 Env 03.01 Env06.01.01 Env06.01.02 Env 06.03 Econ01.08 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ04.02.03</p>	<p>Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 8 – Agriculture & fisheries

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
<i>Environment 8 – Agriculture & fisheries</i>		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env 01.01 Env 01.02 Env 02.01 Env02.01.02 Env 02.04 Env 03.01 Env06.01.03 Env 06.03 Env10.01 Env10.02 Env11.01 Econ01.07 Econ01.08 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ02.05 Econ04.02.03</p>	<p>Env 8</p> <p>Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries and fisheries.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 9 – Fresh water supply



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
Environment 9 – Fresh water supply		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env02.01 Env03.01 Env11.01 Econ01.07 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ04.02.03</p>	<p>Env 9 Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 10 – Biodiversity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 10 – Biodiversity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Fauna conservation and extinction prevention Env10.01 No fauna extinctions based on 2019 levels.	Env 10 A biodiversity haven.	In 2019, 463 species of fauna were listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. A total of 54 fauna species were listed as extinct. Source: Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment, EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna In 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reported that there were 1,049 threatened fauna species in Australia comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals = 69 • Birds = 52 • Reptiles = 76 • Amphibia = 46 • Fishes = 213 • Molluscs = 182 • Other invertebrates = 419 Source: IUCN Red List, Table 5, Threatened species in each major group by country, as at end 2021.	In 2021, 478 species of fauna were listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. A total of 67 fauna species were listed as extinct. Source: Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment, EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna  No update available on IUCN data. However, the longer term trend has been negative. 
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 13 A provider of accessible national & urban parkland.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
Flora conservation and extinction prevention Env10.02 No flora extinctions based on 2019 levels.	Env 10 A biodiversity haven.	In 2019, 1,336 species of flora were listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. A total of 37 flora species were listed as extinct. Source: Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment, EPBC Act List of Threatened Flora	In 2021, 1,362 species of flora were listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. A total of 37 flora species were listed as extinct. Source: Australian Government Department of
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 13 A provider of accessible		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 10 – Biodiversity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	national & urban parkland.	In 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reported that there were 779 threatened flora species in Australia comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants = 766 Fungi = 13 Source: IUCN Red List, Table 5, Threatened species in each major group by country, as at end 2021.	Agriculture, Water & the Environment, EPBC Act List of Threatened Flora
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		←
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		No update available on IUCN data. However, the longer term trend has been negative.
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		←

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 11 – Vegetation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment				
Environment 11 – Vegetation				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Forests and environmental plantings</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Legislated program to increase GDP and returns to landholders and mitigate climate change by increasing native forestry cover and restoring degraded ecosystems Env11.01</p> <p>By 2022, prohibit, by legislation, net losses of forest cover on a state by state (and territory) basis.</p> <p>By 2023, preferably in parallel with legislation to establish a Carbon in the Land and Sea Finance and Trading Corporation under Econ01.07, adopt by legislation a goal of increasing forest cover and environmental plantings sufficient to sequester a minimum of 260MtCO₂-e by 2033 (allowing Australia notionally to reach net zero emissions in that year). By 2025, revise and adjust forest cover and environmental plantings targets upwards to any extent necessary to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2033.</p>	Env	11	A replanted and reforested land.	<p>In 2011, 16.22% of Australia's total land area was covered by forest.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government, data.gov.au beta, Forest area as a proportion of total land area</p> <p>In 2019, the authors of the Australian National Outlook (National Australia Bank and the CSIRO) reported that, "Under the Outlook Vision, an optimal mix of carbon and environmental plantings could sequester as much as 260 MtCO₂-e in 2050, allowing Australia to reach zero net emissions in that year. With more effective global action on climate change, plantings could sequester between 400 and 700 MtCO₂ e by 2060, with approximately half that sequestration being sold to other countries." The need to reach net zero by 2033 requires acceleration of this suggested program to be consistent with Env02.01.</p> <p>Source: NAB & CSIRO, Australian National Outlook, 2019.</p> <p>No further data have been provided on total land area in Australia covered by forest.</p> <p></p> <p>However, data on hectares cleared since colonisation has been provided in the State of the Environment Report 2016: "Approximately 44 per cent of Australian forests and woodlands have been cleared since European settlement; 39 per cent was cleared before 1972." Between 1972 and 2014, a further 16,689,722 million hectares were deforested. The trend of deforestation is declining, mainly due to there being few forests left to cut down. Queensland, the worst state by far in deforestation is still increasing stripping of forested land at an alarming rate: between 1972 and 2014 Queensland deforested 9,705,112 million hectares. In the 2018/19 year alone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 680,688 hectares (ha) of woody vegetation were affected by clearing activity in
	Env	1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env	2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env	3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	
	Env	4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env	8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env	9	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	
	Env	10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env	12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env	14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env	19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Soc	4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
	Econ	1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ	3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 11 – Vegetation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>By 2025, report on the feasibility of increasing forest and plantings cover beyond that necessary to achieve net zero emissions by 2033 such that surplus credits can be sold to other countries.</p> <p>* Consistent with UN Sustainable Development Goal 15: “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, especially Target 15.2: “By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.”</p>	continuously for all.		Queensland (about 0.7% of the state’s woody vegetation);
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 559,844ha (82% of all clearing activity) resulted in full removal of the woody vegetation. The remainder was partially cleared.
	Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		<p>At the start of the 2018–19 monitoring period, Queensland had 96,575,925ha of woody vegetation. With 559,844ha of woody vegetation converted to non-woody through full removal of the woody vegetation, there was a balance of 96,016,081ha of woody vegetation at the end of the monitoring period.</p> <p>Sources: 2016 SoE Land Amount of deforestation by type and decade 1972-2014 excludes ACT; Queensland Government, Statewide Landcover and Trees Strategy (SLATS) Report 2018/19.</p> <p>←</p> <p>No progress has been made on legislation prohibiting deforestation or on the establishment of a publicly owned Carbon in the Land and Sea Trading Corporation.</p> <p>←</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 12 – Land & resource conservation

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment</i>		
<i>Environment 12 – Land & resource conservation</i>		
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env02.01 Env02.01.01 Env02.02 Env03.01 Env06.01 Env06.01.01 Env06.01.02 Env06.01.03 Env06.01.04 Env06.02 Env06.03 Env10.01 Env10.02 Env11.01 Econ01.06 Econ01.07 Econ01.08 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ02.04.01 Econ02.05 Econ02.05.01 Econ04.02.03 Econ04.05</p>	<p>Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>



Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 13 – Parks & open space

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
Environment 13 – Parks & open space		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Env10.01 Env10.02 Env14.01 Econ04.02.03</p>	<p>Env 13 A provider of accessible national & urban parkland.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 14 – Air & water quality

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment			
Environment 14 – Air & water quality			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Air quality Env14.01 The 24-hour average concentration of PM2.5 (tiny air pollutant particles causing lung damage) in the atmosphere does not deteriorate in capital cities compared to levels reported in the State of the Environment Report 2016.	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.	In 2016, air quality based on the relevant concentrations for 2009 to 2014 were reported as: Adelaide: Very good – 71%, poor – <1%. Brisbane: Very good – 91%, poor – <1%. Canberra: Very good – 77%, poor – <1%. Darwin: Very good – 58%, poor – <1%. Hobart: Very good – 78%, poor – <1%. Melbourne: Very good – 69%, poor – <1%. Perth: Very good – 68%, poor – <1%. Sydney: Very good – 64%, poor – <1%. Source: Australian Government, State of the Environment Report 2016	No data update will be available until a new State of the Environment Report is released. This report is set to occur every five years.  No historical data analysed. 
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 3 A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.		
	Env 13 A provider of accessible national & urban parkland.		
	Env 18 Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education and recreation		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 14 – Air & water quality

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
Water quality – potable supplies Env14.02 Water quality - potable supplies. TBA	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.	No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction.
Water quality – rivers and streams Env14.03 Water quality – rivers and streams. TBA	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.	No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction.
Water quality – marine Env14.04 Water quality - marine. TBA. No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established marine water quality. However, since much of the problem for marine water quality occurs in Queensland, Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under: Env15.01	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere. Env 15 A marine wildlife haven.	No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 15 – Marine protection

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment				
Environment 15 – Marine protection				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Protection of the Great Barrier Reef – implementation of plans Env15.01 As a minimum, implement the Australian Government’s “Reef 2050: Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021–2025”.</p> <p>Protection of the Great Barrier Reef – prevention of threats from climate change Env15.01.01 Acknowledge the scientific advice on the most significant threats to the Reef and develop integrated plans to address these threats – the most significant being climate change.</p>	Env	15	A marine wildlife haven.	<p>In 2021, the federal and Queensland governments released an updated “Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021-2025”. The new plan included “objectives” for habitat, species health, Indigenous heritage and human dimensions. Indicators to help measure success were also drafted and released for consultation. The overarching objective was stated as “values and ecological processes in poor condition are restored and values and ecological processes in good condition are maintained”. Key strategies included strategies on climate change: “Australia contributes to an effective global response to climate change through the Paris Agreement, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” However, Australia has failed on this commitment and as such the Reef Plan is on track to fail on</p>
	Env	1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env	2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env	3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	
	Env	4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env	8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries and fisheries.	
	Env	10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env	14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env	19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Econ	1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
Soc	2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	<p>In 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the official advisor on nature to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, recommended adding the Great Barrier Reef to the List of World Heritage in Danger. With fierce lobbying, Australia resisted the inclusion of the Great Barrier Reef on the UNESCO Danger List. This lobbying achieved political objectives but increased the danger for the reef.</p> <p>Source: IUCN News webpage, 22 June 2021.</p> <p>In 2018 the federal and Queensland governments released the “Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan”. The plan included targets (“outcomes”) for ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, economic and community benefit and governance. The primary targets were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">For ecosystem health – The status and ecological functions of ecosystems within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 15 – Marine protection

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		<p>Area are in at least good condition with a stable to improving trend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For biodiversity – The Reef maintains its diversity of species and ecological habitats and these improve over each successive decade to 2050. For Heritage – Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage values are identified, protected, conserved and managed such that the heritage values maintain their significance for current and future generations. <p>Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, 2018</p>	<p>its main objectives of ensuring the health of the Reef.</p> <p>Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Reef 2050: Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021–2025</p> <p>←</p> <p>Despite the failure on climate change, some of the other strategies in Reef 2050 are being implemented. These will reduce impacts but not save the Reef as such.</p> <p>Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Reef 2050 Plan Key Achievements</p> <p>←</p> <p>In February 2022, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a damning report on the effect of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is in danger of extinction.²⁴</p> <p>←</p>

²⁴ IPCC, [Climate Change 2022, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), Chapter 11 – Great Barrier Reef in Crisis, February 2022: The GBR is already severely impacted by climate change, particularly ocean warming, through more 7 frequent and severe coral bleaching (Hughes et al., 2018b; Hughes et al., 2019c) (very high confidence). The 8 worst coral bleaching event on record affected over 90% of reefs in 2016 (Hughes et al., 2018b). In the most 9 northern 700-km-long section of the GBR in which the heat exposure was the most extreme, 50% of the 10 coral cover on reef crests was lost within eight months (Hughes et al., 2018c). Throughout the entire GBR, 11 including the southern third where heat exposure was minimal, the cover of corals declined by 30% between 12 March and November 2016 (Hughes et al., 2018b). In 2017, the central third of the reef was the most 13 severely affected and the back-to-back regional-scale bleaching events has led to an unprecedented shift in 14 the composition of GBR coral assemblages, transforming the northern and middle sections of the reef system 15 (Hughes et al., 2018c) to a highly degraded state (very high confidence). Coral recruitment to the GBR in 16 2018 was reduced to only 11% of the long-term average (Hughes et al., 2019b). A mass bleaching event also 17 occurred in 2020, making it the third event in five years (BoM, 2020a) (Figure Boxes 11.2.1 and 11.2.2)

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment

Environment 15 – Marine protection

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		<p>In 2019, the “Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019” found that “the greatest threat to the Reef is still climate change. The other main threats are associated with coastal development, land-based run-off, and direct human use (such as illegal fishing)”.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019</p>	

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 16 – Waste reduction & recycling

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment		
Environment 16 – Waste reduction & recycling		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01</p>	<p>Env 16 Regenerative by design in consumption & production.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 17 – Architectural & cultural site heritage

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment</i>		
<i>Environment 17 – Architectural & cultural site heritage</i>		
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>
No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction.	Env 17 A conservator of cultural & built heritage.	No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction.

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 18 – Cities planning

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment</i>		
<i>Environment 18 – Cities planning</i>		
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>
No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction.	<div>Env 18</div> Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education and recreation.	No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction.

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Environment 19 – Regional planning



<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Environment</i>		
<i>Environment 19 – Regional planning</i>		
<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Soc02.13 Soc02.13.01 Env01.01 Env01.02 Env02.03 Env02.04 Env03.01 Env06.03 Env10.01 Env10.02 Env11.01 Env15.01 Econ01.07 Econ01.08 Econ01.09 Econ01.09.01 Econ02.04.01 Econ02.05 Econ02.05.01 Econ04.02.03 Econ04.05 Econ05.02 Econ05.03</p>	<p>Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available for this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Chapter 9 – National Wellbeing Index – Baseline & Update Data for Our Economy







Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
Growth measures/targets – Sustainability of growth and development Econ01.01 By 2030, attain a score of 85/100 on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Index.	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	No data update available.  Performance in future is unlikely to improve in particular due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's policies on climate change, which do not accord with the Paris Agreement and Australia's failure to develop a plan to implement the goals and a budget for delivery of the goals. With Australia's current policies and institutional arrangements, the chance that Australia will meet the UNSDGs by 2030, as agreed, is zero. 
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 11	A just participant on the global stage.	
	Gov 13	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.	
	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env 2 - 19	All remaining Directions for our Environment	
Growth measures/targets – Productivity Econ01.01.01 Percent annual increase in labour productivity (averaged over rolling 3-year periods) equals or exceeds the historical annual average of 1.6%.	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	Between 2012 and 2019, increases in labour productivity dropped steadily from 2.6% to -0.1%. Three year rolling averages were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To June 2019 = 0.3% To June 2020 = 0.5% To June 2021 = 0.9% Source: ABS 5204.0, Table 1 (original, Column M) In the recent short term, there has been a
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>slight improvement but nowhere near the target.</p>  <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> 
<p>Growth measures/targets – Private investment for economic growth Econ01.02</p> <p>Target range for private investment in new capital is between 1.3% and 2.2% per quarter.</p>	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>Between 2014 and 2019, private investment in new capital was negative, averaging -1.6% per quarter. Between 1996 and 2007, private new capital investment averaged 2.2% per quarter. During the GFC from 2008 to 2014, private new capital investment averaged 1.3% per quarter.</p> <p>Source: ABS, 5625.0 - Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure</p>	<p>From end June 2019 to end September 2021, growth in Private Capital Investment averaged 1.4% per quarter, an improvement on the period 2014 to 2019, although the turnaround is not strong enough to compensate for lost investment during since 2014 and the short term trend is still one of decline.</p> 
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4</p> <p>A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		<p>From end of June 2013 to end September 2021, growth in Private Capital Investment averaged -0.7% per quarter.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> 
<p>Growth measures/targets – GDP growth Econ01.03</p> <p>Growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) does not fall below 2.4% per annum measured</p>	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>Between 1972 and 2014, growth in GDP averaged 3.1% per annum. Between 2015 and 2019, growth in GDP averaged only 2.4% per annum.</p> <p>Source: ABS 5206.0, Table 1</p>	<p>For the 3-year period to 2021, growth in GDP averaged 1.2% per annum and the target range of GDP was not met.</p>  <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> 

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
over rolling 3-year periods. ²⁵			
<p>Growth measures/targets – GDP growth per capita</p> <p>Econ01.03.01</p> <p>Growth in GDP per capita returns to its pre GFC average of at least 2.2% over rolling 3-year periods.</p>	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>Between 1984 and 2008 (before the GFC) growth in GDP per capita averaged 2.2% per annum.</p> <p>Between 2009 and 2013 (post-GFC) growth in GDP per capita fell to an average of 0.9% per annum.</p> <p>Between 2014 and 2019, growth in GDP per capita averaged 0.9% per annum.</p> <p>Source: ABS 5204.0, Table 1 Column C</p>	<p>From end June 2019 to end June 2021, GDP per capita averaged - 0.3% per annum.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Government investment for sustainable economic growth</p> <p>Econ01.04</p> <p>By 2023, recognising that declines in government sector spending per capita lead to unnecessarily reduced economic growth in areas where sustainable growth is possible, reverse the reductions in government spending per capita</p>	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p> <p>Econ 2</p> <p>A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p> <p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve</p>	<p>Between 1992 and 2012, federal government spending per capita increased by an average of 2.6% per annum and Australia's economy grew by an average of 3.4% per annum.</p> <p>By contrast, between 2013 and 2018 federal government spending decreased annually by an average of 0.2% and Australia experienced markedly slower economic growth of 2.5% per annum on</p>	<p>In its 2020/21 budget, the federal government forecast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an average annual increase in spending per capita of 2.3% between 2019/20 and 2023/24 (obviously due to increased spending necessary for Covid-19); and then a fall to increases of 1% per capita

²⁵ **Rationale for the target selected for growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP).** Growth in GDP is used as the typical expression of performance in meeting the desire of Australians for a strong economy. However, GDP growth is not a useful measure of socioeconomic strength and, of itself, is not especially useful for long term planning purposes when the preferable and more practical objective is not primarily GDP growth *per se* but improved distribution of the benefits of sustainable growth – in other words, how is the growth generated and who is it for? Nor does growth in GDP shed light as a measure on the harm caused to achieve growth, harm which may exceed the benefits of the growth. While GDP growth may be highly desirable, there is more chance of achieving that growth if targets are established for policies and activities likely to stimulate fairer sharing of the benefits of growth (such as reduction in inequality, increases in private and public sector new capital investment, increases in public sector services, increases in labour productivity, and reductions in underemployment and duration of unemployment). Nevertheless, monitoring growth in GDP does provide a useful benchmark for measurement of the shares of that growth that are returned to the community in wages growth. Targets and Indicators in this and other chapters have been selected on the premise that policies which combat inequality and stimulate investment by both the public and private sector will provide the surest path to higher growth in GDP. For information on the rationale for this, see [By 2050: Planning a Better Future for Our Children in 21st century democratic Australia](#), Chapter 7.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
and establish, by legislation, a floor increase in government sector budgeted spending per capita of 4% per annum until such time as GDP growth rises once again above 3% per annum or full employment is reached (as per Econ02.02). Legislate to repeat the strategy whenever GDP drops below 2.4% and implement in tandem with policies listed under Econ04.02.01 .	continuously for all.	average and slowed to 1.7% in 2018/19. Source: Parliamentary Budget Office 2019/20 Medium Term Budget Report & ABS 5206.0	per annum between 2024/25 and 2030/31. Source: Parliamentary Budget Office 2020/21 Medium Term Budget Report
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		The federal budget maintains spending increases at levels well below that necessary to meet the target.
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		← The longer term trend has been negative. ←
Economic composition and transformations – Services sector expansion Econ01.05 Australia's services sector expands progressively particularly in health, welfare, and education.	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	In 2020, the health & education sector produced 13% of Australia's total output, making it the largest sector of the economy and the largest employer. Source: RBA, "Composition of the Australian Economy Snapshot March 2020"	In 2021, the health & education sector produced 14.8% of Australia's total output, maintaining it as the largest sector of the economy and the largest employer. Of those Australians who were employed in 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.4% were employed in health care and social assistance, and 8.4% were employed in education and training. Note for comparison, that in 2021, mining contributed 11.7% of total output but employed only 2.1% of employed Australians. Sources: ABS 5204.0, Table 5, Gross Value Added (GVA) by Industry and ABS 6291.0 Labour Force Australia, Table 04.
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			➡
<p>Economic composition and transformations - Replacement of fossil fuels exports with renewable energy and other minerals Econ01.06 By 2030, consistent with Strategies under Env06, establish Australia as a renewable energy superpower, with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exports in renewable energy replacing all fossil fuel exports and rare earth mining plus zero-emissions metals processing replacing export incomes from lost coal mining. 	<p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>In 2018/19, Australia exported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black coal = 11,131.3 petajoules – up 3.4% from the previous year; Liquified natural gas (LNG) = 4,093.9 petajoules, up 21.3% from the previous year; and Crude oil = 545.4 petajoules, up 13.1% from the previous year. <p>In the ten years to 2018/19, the average annual growth in exports of all fossil fuel types was 5.2%.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Australian Energy Update 2020, page 33</p>	<p>In 2019/20, Australia exported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black coal = 11,061.7 petajoules – down 0.6% from the previous year; Liquified natural gas (LNG) = 4,392.5 petajoules, up 6.4% from the previous year; and Crude oil = 625.6 petajoules, up 14.7% from the previous year. <p>In the ten years to 2019/20, the average annual growth in exports of all fossil fuel types was 5.6%.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Australian Energy Update 2021, page 33</p> <p>➡</p> <p>Australia has made no progress in replacing fossil fuel exports with clean energy exports. The federal government has rejected projects for renewable energy exports.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>➡</p>
	<p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		
	<p>Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.</p>		
	<p>Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.</p>		
	<p>Env 3 A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.</p>		
	<p>Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.</p>		
	<p>Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.</p>		
	<p>Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.</p>		
	<p>Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Economic composition and transformations – Carbon credits market development & a Carbon in the Land and Sea Finance and Trading Corporation Econ01.07</p> <p>By 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistent with goals to be legislated to increase GDP and returns to landholders and mitigate climate change by increasing native forestry cover and restoring degraded ecosystems under Env11.01, and recognising that economic benefits to be reaped significantly outweigh costs of public investment necessary to accelerate entry into carbon credits markets, establish a 100% government owned Carbon in the Land and Sea Finance and Trading Corporation to expand Australia's participation in the domestic and global market for carbon credits. The 	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	<p>In 2014, the federal government allocated \$2.5 billion to purchase Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) and from then the Clean Energy Regulator periodically ran auctions to purchase ACCU's from carbon farmers and other certified carbon credit producers at the lowest bid price.</p> <p>In 2020, this fund expired and was then topped up with a \$2 billion allocation over 10 years but eligibility for use of the funding was opened up to low emissions and geological CCS projects, leaving very little if anything for stimulation of the production of carbon credits through carbon farming during the 2020 decade.</p> <p>In 2021, Professor Ross Garnaut noted that carbon farming is a major job creator and sale of carbon credits can provide massive boosts to GDP. But he also noted that: "Full utilisation of the [carbon farming] opportunity requires participation in a global market for carbon, ... domestic carbon pricing arrangements which impose mandatory requirements on major</p>	<p>In 2021, the federal government released "The Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way". The plan acknowledged the need to build a bank of "high-integrity offsets", but limited this to strategies of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "storing carbon in soils and vegetation", "working with our Indo-Pacific neighbours [to establish] a high integrity Indo-Pacific Carbon Offset Scheme", and "building voluntary carbon markets". <p>No detail was provided as to how these strategies were to be implemented or supported with funding. Instead, the plan outlined funding of technologies that would allow (and even incentivise) Australia to continue to emit carbon at uncapped rates. The plan acknowledged the need to "offset residual emissions through, for example, planting trees or storing carbon underground or in soils" and it also acknowledged that "the more emissions are reduced, the fewer offsets we need".</p>
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Econ 7	A collaborative intelligent nation.		
	Econ 9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Corporation is to be authorised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> borrow and invest funds – equating initially to \$5 billion over 5 years from 2023 – in landscape and sea carbon projects, including planting, biodiversity, biomass and alternative feedstock projects and any other projects on both public and private lands and leases which can be reliably measured and certified by the Clean Energy Regulator as having generated a genuine carbon credit in tonnage terms; and purchase and trade carbon credits once produced and certified by the Clean Energy Regulator. <p>Ensure that in establishing the Corporation that its decisions on purchases, sales and investments will not be limited by requirements to generate commercial rates of return and will be geared</p>	before unsustainable consumption.	<p>emitters to purchase carbon offsets, ... [and initiatives to] bring forward access to the \$2 billion new budget allocation [mentioned above]”.</p> <p>Source: Professor Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession, 2021</p>	<p>But because the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoted funding for technologies which will not reduce emissions (let alone reduce them to reach net zero), and promotes no strategies to prevent emissions from being generated in the first place (rather than offset after being generated) <p>the plan is certain to fail in achieving net zero (by any foreseeable date), especially because funding is geared towards initiatives which allow emissions to continue and there is no mention of funding to assist offset schemes. No modelling was supplied to prove that the projected carbon balance of net zero by 2050 would be met.</p> <p>The short term progress is negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The federal government’s “Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way” continues the government’s past approach of leaving very little if anything for stimulation of the production of carbon credits through carbon</p>
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 9 Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.		
	Env 10 A biodiversity haven.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.		
	Env 15 A marine wildlife haven.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
instead to incentivise carbon in the land projects sufficient to support the objectives of establishing carbon planting projects in line with Env11.01 and provide the whole of economy returns to Australia that can arise from jobs growth in regional Australia and transition to a new economy with no fossil fuels by 2033.			farming during the 2020 decade. 
Top Priority Target/Strategy: Reintroduction of a price on carbon Econ01.08 By 2023, recognising that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> without a carbon price, technology solutions such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) will never be as cheap as venting emissions freely to the atmosphere, and without a carbon price Australia is unlikely to be able to enter international carbon credits trading markets as efficiently as it otherwise might, legislate to reintroduce a price on carbon equal to 	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	In 2021, federal government policy on carbon emissions reduction favoured technology development and opposed carbon pricing and regulatory restrictions on emission to the atmosphere. According to the Climate Council: "The Federal Government's [technology] 'roadmap' puts the interests of the fossil fuel lobby ahead of the interests of Australians. We need a plan to remove all fossil fuels from our economy. Technology will play a role, but it is a tool, not a destination. Climate change	In 2021, the federal government released "The Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way". The "plan" proposed no strategies for re-establishing a carbon price, instead favouring taxpayer subsidisation of technologies that will perversely encourage continued uncapped carbon emissions – in the main, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The plan signalled that taxpayers would be forced to subsidise CCS (at least to as much as \$300 million) but failed to acknowledge that unless a carbon price is introduced, any CCS that may turn out to be physically feasible will never be as cheap as venting emissions freely to the
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		

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Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
the damage it does and which gives certainty for estimates of transaction costs in calculations of returns from investment from both carbon reduction and sequestration programs.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	does not stop intensifying until we stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.” However, without a carbon price, technology solutions are unlikely to be cost-competitive, which will negate the benefit of any public investment assistance for development, particularly for technologies such as Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS). In 2021, Professor Ross Garnaut noted that: “Economists have no doubt that putting a price on carbon emissions equal to the damage that carbon does would be helpful to any cost effective emissions reduction strategy. A general carbon price is ruled out in Australia ... by our political history. There is a large economic prize for Australia if and when we remove that constraint”. Source: The Climate Council website, Unpacking the Tech Road-map; and Professor Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession, 2021	atmosphere and therefore will not be commercially feasible. The short term progress is negative.
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		←
	Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.		The federal government’s “Plan to Deliver Net Zero the Australian Way” continues the government’s past approach of leaving Australia with no appropriate market regulation and incentives to cease carbon emissions.
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		The longer term progress is negative.
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		←
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.		
	Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.		
	Env 10 A biodiversity haven.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed		

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>& encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p> <p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Integrated & Funded Program for Meeting Australia's Commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Econ01.09</p> <p>By 2022/23, recognising that Australia is a signatory to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the associated targets that must be reached by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop an integrated program of essential projects (to be undertaken across federal, state and local government levels) to maximise Australia's chances of fulfilling its commitment to the UNSDGs; incorporate the program under a specific line item in the federal budget; and 	<p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>In 2015, Australia adopted all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and thereby committed to achievement by 2030 of the following in Australia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No poverty Zero hunger Good health & wellbeing Quality education Gender equality Clean water & sanitation Affordable & clean energy Decent work & economic growth Industry, innovation & infrastructure Reduced inequalities Sustainable cities & communities Responsible consumption & production Climate action Life below water Life on land Peace, justice & strong institutions Partnerships for the goals <p>Despite these commitments, in</p>	<p>In 2021, Australia has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no integrated program of agreed essential projects and no federal budget supporting voluntarily offered projects by other levels of government and the private sector. <p>The federal government is relying on marketing and promotion of ad hoc volunteer programs by NGOs, other levels of government and the private sector with no way of monitoring whether these are the projects that will give Australia the capacity to meet the targets.</p> <p>Monitoring of progress towards the goals is incomplete and difficult to follow because it is not consolidated.</p> <p>The short term progress is negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The United Nations has produced a Sustainable</p>
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that sufficient additional funding to support full implementation/ coordination of the identified essential projects is allocated and maintained annually until the UNSDGs are met (preferably on time or before 2030). <p>Citizens' oversight of progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Econ01.09.01 By 2023, consistent with initiatives under Gov01.05 regarding community engagement in national long term financial planning, establish and fund a citizen's assembly or other suitable community council charged with monitoring Australia's progress towards the UNSDGs and advising on the adequacy and allocation of funds in federal and state budgets when shortfalls in progress towards the goals are detected.</p>	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	<p>Development Report for 2021 in which Australia is ranked 35th on performance against the goals and is doing poorly in progress on all but two of the goals, a very poor performance for a developed country.</p> <p>Results are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No poverty: challenges remain, moderately improving (although local data suggest this is not improving). Zero hunger: major challenges remain, stagnating. Good health & wellbeing: achievement, on track. Quality education: challenges remain, moderately improving (although local data suggest this is not improving, eg., PISA scores). Gender equality: significant challenges remain, moderately improving. Clean water & sanitation: challenges remain, on track. Affordable & clean energy: major
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env 3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	
	Env 7	Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.	
	Env 8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env 9	Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.	
	Env 10	A biodiversity haven.	
	Env 11	A replanted and reforested land.	
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env 14	A pollution free biosphere.	
	Env 15	A marine wildlife haven.	
	Env 16	Regenerative by design in consumption & production.	
	Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<div>Gov 1</div> <div>A proactive participatory democracy.</div>		<div>challenges remain, moderately improving.</div>
	<div>Gov 2</div> <div>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</div>		<div>8. Decent work & economic growth: challenges remain, moderately improving.</div>
	<div>Gov 3</div> <div>A nation with avowed rights for all.</div>		<div>9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure: challenges remain, moderately improving.</div>
	<div>Gov 5</div> <div>Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</div>		<div>10. Reduced inequalities: significant challenges remain, performance decreasing.</div>
	<div>Gov 6</div> <div>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</div>		<div>11. Sustainable cities & communities: challenges remain, moderately improving.</div>
	<div>Gov 7</div> <div>Committed to public service independence & excellence.</div>		<div>12. Responsible consumption & production: major challenges remain.</div>
	<div>Gov 11</div> <div>A just participant on the global stage.</div>		<div>13. Climate action: major challenges remain, stagnating.</div>
	<div>Gov 12</div> <div>A nation assured of enduring peace.</div>		<div>14. Life below water: major challenges remain, stagnating.</div>
	<div>Gov 13</div> <div>A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</div>		<div>15. Life on land: major challenges remain, performance decreasing.</div>
			<div>16. Peace, justice & strong institutions:</div>





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 1 – Economic planning, growth & transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>challenges remain, moderately improving.</p> <p>17. Partnerships for the goals: significant challenges remain, moderately improving.</p> <p>Source: Jeffrey D. Sachs, Christian Kroll, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller, and Finn Woelm, Sustainable Development Report 2021, The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>←</p> <p>No progress has been made in terms of establishing a process for Citizens' oversight of progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Overall, the longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>



Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
Employment – Participation Econ02.01 The employment to population ratio is steady or improving.	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 2022, the employment to population ratio for Australia was 63%. Source: RBA, "Composition of the Australian Economy Snapshot January 2022" No change: The ratio in the shorter term is steady.  No longer term data analysed. 
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
Underemployment Econ02.02 The underemployment rate reduces to 3% and remains at or below that on a 12-month average, ensuring a fuller use of workforce capacity to expand the economy and sufficient labour scarcity to increase wages. (This target may be subject to revision – up or down – if the Non Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment (NAIRU), as assessed from time to time by the Reserve Bank, suggests a revision is necessary.)	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 2021, the 12-month average for underemployment was 8.6%, down by 0.2 percentage points from 8.8% in 2019, an improvement that is too small and too wide of the target to be called positive.  In 2021, the 3-year rolling average for underemployment was 9.6%. The rolling 3-year average of underemployment has risen steadily from 6.8% in the 3 years to 2002 to 9.6% in the 3 years to 2021. The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
Underutilisation of the labour force Econ02.02.01	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice	In 2021, the 12-month average for

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>The rate of underutilisation of labour reduces to 8% and remains at or below that on a 12-month average, ensuring a fuller use of workforce capacity to expand the economy and sufficient labour scarcity to increase wages.</p> <p>(This target may be subject to revision – up or down – if the Non Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment (NAIRU), as assessed from time to time by the Reserve Bank, suggests a revision is necessary.)</p>	in industry transition.	<p>force²⁶ has trended (although not steadily) upward since 1978, from an average of 8.8% in the 3 years to December 1981 up to an average of 13.8% in the 3 years to December 2019.²⁷</p> <p>In 2019, the 12-month average for labour underutilisation was 13.5%.</p> <p>Source: ABS, 6202.0 Labour Force Australia, Table 22</p>	<p>labour underutilisation was 13.3%, a slight improvement of 0.5 percentage points from the pre-pandemic baseline year of 2019, an improvement that is too small and too wide of the target to be called positive.</p> <p></p> <p>The rolling average of labour underutilisation in 3 years to 2021 was 14.6%, an increase from average 13.8% in the 3 years to 2019.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p></p> <p>Source: ABS, 6202.0 Labour Force Australia, Table 22</p>
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
<p>Duration of unemployment Econ02.03</p> <p>The median duration of unemployment for Australia as a whole is below 10 weeks, reflecting the success of job creation programs by the government sector consistent with a</p>	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	<p>In the 2020 year, the median duration of unemployment for Australia was 17.3 weeks compared to the boom period of 2000 to 2013 when the median was 12.2 weeks.</p> <p>In 2019, the 12-month median duration of</p>	<p>In the 2021 year, the 12-month median duration of unemployment for Australia was 17.1 weeks, a slight improvement compared to 2020 but a significant deterioration compared to 2019.</p>
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards		

²⁶ The labour force underutilisation rate is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as “the sum of the number of persons unemployed and underemployed, expressed as a percentage of the labour force”. ABS 6102.0.55.001 - Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Feb 2018.

²⁷ **Note: Australia Together does not use the unemployment rate as an indicator**, out of the context of the labour underutilisation rate, due to the fact that unemployment rates are derived with reference only to those workers who have, in a fortnightly survey by the ABS, responded that they are looking for work and are available to start (in effect full-time) work immediately. The fortnightly “survey” counts a relatively small section of the willing labour force seeking work and is not useful either for purposes of monitoring the performance of the economy as a provider of opportunities to work or for long term economic and labour force planning purposes.

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Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
National Plan for Full Employment Supported by a Social Wage (as per Econ02.04) and ensuring that wages cannot be suppressed due to artificially high rates of unemployment.		improve continuously for all.	unemployment for Australia was 15.5 weeks.	<div>←</div> <div>In 2021, the 3-year rolling median duration of unemployment for Australia was 16.6 weeks, and had been trending steadily up (worse) since 2010.</div> <div>The longer term trend has been negative.</div> <div>←</div>
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	In 2019, the 3-year rolling median duration of unemployment for Australia was 15.9 weeks, compared to 2010 when the 3-year rolling average was 11.1 weeks.	
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	Source: ABS, 6291.0.55.001 Labour Force Australia, Table 16c	
Permanence and casualisation of employment Econ02.03.01 Average weekly hours worked by casual employees declines relative to non-casual employees and the length of time taken to transition from casual to permanent employment falls continuously.	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	Between 2015 and 2019, the average weekly hours worked by casual employees was 22.1, up from 21.2 in 2001-2004. By contrast the average weekly hours worked by other (non-casual) employees was 38.6, down from 40.2 in 2001-2004. The trend was towards increasing casualisation of Australia's workforce.	<div>No data update is yet available.</div> <div>← / →</div> <div>The trend has been towards increasing casualisation of Australia's workforce and increasing difficulty in transitioning to permanent work.</div> <div>The longer term trend has been negative.</div> <div>←</div>
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	The length of time in casual work before transitioning to permanent work has also increased. Between 2001 and 2004, 41.5% of casual workers would be in a permanent job within four years. Between 2015 and 2018, this dropped to 35.9%. Source: Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey 2021, Tables 4.7 and 4.10	
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6	A society of equals.		
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	Soc	8	A success because of gender equality.	
	Gov	9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	
Employment planning Top Priority Target/Strategy: National plan for full employment supported by a social wage Econ02.04 By 2022, in association with processes for development of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing (see Econ04.02), the federal government convenes a process of joint development of a draft plan to re-structure the competitive mix of industries and labour market policies supporting Australia's economy to achieve full employment by 2025 (where full employment is defined consistent with Econ02.02). By 2023, nation-wide community engagement on the draft national plan is to be completed (alongside associated consultation on a social wage as per Econ02.04.02).	Econ	2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 2020, Australians had no guarantee of decent productive employment and they were facing the ongoing removal of social safety nets and rights to a decent basic income throughout their lives. Before any further erosion of benefits and access to social support, and in anticipation of transitional issues associated with robotization and artificial intelligence, a plan for industry transition and labour market negotiation is required, in parallel and consistent with an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing and in order to meet commitments made under UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by Australia. In 2019, 84% of Australians believed that "the minimum [social] wage should be high enough so that no family with a full-time worker falls
	Econ	1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ	3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ	4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
	Econ	5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	
	Econ	6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	
	Soc	3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc	4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
				No further data updates are available on attitudes of Australians. No progress has been made with planning to achieve full employment. The Coalition government has adopted no plans to achieve full employment and has continued to reduce access to social safety nets, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rejecting and withdrawing approvals of NDIS plans for eligible recipients; • reducing JobSeeker payments to a level that is below the poverty line; • maintaining obligations for welfare recipients to apply for jobs without ensuring that there are jobs to apply for; • budgeting to reduce funding (as a proportion of GDP) over the

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>By 2023, a national full employment plan, consistent with community agreements in an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing, is adopted. By 2023, federal, state, territory, and local governments develop implementation plans consistent with the adopted national plan. By 2025, achieve full and productive work for all Australians.</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all," especially Target 8.5: "By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value."</p>	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>	<p>below the official poverty line." And 61% believed that "the government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed." Source: United States Studies Centre, <i>Public Opinion in the Age of Trump, The United States and Australia Compared</i>.</p> <p>In 2020, 58% of Australians on survey supported a "a guaranteed living wage being introduced in Australia". Only 18% opposed it. Source: YouGov poll conducted for the Green Institute, October 2020</p>	<p>decade to 2031 for key services and benefits including the family tax benefit, the disability support pension, veterans' support, and parenting payments; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budgeting to maintain funding at its existing wholly inadequate levels (as a proportion of GDP) for the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, carer income support, and JobSeeker. <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2020/21 Medium Term Fiscal Projections</p> <p>←</p> <p>Neither the Coalition nor the Labor Opposition have expressed any commitment to introduction of a social wage and/or consultation with Australians on a social wage.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Employment planning</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Increasing government sector participation in the economy by a</p>	<p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p> <p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity,</p>	<p>In 2017, 82% of Australians "wanted government to retain the skills and capability to deliver services directly". Source: Centre for Policy Development Study, "What</p>	<p>No further data updates are available on attitudes of Australians.</p> <p>In 2021, there was an average of 1,124,400 underemployed</p>



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Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>program of expansion of public sector employment in health, welfare, education, housing, conservation and land care, renewable energy, buildings efficiency and transport.</p> <p>Econ02.04.01</p> <p>By 2023, in association with a national plan for full employment supported by a social wage (as per Econ02.04), and supported by initiatives under Econ04.02.01 and Econ04.02.03, establish a program to expand public sector employment and participation in the Australian economy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a public sector workforce plan to significantly increase direct employment by state and federal governments in health, welfare, education, housing, conservation and land care, renewable energy, buildings efficiency and transport, recognising these as the job growth areas of the future; 		growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	persons per month in Australia compared to 1,130,900 per month in 2019. This was a significant improvement compared to 2020, when the average underemployed persons per month rose to 1,425,900.
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	However the drop back to 1,124,400 in 2021 indicates that no significant progress has been made in reducing underemployment compared to 2019 and pre-pandemic times.
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
	Soc 5	A model of educational opportunity.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Soc 9	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all	
	Soc 10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse	
	Soc 11	A land without child disadvantage	
	Soc 12	A sure provider of lifelong dignity	
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Gov 7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
		Do Australians Want? Active and Effective Government Fit for the Ages"	
		By May 2021, national research by Essential indicated that when asked about the preferred approach to creating jobs and economic growth, 66% of respondents said "the government should directly invest in the economy by creating projects and jobs, and raise the standard of living for the majority of workers" and only 17% said that businesses should be encouraged "to grow and create more jobs" through "relaxation of regulations and lower taxes for the wealthy".	
		Source: Essential Research Report, 11 May 2021	
		Nevertheless, between June 2014 and June 2019, the Australian government shed 19,364 Australian Public Service (APS) employees – almost 12% of its workforce. As at 30 June 2019 the total employment headcount (not fulltime equivalent) of the APS was 146,782, down from 166,146 in June 2013. At the same time, annual spending by the federal	
			<p>← / →</p> <p>The longer term trend in underemployment has been negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>As at 30 June 2021, the total employment headcount (not fulltime equivalent) of the APS was 153,945, up 2.3% from 2020 but still down 7.3% or 12,201 from the headcount of 166,146 in June 2013.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>In 2020/21, annual spending by the federal government on consultants was \$712 million, an increase of 2.4%</p>


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Economy 2 – Employment planning & industry transition

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reversing the growth in contracting out of public services; and reversing the growth in consultancies and re-establish in-house public policy services. <p>By 2023, incorporate the new public sector workforce plan into the nation-wide community engagement on the draft national plan for full employment supported by a social wage (as per Econ02.04).</p>		<p>government on consultants more than doubled from \$385 million in 2012/13 to \$808 million in 2017/18 before falling to \$650 million in 2018/19 and rising again to \$695 million in 2019/20.</p> <p>Also during the same period underemployment in Australia grew by 21% from an average of 7.4% between 2008 and 2013 to 8.9% between 2014 and 2019.</p> <p>In 2019, there was an average of 1,130,900 underemployed persons per month in Australia compared to 894,500 per month in 2013, meaning that while monthly underemployment rose by more than 200,000 the government aggravated the problem by reducing public sector employment by 20,000.</p> <p>The above corresponded with a period of slowed growth in the Australian economy. Between 1972 and 2014, growth in GDP averaged 3.1% per annum. Between 2015 and 2019, growth in GDP averaged only 2.4% per annum and</p>	<p>compared to 2019/20 and still 85% higher than in 2012/13.</p> <p></p> <p>In 2021, the Australian Public Service had no workforce plan that would set APS growth to match demand for services and jobs by the Australian community. The APS has published an “APS Workforce Strategy 2025”. However, this is not a workforce plan. It is a strategy to assist the existing APS to respond to the federal government’s “Delivering for Australians Reform” agenda. Essentially it is a skills and technology development strategy, designed to support a deregulated economy driven by the private sector, rather than a service-based economy with broader public sector participation. The APS Workforce Strategy 2025 is a strategy taking Australia in the opposite direction to that proposed here in Econ02.04.01 and towards a repeat of the currently failing economic structure.</p> <p></p> <p>Sources: Australian Public Service Commission, APS</p>

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			dropped to 1.7% in 2018/19. Sources: Australian Public Service Commission, APS Employment Release Tables 30 June 2020; Australian Government AusTender, Contracts Awarded as Consultancies; ABS 6202.0 Labour Force Australia Table 22.	Employment Release Tables 30 June 2021; Australian Government AusTender, Contracts Awarded as Consultancies; ABS 6202.0 Labour Force Australia Table 22.
Employment planning Top Priority Target/Strategy: Community engagement on introduction of a social wage Econ02.04.02 By 2022, in association with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nation-wide community engagement on establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing as per Econ04.02, community engagement on the National plan for full employment supported by a social wage as per Econ02.04, and pilot programs for community engagement on development of long term financial plans for federal revenues and spending as per Gov01.05 develop a draft policy for introduction of a social wage for all Australians using the model of the 	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 1948, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (to which Australia is a signatory) stated among other things that: <i>Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.</i> Prior to and since the Declaration, proponents of a means of protecting this right have supported the introduction of a social wage, otherwise variously	See Econ02.04 for progress data. No progress has been made on this Strategy. Neither the Coalition nor the Labor Opposition have expressed any commitment to introduction of a social wage and/or consultation with Australians on a social wage. 
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Soc 6	A society of equals.		
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>“Australian Income Security (AIS)” suggested by Ross Garnaut as a base for the design of the draft policy.</p> <p>By 2023, incorporate discussion of the draft design of a social wage or AIS into the consultation for establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing, to ensure that a social wage is not introduced at the expense of recovery initiatives for participation of the public sector and taxpayers in economic restructuring and growth.</p>		<p>called a “universal basic income”, a “minimum income guarantee” or a “negative income tax”.²⁸</p> <p>In 2021, Professor Ross Garnaut provided substantial arguments in favour of the introduction of an “Australian Income Security (AIS)” – in effect, a social wage in which all Australians (except those earning above \$250,000 or with net assets above \$2 million) would receive unconditionally \$15,000 per annum (non-taxable). This would be accompanied by a flatter taxation system (\$0.325 for all other income up to \$180,000).²⁹</p> <p>Source: For full details see Ross Garnaut, <i>Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic</i>, Chapter 8.</p>	
Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice	In 2020, Australia faced serious impacts to two key sectors of	Between 2020 and 2022, the federal Coalition government

²⁸ Proponents of a social wage have spanned the full spectrum of politics, from left to right including Thomas Moore (of Moore’s *Utopia* fame), Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill, H G Wells, George Bernard Shaw, John Kenneth Galbraith, Bertrand Russell, Martin Luther King, Friedrich Hayek, and Milton and Rose Friedman.

²⁹ Professor Garnaut’s rationale for an “Australian Income Security (AIS)” was that it would be an essential part of a wider set of strategies to support a return to full employment, which in turn is central to the restoration of the Australian economy: “Ways have to be found to raise the incomes of workers on low wages without increasing costs of labour to employers. This leads us to a minimum basic income, which can be augmented by earnings from employment which are taxed at a moderate rate.” (*Reset*, page 185). The logic of the strategy is that the cost to the federal budget of the fiscal stimulus from the AIS in the first few years would be offset after full employment was reached, providing an increase in total tax receipts from higher employment rates. The proposal, however, is built on a view that stimulus for the private sector and competitiveness in trade exposed industries is the best way to restore the economy. This potentially disregards the value of expanded government services in health, education and welfare to GDP growth and to the extent that an AIS may remove funds for essential services for a number of years, it may be self-defeating. Community engagement on an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing as per **Econ04.02** is thus an essential prerequisite to this otherwise valuable proposal.

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<p>transformations with safety nets</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: National Economic Transitions Commission Econ02.05</p> <p>By 2022, acknowledging that globalisation of economies and other global forces such as climate change will, from time to time, deliver sector-wide shocks to or shifts in Australia's economy – and in association with the Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing under Econ04.02 – establish a National Economic Transitions Commission with a charter of facilitating sector-wide economic shifts occasioned by global impacts (such as climate change, pandemics, trade restrictions or war) and a triple role in facilitation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> timely identification of sector-wide disruptions; recommendations on policy for funding and management of required transitions (either out of the affected industry sector or across to a new funding 		in industry transition.	continued to subsidise fossil fuels and to widen the base on which public funding could be devoted to fossil fuel corporations (eg., by transferring, without parliamentary approval, \$2 billion into the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund).
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	Source: David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, Media Release, 25 January 2022
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In the same period no further assistance was provided to develop renewable energy alternatives or the to boost the tertiary education sector.
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Neither of the major parties has proposed a forward thinking administration and planning capacity for economic transitions in Australia. Nor have they proposed systems by which decisions on use of taxpayer funds to subsidise private interests can be made independently and without conflict of interest.
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	No progress has been made on this Strategy.
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	
	Econ 9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.	
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	

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<p>platform capable of sustaining the affected industry);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of approved funding programs supporting the transitions; and coordination of any multi-agency involvement in establishment of market structures necessary to ensure the resilience of any new economic transformations. <p>Independence of the Commission should be secured by an act of parliament which mandates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Commission should be fully resourced; commissioners should be appointed for 5-year periods (non-renewable) and must be subject to the proposed post-separation employment rules for politicians as per Gov05.05. <p>Procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring independence of commissioners, prevention of corruption, management of conflicts of interest, 	Env	6	A renewable energy superpower.	<p>Political and economic immaturity significantly impacted the nation's capacity to efficiently facilitate vital sector-wide economic shifts.</p> <p>Independence in management of aspects of economic policy has proven to be successful in the past, such as in the case of entrusting control of monetary policy to the independence of the Reserve Bank. But as at 2021, no such independent facilitation had been established for purposes of sector-wide economic transitions.</p>
	Env	8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	
	Env	12	A protector of scarce resources.	
	Env	18	Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education and recreation.	
	Env	19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Gov	6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov	7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
	Gov	9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	
	Gov	11	A just participant on the global stage.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> codes of conduct and meeting practice, and full transparency in advice and decisions <p>must be specified in the enabling legislation.</p> <p>Experience with implementation of transition programs under Econ02.05.01 – Coal industry closure and Econ02.05.02 – Tertiary education restoration and expansion below may be utilised prior to establishment of the Commission – taking these two as pilot programs for testing operation of the Commission and developing an appropriately independent charter.</p>			
<p>Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide transformations with safety nets – Coal industry closure Econ02.05.01</p> <p>Regardless of whether the National Economic Transitions Commission is established under Econ02.05 and utilising a small portion of the savings to taxpayers that can be anticipated from the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies</p>	<p>Econ 2</p> <p>A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>	<p>In 2015, the International Monetary Fund estimated that the size of subsidy provided by Australian taxpayers to the fossil fuel industry was AU\$42 billion approximately or 2.3% of GDP (US\$29 billion) and AU\$1,700 per capita approximately per annum. This equates to setting aside the equivalent of \$730,000 of taxpayer funded subsidy each</p>	<p>In 2020/21, by analysing spending and tax breaks the Australia Institute calculated the size of the fossil fuel subsidy as \$10.3 billion per annum.</p> <p>Source: The Australia Institute, Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Australia, 2020/21</p> <p>In 2020, Market Forces estimated that tax-based fossil fuel subsidies cost Australians \$12 billion per annum.</p>
	<p>Econ 1</p> <p>A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		

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<p>under Env02.03, establish a one-off \$1 billion redundancy and redeployment fund for employees of thermal coal mining and coal-fired power companies who are facing displacement, accessible until 2025 (and no later). Payments from the fund should reflect years of service, plus transition costs associated with re-training and relocation, and be in addition to all other termination entitlements under agreements with private employers. Note: Payment from the fund would not be applicable to workers who take up employment in thermal coal mining or coal fired power stations after creation of the fund and no worker receiving payments for redundancy and redeployment could be permitted to work in the coal sector in the future, recognising that the taxpayer funded transition program is to support transition to a sustainable economy, not a</p>	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Source: Market Forces, How Your Tax Dollars Subsidise Fossil Fuels, 2020
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	No further update data are available for the IMF estimate of \$42 billion per annum (estimated in 2015). ³⁰
	Econ 9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.	In February 2020, there were 43,300 coal miners employed in Australia and 29,900 oil and gas extraction workers. 6291.0.55.003 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	
	Env 2	A net zero emissions nation.	
	Env 4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.	In 2020, the cost of the fossil fuel subsidy per coal miner employed equated to:
	Env 6	A renewable energy superpower.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Institute estimate = \$237,875; Market Forces estimate = \$277,136; IMF estimate = \$969,976.
	Env 8	Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.	In 2020, the cost of the fossil fuel subsidy per all employed fossil fuel workers (coal miners and oil and gas extractors) equated to:
	Env 12	A protector of scarce resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Institute estimate = \$140,710; Market Forces estimate = \$163,934;
	Env 19	A land of thriving self-supporting regions.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 9	A nation outlawing corporate greed &	

³⁰ Each estimate of the size of the fossil fuel subsidy is based on a different methodology. All estimates are assumed to be correct within the methodology used. The IMF estimate takes more costs into account than the Australia Institute and Market Forces.



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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>revolving door and additional subsidy to the coal industry.</p> <p>Note: This proposal for a \$1 billion fund may be subject to movement up or down, depending on need.</p>	<p>encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>	<p>In 2019, approximately 38,400 people were employed in coal mining in Australia, a reduction from 47,500 in 2014. By 2030 it may be expected that the thermal coal industry will be non-existent due to multiple factors, including its high price compared to renewable energy. Schemes which incentivise early closure of the thermal coal industry will provide significantly higher returns to Australia than continued subsidies for coal.</p> <p>Source: ABS Stat.beta Labour account Australia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMF estimate = \$573,770. <p>In short, even at the lowest estimate of the fossil fuel subsidy the taxpayer is paying the full salary bill for every employee in coal mining and oil and gas exploration and is bearing other major costs (eg., for restoration, environmental degradation, climate change and opportunity costs) without receiving a share of profits through tax revenues and royalties sufficient to offset the costs.</p> <p>At this rate, all fossil fuel industries should by rights be in the full ownership of the state, not in private ownership. In prudential corporate management, all of it should be taken over and shut down.</p> <p>In 2021, current funding and operation of the fossil fuel industry is a huge net negative for the taxpayer. Either of the two transition/safety net options proposed here would be far better for taxpayers.</p>
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>	<p>In 2020, research by the Australia Institute found that: “A phase-out of thermal coal mining over ten years would imply a loss of between 500 and 1000 specialist mining jobs each year. Taking account of early retirement, natural attrition, and redeployment within the mining industry, the number requiring special assistance for transition, or a top up to offset the loss of premium wages, would probably be no more than 250 per year. An assistance package of \$100,000</p>	<p>←</p>

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			per year, available for up to 2 years, would imply an outlay of no more than \$50 million per year.” Source: Australia Institute, Getting Off Coal 2020	No progress has been made on any strategy to transition coal workers to new industries. 
Economic transition funding to drive sector-wide transformations with safety nets – Higher education (university) sector recovery and expansion Econ02.05.02 By no later than the 2022/23 federal budget: 1. recognising the need to reverse planned funding reductions for tertiary education and the need to meet increased demand for university education consistent with the fee-free program under Soc05.01, and 2. utilising anticipated savings from the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies under Env02.03, establish an emergency \$5 billion restoration fund over two years to restore employment of higher education (university) teaching staff and associated essential ancillary staff and	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 2021, Universities Australia reported that over 17,300 university jobs were lost in 2020 due to Covid-19 and forecast further losses in 2021. They also reported a loss of \$1.8 billion in revenue 2020/21, an expected further loss of \$2 billion in 2021/22 and extended losses for subsequent years due to loss of international student enrolments. While the federal government increased funding for 2020/21 to support ongoing research in universities during Covid-19, it also reversed that injection in the following years, leaving the sector net worse off by more than \$4.2 billion compared to pre-Covid-19 funding arrangements. By 2023/24, the university sector budget will be 6.1% lower than it was in 2019/20. Source: Universities Australia Media Release 3 February 2021 and Federal	In September 2021, the Australia Institute reported that job losses in universities since the onset of Covid-19 had risen to 35,000. (Another 5,000 jobs were lost in the vocational training sector, bringing tertiary education job losses to 40,000.) Source: The Australia Institute, An Avoidable Catastrophe: Pandemic Job Losses in Higher Education and their Consequences  Funding for the university sector was not restored in the 2021/22 federal budget. By 2024/25 it is estimated by ACFP that the higher education budget will be 5.6% below where it should be if it is to keep pace with expected inflation and approximately \$1.3 billion below necessary revenues for the year (taking into account the losses projected from the removal of overseas student fees). This loss will be in addition to losses totalling \$4.2 billion
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Econ 7	A collaborative intelligent nation.		
	Econ 8	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.		

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facilities to pre-Covid levels, with the emergency fund being in addition to the floor expenditure and expansion proposals for the fuller tertiary education sector (university, technical and vocational) under Soc05.01.		Budget Papers for 2019/20 and 2020/21.	<p>over the three years 2023/24. Source: Federal Budget Papers for 2021/22.</p> <p>No progress has been made to restore the higher education sector.</p> <p>←</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
Income inequality Econ03.01 The Gini coefficient for equivalised disposable household income moves on progressively from the baseline towards zero.	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2017/18, the Gini coefficient for equivalised disposable household income was 0.328. Compared to 2003/04 when the coefficient was 0.306, income inequality has worsened. Source: ABS 6523.0 - Household Income & Wealth
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
Wealth inequality Econ03.01.01 The Gini coefficient for household net worth (wealth) moves on progressively from the baseline towards zero.	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2017/18, the Gini coefficient for household net worth (wealth) was 0.621. Compared to 2003/04 when the coefficient was 0.573, wealth inequality has worsened. Source: ABS 6523.0 - Household Income & Wealth
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
Distribution of national wealth – corporations versus wage earners Econ03.01.02 The share of annual national income (GDP) returned as wages rises continuously and the share devoted to corporate profits declines continuously until such time as the Gini coefficient for equivalised	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 1975, 62% of national income went to Australians in wages and the share that went to corporate profits was 17%. In 2021, only 51% of national income went to Australians in wages and the share that went to corporate profits had almost doubled to 30%. Between 1975 and 2021, there was a steady trend in decline of wages and a rise in corporate profits as
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	
	Econ 4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	



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Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>disposable household income in Australia improves to its best recorded score, which was in 1996/97 – 0.292, whereupon this target should be reviewed to match the Gini coefficient of the best OECD performer for income and wealth inequality.</p> <p>Note: In 2015, Norway had the best Gini coefficient for developed countries (0.275), while Australia's score in 2017/18 was 0.328 as per Econ03.01.</p>	<p>Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.</p>	<p>proportions of national income (GDP). This significantly aggravated growth in inequality. Source: ABS 5206.0 Table 1</p>	
	<p>Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
<p>Distribution of growth in income & wealth – wages growth relative to growth in company profits Econ03.02 The annualised percentage of growth in total wages paid and in company profits is the same or similar – approaching a ratio of 1:1 (assessed as a 3-year rolling average).</p>	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>In the 3 years to September 2019, total corporate profits in Australia rose by 49.7% while total paid in wages rose by only 12.2%. Profits rose at 4 times the rate of wages paid. ABS 5676.0, Tables 11 & 17</p>	<p>In the 5 years to September 2021, total corporate profits in Australia rose by 87.1% while total paid in wages rose by only 17.9%. Profits rose at 4.8 times the rate of wages paid. ABS 5676.0, Tables 11 & 17</p> <p>←</p> <p>In the 3 years to 2021 corporate profits rose on average by 10.3% per annum while the wage price index rose on average by only 1.97% per annum. Profits rose at 5.2 times the rate of wages paid. Source: ABS 6345.0, Table 2a</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>		
	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		





Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			The rate at which corporate profit growth is outstripping wages growth is increasing.
Distribution of growth in income & wealth – growth in wages (hourly rates of pay) relative to growth in GDP Econ03.02.01 Growth in total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) equals or exceeds the average growth in GDP per annum over the same rolling 3-year periods.	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	Between 1999 and 2007 (pre-GFC), average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 3.5%, and GDP = 3.5%. Between 2008 and 2014, average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 3.5%, and GDP = 2.8%. 	In the three years to 2020, the average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 2.1%, and GDP = 1.7%. In the three years to 2021, the average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 2.0%, and GDP = 1.2%. Source: ABS 6345.0, Table 2a and ABS 5204.0, Table 1
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	Between 2015 and 2019, average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 2.2%, and GDP = 2.4%. 	While this result reflects a fairer share of growth in national income for workers, it is largely the result of very slow growth in the economy due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the boost to wages provided by the temporary boost to JobSeeker and JobKeeper. This is therefore not an indicator of improved standard or cost of living.  The longer term trend is variable. 
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Between 2015 and 2019, growth in hourly rates of pay was slower than average annual growth in GDP; Australians were not getting a fair share of the economic growth they generated.	
	Soc 6 A society of equals.	In the three years to 2019, the average annual growth was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wages = 2.1%, and GDP = 2.4%. Source: ABS 6345.0, Table 2a and ABS 5204.0, Table 1	
Distribution of growth in income & wealth – household disposable income Econ03.02.02 Growth in gross household	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve	Historical trends in average annual growth of gross household disposable income per capita: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1997-2008 = 5.3%; 2009-2013 = 4.2%; 	The 3-year rolling average annual growth of gross household disposable income per capita for 2019 to 2021 was 3.9%. The short term trend is mildly positive.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy




Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
disposable income per capita rises consistent with the strongest historical trends – measured as a 3-year rolling average.	continuously for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014-2019 = 2.2%. Source: ABS 5204.0, Table 36 & ABS 3101, Table 1	 While this result (most likely arising from the increase in family incomes provided by JobKeeper and JobSeeker during the Covid-19 pandemic) reflects an improvement on the previous period it does not meet the target of matching the historical average. It is unlikely to be sustained due to the withdrawal of the Covid-19 stimulus. The longer term trend is still negative. 
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
Distribution of growth in income & wealth – net worth of households Econ03.02.03 The net worth of the lowest income households (the bottom 20%) rises continuously and at least in proportion to any rise for the top 20% of households.	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	Between 2013/14 and 2017/18 the net worth of the lowest 20% of households dropped by 7% while the net worth of the top 20% of households rose by 20%. Source: ABS 6523.0 – Household Income and Wealth	No data update available.  The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
Distribution of growth in income & wealth –	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth &	In 2018, the average weekly earnings of welfare workers were \$838.90, compared	No data update is available on average weekly earnings of welfare workers. ³¹

³¹ See AIHW, Welfare Workforce, website update, 16 September 2021: “Due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the ABS has not completed its biennial Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours for 2020. Thus, the most up-to-date data on worker hours and payment of the welfare workforce are those in the ABS Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours collected in May 2018.”

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Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>earnings for welfare workers Econ03.02.04 By 2030, average weekly earnings for welfare workers (includes residential care services, pre-school education and childcare and other social assistance services) grow at annual rates that are at least twice the rate of growth in the average weekly earnings for all Australians.</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" & Goal 10: "Reduce inequality within and among countries", especially Target 10.1: "By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average."</p>	<p>prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p> <p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p> <p>Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.</p> <p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p> <p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p> <p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p> <p>Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.</p> <p>Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>	<p>with \$1,106.40 for workers in similar occupations in other industries. Source: AIHW, "Australia's Welfare 2019, in brief"</p> <p>In November 2018, the average weekly earnings for Australians were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full time adult ordinary time earnings = \$1,605.50; Earnings, persons, total = \$1,225.30. <p>Source: ABS 6302.0, Average Weekly Earnings Australia, November 2019, Table 1</p>	<p>Source: AIHW, "Australia's Welfare 2021, in brief"</p> <p></p> <p>In May 2021, the average weekly earnings for Australians were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full time adult ordinary time earnings = \$1,737.10; Earnings, persons, total = \$1,305.80. <p>Source: ABS 6302.0 Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Table 3, Original</p> <p>Due to suspension of trend analysis by the ABS, it is not possible to assess changes in the wages of welfare workers. Note: the federal Coalition government has refused to support wage rises for aged care workers³², as recommended by the Aged Care Royal Commission. Policy support for wage rises for welfare workers is absent.</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p></p>
<p>Elimination of poverty Econ03.03 The proportion of Australians living in poverty declines continuously and is at least halved by</p>	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve</p>	<p>In 2018, 13.2% of Australians (more than one in eight) were living below the poverty line (defined as 50% of the median household disposable income) after taking</p>	<p>No comparable data update is available for the percent of Australians in poverty.</p> <p></p>

³² Stephanie Dalzell, ABC News, 2 February 2022, "What you need to know about the fight to raise aged care worker's pay in the Fair Work Commission".

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline	
<p>2030 compared to the baseline year (2018).</p> <p>Elimination of poverty – children Econ03.03.01</p> <p>The proportion of children under the age of 15 living in poverty declines continuously and reaches zero by 2030.</p> <p>Elimination of poverty – young people Econ03.03.02</p> <p>The proportion of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 living in poverty declines continuously and reaches zero by 2030.</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Target 1.2: “By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.”</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Target 1.2: “By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.”</p>		continuously for all.	into account housing costs.	<p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Surveys of Australian households suggest that poverty may be declining slightly but is still persistent.</p> <p>Source: Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey 2021, Tables 3.4, 3.5 and 3.9.</p>	
	Econ	4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		<p>In 2018, 17.3% of children aged under 15 (more than one in six or 739,000) and 13.9% (410,000) of young people aged 15 to 24 years were living below the poverty line.</p> <p>Source: ACOSS & UNSW Sydney, Poverty in Australia 2018</p>
	Soc	3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc	4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc	6	A society of equals.		
	Soc	9	A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc	10	A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc	11	A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc	12	A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Elimination of hunger Econ03.04	Econ	3		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy







Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>The incidence of food insecurity and hunger declines continuously, ends by 2030, and does not re-emerge.</p> <p>*Consistent with UNSDG³³, Goal 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, Target 2.1: “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.”</p>	growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	seeking food relief increased by 22%.	food insecurity, up from 21% in 2018/19.
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	In 2018/19, 21% of Australians experienced food insecurity.	←
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	In 2018/19, at least once a week 30% of food insecure Australians went without eating for a whole day.	←
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.	Only 37% of charities reported meeting the full needs of people they assisted.	←
	Soc 8 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	Source: McCrindle Foodbank Hunger Report 2019	←
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		Source: McCrindle Foodbank Hunger Report 2020
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		The longer term trend is negative.
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		←
<p>Indebtedness – households Econ03.05</p> <p>The percentage of households experiencing over-indebtedness is continuously decreasing.</p>	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2015/16, 27.2% of households were classified as over-indebted (households with debt 3 or more times income). Compared to 2005/06 when 23.4% of households were over-indebted the measure has substantially worsened.	<p>In 2017/18, 28.4% of households were classified as over-indebted, an increase of 1.2 percentage points compared to 2015/16.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Source: ABS 6523.0, Household Income and Wealth, Australia 2017-8</p>

³³ *Consistent with UNSDG – Indicates where targets/indicators have been selected consistent with commitments already made by Australia to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030. It does not necessarily mean the selected target or indicator has been included in *Australia Together* in a form agreed by the Australian Government. For example, in relation to its commitment to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Australia has not selected indicators which will enable it to report on poverty growth in total and has chosen not to select a definition of poverty. Instead the government has chosen indicators such as duration of poverty. For information on the Australian Government’s process of data collection for UNSDGs, visit <https://www.sdgdata.gov.au/reporting-status>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy




Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		Source: ABS 6523.0, Household Income and Wealth, Australia 2015-16	No more recent data updates are available but the longer term trend is negative. Household over-indebtedness is rising. 
Perceptions of economic opportunity Econ03.06 By 2030, the proportion of Australians agreeing that Australia is a land of economic opportunity where hard work is rewarded is above 80%.	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2017, 75% of Australians agreed that “Australia is a land of economic opportunity where in the long run, hard work brings a better life”, down from 81% in 2007.	In 2021, 72% of Australians agreed that “Australia is a land of economic opportunity where in the long run, hard work brings a better life”, down from 81% in 2007 and down from 75% in 2017. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2021 Data updates on disagreement are unavailable. ³⁴ 
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	In 2017, 21% of Australians disagreed that “Australia is a land of economic opportunity where in the long run, hard work brings a better life”, up from 16% in 2007.	
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.	Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020	Fewer Australians are viewing Australia as a land of opportunity with positive prospects for them. 
Perceptions of economic (class) mobility Econ03.06.01 The proportion of Australians perceiving themselves to be “middle class” does not fall below 50%.	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2019, 50% of Australians perceived themselves to be “middle class”, down from 57% in 2010. In 2019, 48% of Australians perceived themselves to be “working class”, up from 42% in 2010. Source: ANU Trends in Australian Political Opinion, 1987 to 2019	No further update available.  The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		

³⁴ Note: In 2021, the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion report suffered a significant reduction of transparency and ceased printing the full spread of survey results on some parameters. The report was for the first time prefaced by a federal government minister (Alex Hawke), significantly and regrettably affecting its status as an independent, unconflicted, accessible and comprehensive source of data on social cohesion.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Perceptions of quality of life – prospects for improvement Econ03.07</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who agree their lives will improve does not decline.</p> <p>Perceptions of quality of life – prospects for decline Econ03.07.01</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who expect life quality to be worse does not rise.</p> <p>Perceptions of quality of life – current financial situation Econ03.07.02</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who are satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation does not decline from the baseline.</p>	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>In 2017, 18% of Australians thought their lives would be much improved in 3 or 4 years, down from 24% in 2007.</p> <p>And in 2017, 19% of Australians expected that their lives would be worse in 3 or 4 years, up from 11% in 2007.</p> <p>In 2019, 69% of Australians were satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation, down from 74% in 2007.</p> <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019</p>	<p>In November 2020, 11% of Australians thought their lives would be much improved in 3 or 4 years, down from 18% in 2017 and 24% in 2007.</p> <p>And 2021, 16% of Australians expected that their lives would be worse in 3 or 4 years, up from 11% in 2007 but down from 19% in 2017.</p> <p>In 2021, 71% of Australians were satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation, down from 74% in 2007 but up from 69% in 2019.</p> <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020 and 2021</p> <p>Taken together, these three measures suggest no significant progress in the short term.</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p></p>
	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
<p>Perceptions of long term economic/financial prospects – Intergenerational financial security Econ03.08</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who say their children will</p>	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>In 2019, 65% of Australians surveyed said that when children today in Australia grow up, they will be worse off financially than their parents, an increase from 53% in 2013.</p>	<p>No baseline data update available from Pew Research.</p> <p></p> <p>However, on survey in 2021,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% of Australians agreed that “the

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
be worse off financially falls continuously to 53% and lower over time.	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	Source: Pew Research, Global Attitudes and Trends Database	<p>future looks tough for younger people” and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76% of Australians aged 18-29 “think they'll have it tougher than their parents”. <p>Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2021</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p> <p>There is a consensus that younger generations will be less well off than their parents.</p>
<p>Perceptions of long term economic/financial prospects – Australia’s global economic performance Econ03.08.01</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who are optimistic about Australia’s economic performance in the world does not decline from the baseline.</p>	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	In 2021, 79% of Australians reported that they were optimistic or very optimistic about Australia’s economic performance in the world over the next five years. The highest (best) score for economic optimism was 86% in 2009 and 2010.	<p>No further update available for the short term.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>Perceptions about longer term economic prospects vary widely from year to year but the longer term trend is clearly negative. The trend of economic optimism has been falling and the trend of economic pessimism has been rising.</p> <p>Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021</p>
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	<p>In 2021, 22% of Australians reported that they were pessimistic or very pessimistic about Australia’s economic performance in the world over the next five years. The lowest (best) score for economic pessimism was 10% in 2005.</p> <p>Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021</p>	<p>←</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 3 – Equitable improvement in living standards

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Perceptions of economic inequality – gap between rich and poor Econ03.09 The proportion of Australians who agree that the gap between rich and poor is too large falls or rises in line with measured falls and rises in income and wealth inequality under Econ03.01 and Econ03.01.01 (the Gini coefficient).</p> <p>Note: This Target is set to monitor whether perceptions of Australians about inequality are moving out of alignment with the reality of inequality and to monitor whether Australians continue to see and reject growth in inequality and see and endorse reduction of inequality.</p>	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>In 2019, 76% of Australians on survey agreed that the “gap between rich and poor is too large”. Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2019</p>	<p>In 2021, 80% of Australians on survey agreed that the “gap between rich and poor is too large”. Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2021</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>	<p>In 2019, 77% of Australians on survey agreed that the “gap between rich and poor is too large”. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2021</p>	<p>← / →</p> <p>Given the actual long term rise in income and wealth inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient and the apparent, parallel rise in concern that the “gap between rich and poor is too large”, it is likely that in 2021, Australians perceived and rejected growth in inequality. As a measure of attitudes towards the need for equality and fairness, this result is positive reflection of a desire for an equitable and cohesive society.</p> <p>→</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 4 – National wealth generation & sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Provisions for welfare – Federal budget Econ04.01</p> <p>In any federal budget, projected expenditure on welfare is not set to decline, either as a proportion of tax revenue or of GDP, at any time during the ensuing decade.</p> <p><small>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.</small></p>	<p>Econ 4</p> <p>A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In the federal budget of 2019/20, expenditure on the following welfare related program areas was set to decline as a proportion of GDP over the decade to 2029/30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job seeker support income, • Disability support pension, • Veterans’ support, • Family tax benefit, • Pharmaceutical benefit. <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, “2019-20 Medium Term Fiscal Projections”</p> <p>In 2017/18, the ratio of welfare expenditure to tax revenue was 0.3212:1 (or 32%) and the ratio of welfare expenditure to GDP was 0.0869:1 (or 8.7%).</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Welfare Snapshots 2019</p> <p>Between 2014/16 and 2017/18, while Australia’s economy was deteriorating, welfare expenditure as a proportion of GDP dropped from 9.4% to 8.7%.</p> <p>Source: AIHW, Welfare Snapshots 2019</p>	<p>In the federal budget of 2019/20, expenditure on the following welfare related program areas was set to decline as a proportion of GDP over the decade to 2030/31:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability support pension, • Parenting payments, • Veterans’ support, • Family tax benefit. <p>Welfare related program areas set to receive no increase as a proportion of GDP were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age pension • Pharmaceutical benefits • Income support for the unemployed (mainly JobSeeker), and Carer income support. <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, “Beyond the Budget – 2021-22 – Fiscal Outlook and Scenarios”</p> <p>In 2018/19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ratio of welfare expenditure to tax dropped slightly to 31.18% and then rose during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019/20 to 36.05%; and • the ratio of welfare expenditure to GDP dropped slightly to 8.8% and then rose during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019/20 to 9.6%. <p>Source: AIHW, Australia’s Welfare 2021</p>
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3</p> <p>Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9</p> <p>A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10</p> <p>A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>		
	<p>Soc 11</p> <p>A land without child disadvantage.</p>		
	<p>Soc 12</p> <p>A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>		




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>The shorter term result is mildly positive but overall, welfare spending is not being set to meet need and demand and is tending to decline as a proportion of tax revenue and GDP.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Provisions for welfare – JobSeeker payment Econ04.01.01 By 2022, restore the JobSeeker payment to the level applied during Covid-19 – effectively double the payments as at April 2021 – and restore indexation of the payment under legislation.</p> <p><small>*Consistent with UNSDG, Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.</small></p>	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In April 2021, the maximum fortnightly JobSeeker payment was reduced to near pre-Covid-19 levels which saw recipients once again confined to income of almost 40% below the poverty line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single, no children = \$620.80; • Single, with child or children = \$667.50; • Single, 60 or older, after 9 continuous months of payment = \$667.50; • Partnered = \$565.40; • Single principal carer granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for any of the following: foster caring, non-parent relative caring under a court order, home schooling, distance education, large family = \$850.20. <p>Source: Australian Government, Services Australia web page viewed, March 2021</p>	<p>In February 2022, the maximum fortnightly JobSeeker payment was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single, no children = \$629.50; • Single, with child or children = \$676.80; • Single, 60 or older, after 9 continuous months of payment = \$676.80; • Partnered = \$573.30; • Single principal carer granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for any of the following: foster caring, non-parent relative caring under a court order, home schooling, distance education, large family = \$862.10. <p>This represented a maximum increase of 1.4% comparing poorly to the CPI of 3.5% for 2021.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government, Services Australia web page viewed, February 2022 and ABS Media Release, 25 January 2022.</p> <p>No progress has been made with this Strategy.</p>
	<p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	connections & without domestic abuse.		The longer term trend, especially in terms of growth in inequality and poverty, is too poor to be called anything but negative. 
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing Top Priority Target/Strategy: Establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing Econ04.02 By 2022, the federal government convenes a process of joint development with community delegates of a draft policy of commitment to the welfare of all Australians that is designed to protect and promote the economic and social wellbeing of all citizens by adherence to principles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality of opportunity, • fair sharing of the burden of raising national wealth, • fair and more equitable distribution of national wealth, and 	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	In 2020, Australians had no guarantee of mutual obligations to each other and they were facing the risk of removal of most or even all aspects of their welfare safety net and opportunity for education (due to increasing education fees). The universality of health care was also under threat, particularly in aged care and Australians had no principles in place to guide fair sharing of national wealth for the wellbeing of all Australians. Before any further erosion of benefits and access to social support, and in anticipation of transitional issues associated with robotization and artificial intelligence, a joint statement of mutual commitment within a social safety net is advisable for purposes social cohesion, inclusion, fuller development of our human capital and	No progress has been made on development of an Accord between Australians and their parliaments on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing.  Note: This Strategy is derived from research by ACFP. For more information on proposals for an Accord between Australians and their parliaments on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing view the ACFP video series on <i>Snapshots from Australia Together, Episode 2, Part 1: A plan for a new economy</i> ³⁵ . In the absence of an Accord on Wealth Welfare and Wellbeing, longer term trends in terms of rising inequality and living standards have been negative. 
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		

³⁵ [Snapshots from Australia Together, Episode 2, Part 1: A plan for a new economy.](#)

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public responsibility by Australia as a community for those unable to avail themselves of the minimum provisions for a dignified life. <p>By 2023, nation-wide community engagement on the commitment is to be completed.</p> <p>By 2024, a legislative and policy review is to be undertaken to give effect and security to any expressed mutual obligations.</p>	<p>Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>	ongoing national economic prosperity.	
<p>Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Revocation of policies restricting government sector participation in Australia's economy Econ04.02.01</p> <p>By 2023, consistent with establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing under Econ04.02, legislate to revoke any policy which restricts government sector participation in the national economy. As a minimum, and in support of Econ02.04.01, this should include:</p>	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p> <p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p> <p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p> <p>Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.</p>	<p>In 2020, the Australian government operated on a policy of capping the total tax raised to 23.9% of GDP and set budget arbitrarily to restrain growth in taxation revenues which had the effect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing funds available to taxpayers for services which are important to them, unnecessarily constraining and even reducing employment opportunities for Australians in the public sector, reducing the shares of national wealth that may be returned to Australians, 	<p>In 2020/21, "as part of its fiscal strategy, the [federal] government has a commitment to maintaining the ratio of tax receipts to GDP at or below 23.9 per cent of GDP."</p> <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2020-21 Medium-Term Fiscal Projections, Report No. 04/2020.</p> <p>No progress has been made with this Strategy. The federal government continues to restrict government sector participation in the national economy.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The OECD's annual Revenue Statistics report found that the tax-to-GDP ratio in Australia decreased by 0.9 percentage points</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> revocation of policies imposing a tax-to-GDP cap; abolition of the public sector efficiency dividend (annual funding cuts for the public service); establishment of a floor increase in public sector funding in annual federal budgets designed to stimulate sustainable economic growth as per Econ01.05; and reversal of the tax cuts legislated in 2018 and 2019, consistent with Econ04.05, unless and until a new progressive tax regime is installed with sufficient potential to ensure maintenance of floor expenditures on any section of the federal budget for which floor expenditures are recommended in this plan. 	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing total size of Australia's economy, and reducing GDP growth. 	from 28.5% in 2018 to 27.7% in 2019.
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity	Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019-20 Medium Term Fiscal Projections	←
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.	Despite the policy capping tax-to-GDP at 23.9%, Australia raises more than that in actual revenues from taxation.	
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.	In 2019, Australia had an actual tax-to-GDP ratio of 27.7% compared with the OECD average of 33.5% in 2020 and 33.4% in 2019.	←
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.	Among OECD countries, Australia ranks as a low taxing country. Australia's 2019 tax-to-GDP ratio ranked it 30th out of 38 OECD countries in terms of the tax-to-GDP ratio. The country with the highest tax-to-GDP ratio was Denmark with 46.5%. Source: OECD, Revenue Statistics 2021 - Australia	Australia's economy is the 12th largest in the world and can easily sustain a higher tax-to-GDP ratio.

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Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Community engagement on and justification of national budget priorities Econ04.02.02 By 2023, consistent with establishment of an Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing under Econ04.02:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establish a structure for determination of priority federal budget expenditure allocations capable of ensuring that national wealth is spent by Australians on services which are the highest priority for them; 2. legislate to make open community engagement obligatory for determination of national spending priorities; and 3. legislate to make it mandatory that government justify priorities for spending on the basis of the results of community 	<p>Econ 4</p> <p>A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In its 2019/20 budget, the federal government – without community engagement and without any justification based on taxpayer preferences – structured the following changes in budgeted expenditures (as a percent of GDP) by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS – increase by 0.4%, • Defence – increase by 0.3%, • Aged care – increase by 0.2%, • Medicare & childcare – increase by 0.1%, • Public hospitals, government superannuation, carer income support, fuel tax credit scheme, schools, aged pension, private health insurance rebate, parenting payments – no increase (0.0%), • Official development assistance, JobSeeker, road and rail infrastructure, commonwealth grants – reduction of 0.1%, • Disability support pension, veterans support, family tax benefit, pharmaceutical benefits – reduction of 0.2%. <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019-20 Medium Term Fiscal Projections</p>	<p>In its 2021/22 budget, the federal government – without community engagement and without any justification based on taxpayer preferences – structured the following changes in budgeted expenditures (as a percent of GDP) by 2032:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS – increase by 1.2%, • Defence – increase by 0.4%, • Aged care – increase by 0.4%, • Medicare & public hospitals – increase by 0.2%, • Schools & childcare – increase of 0.1%, • Aged pension, pharmaceutical benefits, JobSeeker, government superannuation, carer income support, fuel tax credit scheme, road and rail infrastructure – no increase (0.0%), • Commonwealth grants, private health insurance rebate, parenting payments, official development assistance – reduction of 0.1%, • Disability support pension, veterans support – reduction of 0.2%, • family tax benefit, – reduction of 0.4%. <p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, "Beyond the Budget –</p>
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 6</p> <p>An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.</p>		
	<p>Soc 4</p> <p>A place of optimal health & wellbeing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 5</p> <p>A model of educational opportunity</p>		
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 9</p> <p>A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 10</p> <p>A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.</p>		
	<p>Soc 11</p> <p>A land without child disadvantage.</p>		
	<p>Soc 12</p> <p>A sure provider of lifelong dignity.</p>		
	<p>Soc 16</p> <p>A society prepared and resilient in</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
engagement in 2 above.	times of disaster.		2021-22 – Fiscal Outlook and Scenarios”
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.		<p>No progress has been made with this Strategy. The federal government continues to stop involvement by Australians in budget formulation and determination of priorities for spending of taxpayer funds.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Note: This Strategy is derived from research by ACFP. For more information on proposals for Community Engagement on National Budget Priorities, view the ACFP video series on <i>What is National Integrated Planning & Reporting?, Episode 2, Part 2: Long term financial planning</i>³⁶.</p>
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing Top Priority Target/Strategy: Community Australia Bank Econ04.02.03 By 2023, recognising that growth in GDP will be dependent on expansion of the services base within the economy, and in	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Between 1991 and 1996, the Australian government fully privatised the Commonwealth Bank. Between 1994 and 2000 the Bank of New South Wales was also privatised. Sale of these assets has not resulted in cheaper or more reliable services for Australians.	<p>No progress has been made with this Strategy. The federal government continues to restrict government sector participation in the national economy.</p> <p>←</p>
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		

³⁶ [What is National Integrated Planning & Reporting?, Episode 2, Part 2: Long term financial planning.](#)

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Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>association with the creation of the publicly owned, government administered financial corporation/bank under Econ06.01, (which is for investment in ownership of new government commercial trading enterprises), establish a 100% publicly owned (government administered) Community Australia Bank to support delivery of the workforce plan in Econ02.04.01 for expansion of government-owned services in health, welfare, education, housing, conservation and land care, renewable energy, buildings efficiency and transport – and any associated infrastructure which will generate economic growth.</p>	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	<p>Withdrawal by the government sector from operation of profitable enterprises has resulted in Australia's economy being smaller and/or less competitive than it might otherwise be and smaller shares of return on investment for taxpayers. Nor is the banking system in 2021 structured to finance direct investment in publicly owned services and infrastructure that will provide returns to working Australians without profits being syphoned off to shareholders and private owners.</p> <p>In 2021, industry super funds provide an avenue for returns to Australians from investment in commercial sector and public sector projects and infrastructure. However a publicly owned bank established for the purpose of taking deposits and issuing bonds will complement the supply of funds for services owned and operated by Australians and significantly increase returns direct to all Australians both individual and in the wider economy.</p> <p>Source: Australian Community Futures Planning, The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 5.</p>	
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		

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Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<div>Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.</div> <div>Env 7 Efficiently connected through low emissions transport.</div> <div>Env 8 Environmentally and economically sustainable in agriculture and fisheries.</div> <div>Env 9 Confident of safety and security of its water supplies.</div> <div>Env 10 A biodiversity haven.</div> <div>Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.</div> <div>Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.</div> <div>Env 13 A provider of accessible national & urban parkland.</div> <div>Env 18 Multi-central in its cities, efficiently connecting people with jobs, health, education and recreation.</div> <div>Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.</div>		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Fair & progressive taxation</p> <p><u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Restoration of a fair and progressive taxation system Econ04.03</p> <p>Australia's taxation system is increasingly progressive and regressive income tax measures legislated since 2018 are reversed or suspended until an accord is agreed on wealth, welfare and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Econ 4</p> <p>A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In 2018 and 2019, the Australian government legislated tax cuts which increased regression in the tax system via tax bracket changes in which people earning less than \$58,000 will see a significant <i>rise</i> in their average tax over the decade to 2030 and people earning above \$90,000 will actually see a <i>drop</i> in their average tax.</p>	<p>The tax cuts of 2018 and 2019, removing a total of \$302 billion from national taxation revenues over the decade to 2029, have not been reversed. To make matters worse, Stage 2 of the tax cuts was brought forward, which increased the loss of tax revenues.</p>
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>	<p>In addition, the tax cuts will remove a total of \$302 billion from the tax revenue that would otherwise have been put aside for services over the decade to 2029. This is the equivalent of deleting the entirety of what Australians budgeted to spend on their own social security, welfare, health and education in 2019/20. The tax cuts are unsustainable unless they are funded by deletion of services equivalent to a full year of funding for pensions, Medicare the family tax benefit, disability support pension, pharmaceutical benefits, carer income support and the federal government's contribution to schools and higher education.</p>	<p>The regression in Australia's tax system established in the tax cuts and federal budgets of 2018 and 2019 has not been reversed.</p>
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>	<p>Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019-20 Medium Term Fiscal Projections</p>	<p>←</p> <p>The tax system embeds clear increases in the burden on lower income earners and reductions of burden on higher income earners.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p>
<p>Corporate taxation – maintenance of corporate tax contributions</p>	<p>Econ 4</p> <p>A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In 2019, the Business Council of Australia called for a lower the rate of company tax (in</p>	<p>No change either way from the baseline. The Business Council of Australia continues to</p>


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Economy 4 – National wealth generation and sharing

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Econ04.04 Between 2021 and 2035, ensure that the corporate tax rate for businesses with a turnover of more than \$50 million does not drop below 30% unless and until:</p> <p>a) corporate income taxation is replaced by a new corporate tax system such as a corporate cash flow tax as per Econ04.04.01 – such alternative tax system to be modelled and validated to maximise the possibility of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining corporate taxation over 15 years to at least the same proportion of federal revenue that it supplied in 2021, and establishing full employment in Australia (where full employment is defined consistent with Econ02.02); and <p>b) a corporate super profits tax</p>	<p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>	<p>stages) from 30 per cent to 25 per cent for all companies while saying that “robust integrity measures are a key complement to more competitive company tax arrangements.”</p> <p>Source: Business Council of Australia, A Plan for a Stronger Australia, 2019</p>	<p>lobby for a lower corporate tax rate and large corporations continue to dodge tax.</p> <p>Source: Michael West, “Revealed: Australia’s Top 40 Tax Dodgers for 2021”, MW Media, 15 January 2021</p> <p></p> <p>No progress has been made with introduction of a corporate cash flow tax or a corporate super profits tax. Tax avoidance by major corporates continues to increase with several big companies paying no tax.</p> <p></p>
	<p>Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		


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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
is re-introduced as per Econ04.04.02.			
Corporate taxation – Introduction of a corporate cash flow tax, replacing corporate income tax Econ04.04.01 By 2023, legislate to replace Australia's current corporate income taxation system with a corporate cash flow tax, such tax to be structured to compensate businesses for negative cash flows at the same rate as positive cash flows, thus reducing the corporate tax rate effectively to zero but increasing the capacity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reverse falls in private sector capital investment in the Australian economy; tax economic rents at sustainable rates without adversely affecting employment growth and private investment; generate new investment and employment sufficient to increase the total (but not 	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	In 2020 Australia's economy entered a recession due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the economy had been in decline since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 – a decline exhibited not just by a significant slowing of growth in GDP but also by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rise in unemployment and underemployment, falls in productivity and private capital investment, a drop in competitiveness of exports, stagnation of wages, and a rise in income and wealth inequality. In the decade to 2020, Australia also experienced a significant rise in tax evasion by large corporations, many of which made enormous profits but paid no tax by offshoring their company registration locations and by attributing (without proving) expenses incurred in earning income in Australia to their foreign owned parent companies. In 2021, Professor Ross Garnaut proposed a new system to replace corporate income tax with a tax on economic	No change either way from the baseline.  No progress has been made with introduction of a corporate cash flow tax.
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>the average) of income tax from individuals and repair the federal budget over ten to fifteen years;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reverse recent falls in corporate tax receipts from large traders across time by prohibiting deductibility of interest and indirect costs; stimulate Australia's competitiveness in trade exposed industries and insulate Australia from loss of investment to countries with lower tax rates; and remove the current bias in taxation against new domestic entrants. <p>Note³⁷</p>		<p>rents – a corporate cash flow tax – as part of a wider program of initiatives to stimulate the Australian economy back to full employment by 2025.</p> <p>Source: Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession.</p>	
<p>Corporate taxation – Re-introduction of a corporate super profits tax Econ04.04.02 By 2023, legislate to reintroduce a corporate super profits tax of 40%</p>	<p>Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.</p>	<p>In 2010, the Henry Tax Review recommended introduction of a resource rent of 40% on non-renewable oil, gas and mineral resources, applying to net income minus an allocation for capital.</p>	<p>No change either way from the baseline.</p> <p></p> <p>No progress has been made with introduction of a corporate super profits tax.</p>
	<p>Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.</p>		

³⁷ In Garnaut's model the cash flow tax would have the following structure: "The new tax would allow immediate deductibility of all capital expenditures; deny deductibility for all interest payments and financing costs; allow deductibility for imported services (including royalties, marketing and management fees) only if the taxpayer demonstrates that the costs have been incurred directly in producing the service for the taxpayer; and provide a cash credit for any negative cash flows, payable at the time of processing the tax return." Source: Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession, page 146.

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>applicable not just to mining but to all businesses (including multinationals operating in Australia) with an annual turnover of \$100 million – such tax to be applied to profits remaining after normal income tax and a fair return to shareholders (generally profits in excess of 6%).</p> <p>For an example of a possible model for the super profits tax see the Parliamentary Budget Office Costing web page: Advice to Adam Bandt, Corporate Super Profits Tax 18 June 2021 and Mining Super Profits Tax 3 September 2021.³⁸</p> <p>Note: The super profits tax is intended to be applied in addition to, not instead of, the proposed cash flow tax in Econ04.04.01. The cash flow tax removes objections that may arise from advocates such as the Business Council of Australia that businesses may depart Australia to</p>	<p>Econ 2</p> <p>A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.</p>	<p>In 2012, the federal government introduced a (“super profits”) Minerals Resources Rent Tax (MRRT) of 30% for mining of iron ore and coal, payable by a company when annual profits reached \$75 million.</p> <p>In 2014, the Abbott government repealed the MRRT.</p> <p>A January 2014 poll conducted by UMR Research found that a majority of Australians still think that multinational mining companies do not pay enough tax. Supporters of the tax also point to continually-large profits produced by Australian-based mining operations, 83% of which are foreign-owned.</p> <p>In June 2021 the ABS recorded that the profit share of national income for corporates reached its highest level (30.3%) since records began. Corporate profits as a share of national income have doubled since 1975, whereas the share of national income for wages dropped from 62% to 50% in the same period.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Treasury, Australia’s Future Tax System Review Final Report, (Ken Henry 2010); Wikipedia,</p>	<p>The longer term trend on corporate profits as a proportion of national income is negative – meaning that shares of national income for corporates is rising.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend on wages as a proportion of national income is negative – meaning that shares of national income for wages is falling.</p> <p>←</p> <p>See Econ03.01.02, Econ03.02 and Econ03.02.01 for data.</p>
	<p>Econ 3</p> <p>A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
	<p>Econ 5</p> <p>A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9</p> <p>A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		

³⁸ Parliamentary Budget Office:

https://www.apf.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Publications/Costings



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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
centre their operations in countries with lower tax rates. It also acknowledges the legitimacy of complaints from wage earners that corporations are corraling too high a proportion of national income as private profit while wages have been suppressed and services have declined. Arguments that big companies will depart Australia have no basis.		Mineral Resources Rent Tax webpage; and ABS, 5206.0 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, June 2021, Table 34	
Corporate taxation – planning for and reporting on closure of corporate tax loopholes Econ04.04.03 By 2023, legislate to mandate the development by the Australian Taxation Office of biennial rolling plans for and performance reports on closure of all corporate tax loopholes as they arise particularly from off-shoring and other means of accounting that artificially reduce taxable income or permit reduction of tax on income earned in Australia.	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	In 2017, 81% of Australians supported “closing corporate tax loopholes” and 66% supported “raising the corporate tax rate [which in 2017 was 30% and for small businesses was being lowered to 25%]”. Source: Centre for Policy Development Study, “What Do Australians Want? Active and Effective Government Fit for the Ages”, December 2017.	No progress has been made with legislation mandating development by the Australian Taxation Office of biennial rolling plans for and performance reports on closure of all corporate tax loopholes.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in		

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
Royalties – Mining exports Econ04.05 By 2023, legislate to mandate uniform royalties for all states and territories on mining exports across Australia and stipulate a minimum of 20% in any year. Note: Had this rate been applied in 2018/19, Australians would have earned a total of \$45.4 billion, almost \$31 billion more than they did and the mining sector would still have retained over \$100 billion in gross operating profits for the year. Further note: The above royalties may or may not be reviewed for possible repeal in the event that both a corporate tax flow cash as per Econ04.04.01 and a super profits tax as per Econ04.04.02 are	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth. Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability. Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all. Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors. Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation. Gov 9 A nation outlawing	In 2018/19, the mining industry make up 1% of exporters but 61% of the total value of Australia's exports (\$227 billion). Gross operating profits for the mining sector in 2018/19 were \$151.7 billion. In 2018/19, Deloitte Access Economics estimated that the Australian minerals sector paid \$14.6 billion in royalties which equals 6% of the value of exports. However some states earned much more in royalties as a proportion of their exports than others. In 2019/20 Queensland's royalties rose to 15% of export value. Source: ABS 5368.0.55.006, Characteristics of Australian Exporters 2020 and ABS 5676.0; Deloitte Access Economics, Estimates of Royalties and Company Tax Paid by the Minerals Sector, 2021; and Callum Foote, MW Media, 2 June 2021	No progress has been made with introduction of legislation for uniform mining royalties of 20%.  The longer term effect within Australia's economy is negative. 

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Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
implemented and in the event that arrangements for fair sharing of new corporate taxes between the states and federal government can be reached.	corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 9 A land without homelessness & with decent affordable housing for all.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.		
	Env 12 A protector of scarce resources.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: National Competition Policy review Econ05.01</p> <p>By 2024, establish an independent review of the benefits and failures of 30 years of National Competition Policy with terms of reference which place equitable and affordable access by consumers to services at the top of the list of objective measures of performance of the Policy (recognising that the Policy gives priority to businesses over consumers).</p> <p>By 2025, subject to the findings of the above review, revise National Competition Policy to any extent necessary to fairly adjust the negative impact of both the Hilmer and Harper recommendations</p>	Econ 5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	<p>Instead of reducing the share of human services (eg., health, education, employment placement, and welfare) that is being transferred to the private sector, federal governments since 2000 have expanded the share of human services that is driven by the private sector and subsidised by the taxpayer. Examples include the NDIS and aged care, neither of which have resulted in better service or lower prices for service users.</p> <p>←</p> <p>No progress has been made with a review of National Competition Policy.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	Econ 1	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	
	Econ 2	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	
	Econ 3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	

³⁹ For a history of Competition Policy in Australia, see Parliament of Australia, Australia's National Competition Policy at https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Publications_Archive/archive/ncpebrief

⁴⁰ The objective of the reforms was to: prevent anti-competitive conduct by any business, government or private; introduce competitive neutrality principles restricting governments from gaining business advantages (in business of a certain size) merely by being government owned (and eg., by not having to pay tax); prevent mergers and acquisitions that are contrary to the public interest; and provide access to monopoly infrastructure on fair and equitable terms.

⁴¹ See Competition Policy Review Final Report March 2015 (the Harper Report), page 255: "The [competitive neutrality principles in national competition] policies require government business activities to charge prices that fully reflect costs and to compete on the same footing as private sector businesses in terms of taxation, debt, regulation and earning a commercial rate of return." The implicit assumption was that fair price competition between public and private sector would result in price advantages for the consumer but the principle actually made price rises inevitable for consumers of services where large GTE's are competing with the private sector. https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-03/Competition-policy-review-report_online.pdf

⁴² Ibid., page 31.


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>(recognising that the focus of both is on artificially advantaging the private sector to help it compete rather than on maximising returns to taxpayers on their investments in services and minimising the price they then pay for those services when they use them).</p>	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Report recommendations, paving the way for easier access by private companies to provide core services in education, health and social services, regardless of whether this would lead to cheaper or better services for Australians. Source: Parliament of Australia, Australia's National Competition Policy webpage, Competition Policy Review Final Report March 2015 (the Harper Report)	
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections & without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
Ethical regulation of carbon credits markets Econ05.02 By 2023, recognising that in order to facilitate Australia's entry into international carbon credits trading and markets (in line with initiatives under Env11.01 and Econ01.07) Australia will need to establish a reputation as a producer of genuine carbon credits, ensure that the Australian Clean Energy Regulator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintains its reputation as a credible agency for certifying carbon credits, is sufficiently funded to maintain its capacity for development of credible, low cost methodologies for certification of credits (including low cost methods for measuring carbon in the landscape), and is enabled to exercise its leadership role in international 	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	During the period of carbon pricing in Australia (2012 to 2014), a Clean Energy Regulator was established which among other things developed an international reputation for defining acceptable approaches to carbon sequestration which could be used to produce genuine, accredited carbon credit units (Australian Carbon Credit Units – ACCUs). The Australian Clean Energy Regulator survived the demise of the carbon price and has retained some status as a credible regulator. In 2021, this made the Australian Clean Energy Regulator a "valuable asset" in emerging markets for carbon and in establishing a foothold for Australian businesses in international carbon credits trade. Source: Professor Ross Garnaut, Reset: Restoring Australia After the Pandemic Recession, 2021	No discernible progress either way. 
	Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.		
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
trade negotiations and market structure adjustments.	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
Ethical certification and regulatory enforcement of plans by businesses for achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2033 Econ05.03 By 2023, synchronising with initiatives under Gov09.04, which prohibit government contracts for businesses that do not have certified plans to achieve net zero emissions by 2033, ensure that the Australian Clean Energy Regulator is vested with full capacity (in staff, expertise and funding) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> certify that the plans for achievement of net zero emissions by 2033 submitted by businesses seeking government 	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	In 2021, schemes to incentivise companies to reach carbon neutrality (eg., the Emissions Reduction Fund) were limited in scope, number, structure and actual effectiveness (in terms of achieving carbon neutrality rather than just reducing emissions by small amounts). The incentives framework also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relied on voluntary investments with very little financial assistance from government; imposed no obligation as to actual emissions that must be reduced in order to qualify for an agreed quantum of assistance; operated without the addition of support to a business case for approval of grants that would arise 	No discernible progress either way. 
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 6 An economy with		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>contracts are authentic, feasible and fully financed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor compliance with plans of those businesses whose approved government contracts are conditional on their compliance; and advise the agency administering contracts of any non-compliance or unsuitability for renewal. 	competitive & profitable public sector participation.	<p>from imposition of a price on carbon; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> operated with no complementary regulatory settings encouraging businesses to decarbonise. <p>Source: Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources webpage for the Emissions Reduction Fund</p>	
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Env 11 A replanted and reforested land.		
	Env 14 A pollution free biosphere.		
	Env 19 A land of thriving self-supporting regions.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics &		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 5 – Market regulation & competition policy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	community partnership.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy			
Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Government sector workforce plan and economic participation</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Program for recovery of ownership and operation of government trading enterprises Econ06.01 By 2023, develop:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a timeline for recovery wherever possible of divested assets and operations and a policy of non-renewal of contracts for private operation of government assets as those contracts expire; and a publicly owned, government administered financial corporation/bank (aligned with the proposed Community Australia Bank under Econ04.02.03) to invest immediately and directly in ownership of new government trading enterprises, 	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	Between 1990 and 2020 Australian federal and state governments divested ownership and/or operations of a vast array of taxpayer-owned assets including ports, airports, QANTAS, the Commonwealth Bank, toll roads, buses, electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, water treatment, a commercial health insurer, commercial laboratories, and vital data bases including land titles data bases.	<p>No progress.</p> <p>←</p>
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	These sales transferred profits and all other forms of return on investment away from taxpayers and into the hands of a small number of private owners.	
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Sale of these assets has not resulted in cheaper or more reliable services for Australians.	
	Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.	Withdrawal by the government sector from operation of profitable enterprises has resulted in Australia's economy being smaller and/or less competitive than it might otherwise be and smaller shares of return on investment for taxpayers.	
	Econ 8 Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>particularly in lucrative services or industries such as renewable energy, data base management, tertiary education, and any other identified service which can provide positive returns to taxpayers on their invested funds (rather than to private operators).</p> <p>Program for recovery of ownership and operation of government trading enterprises – publication of plans Econ06.01.01</p> <p>By 2024, publish a plan for expansion of government trading enterprises as a profitable sector of Australia's economy wholly owned by taxpayers and align this plan with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the national plan for full employment supported by a social wage under Econ02.04, the program of expansion of public sector direct employment under 	<p>Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.</p>	<p>Source: Australian Community Futures Planning, The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 5.</p>	
	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy

Economy 6 – Government competitive business participation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Econ02.04.01; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Accord on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing under Econ04.02. 			

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 7 – Science, research, innovation & collaboration

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy		
Economy 7 – Science, research, innovation & collaboration		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Soc05.01 Soc05.01.02 Soc16.01 Env01.01 Env06.02 Env06.03 Econ01.07 Econ02.05.02 Econ06.01 Econ06.01.01 Gov01.05 Gov10.02 Gov10.02.01 Gov10.02.02</p>	<p>Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available relevant to this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 8 – Technology development & digitisation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy		
Economy 8 – Technology development & digitisation		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Soc05.01 Econ02.05.02 Econ06.01 Econ06.01.01 Gov10.02 Gov10.02.01 Gov10.02.02</p>	<p>Econ 8</p> <p>Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available relevant to this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Economy 9 – International economic engagement & trade

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Economy		
Economy 9 – International economic engagement & trade		
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data
<p>No specific Targets or Strategies have yet been established for this Direction. However, some Strategies which are closely integrated with this Direction are incorporated into the plan under:</p> <p>Soc16.01 Env01.01 Env01.02 Env06.03 Env11.01 Econ01.07 Econ01.08 Econ02.05 Econ02.05.01 Econ05.01 Econ05.02 Gov03.01 Gov03.01.01 Gov12.04 Gov12.05</p>	<p>Econ 9</p> <p>Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.</p>	<p>No baseline data have yet been established specifically for this Direction. However, baseline data are available relevant to this Direction under the Targets and Strategies listed at left.</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Chapter 10 – National Wellbeing Index – Baseline & Update Data for Our Governance






Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 1 – Strength of democracy			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Consistency of legislative programs with the Vision for Australia Together Gov01.01</p> <p>The proportion of legislation enacted during the term of a federal parliament that is consistent with, or has no effect either way on, the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i> equals 100%.</p> <p>The proportion that is antithetical to the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i> equals zero.</p>	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	<p>Between 2002 and 2019 legislation was passed in the Parliament of Australia which had the effect of diminishing human rights and equality for all Australians, including by reducing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free speech and rights of protest, • freedom of assembly and organisation, • freedom of the press, • transparency in government, • access to government information, • equity and transparency in lobbying and electoral funding, • rights to privacy, • rights to fair trials in public, • rights in unlawful detention and search without warrants. <p>All such legislation and some other legislation weakens the strength of a democracy. As such, it is antithetical to the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i>.</p> <p>Source: Kelly, <i>By 2050</i></p>	<p>No monitor exists yet which checks new legislation for consistency with the Vision and Directions for <i>Australia Together</i>.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>However, results in this End of Term Report indicate that large swathes of legislation and policy development since 2000 have been antithetical to the Vision and Directions for <i>Australia Together</i>.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		
Satisfaction with democracy Gov01.02	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	In 2018, 41% of Australians were satisfied	No updated data are yet available.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance


Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
85% of Australians are satisfied with the way democracy works by 2035.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	with the way democracy works. Source: MOAD, Museum of Australian Democracy, Democracy 2025, "Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic decline and renewal", Report No. 1. In 2019, after the federal election, 59% of Australians on survey said they were satisfied with democracy, down from 86% in 2007. Source: ANU Trends in Australian Political Opinion, 1987 to 2019	 However, the longer term trend has been negative. 
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing modern nation.		
Satisfaction with Australia's system of government Gov01.02.01 70% of Australians are satisfied with Australia's system of government by 2030.	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	In 2014, satisfaction with Australia's "system of government" ⁴³ was reported as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48% said it works fine as is, • 15% said it needs minor change, • 34% said it needs major change or should be replaced. More than twice as many Australians thought major change or replacement was needed compared to those who said only minor change was needed. Between 2014 and 2019, an average of 54% of Australians thought the system of government needed change, compared to 44% who said the system works fine as is. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020.	In November 2020, satisfaction with Australia's "system of government" was reported as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51% said it works fine as is, • 21% said it needs minor change, • 28% said it needs major change or should be replaced. In 2021, the proportions reversed, compared to 2020 and those wanting system change (53%) once again outnumbered those who said it works fine as is (47%). Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020 and 2021.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		

⁴³ Scanlon Foundation, Mapping Social Cohesion, 2020 and 2021. The Scanlon Foundation does not define what they mean by "the system of government".

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Participation in democracy – participation and social justice Gov01.03</p> <p>The index of political participation in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion does not fall below 100 unless Australians simultaneously perceive an improvement in the index of social justice and equity within the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion.</p>	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	In 2019, the index of political participation in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion was 102.9 (2.9 points above the baseline of 100 in 2007), up from 90.8 in 2013 but down from its highest of 106.6 in 2012.	In November 2020, the index of political participation in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion fell to 93.8, the second lowest score since the start of the Index and 4.9 points below the average of 98.7 between 2013 and 2019, before rising slightly in 2021 to 95 (still 5 points below the original Index score of 100).
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.	Between 2013 and 2019, the average score for political participation was 98.7. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020.	
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.	The index of political participation generally has an inverse relationship with the Scanlon index of social justice and equity because poorer results in social justice and equity have tended to result in heightened political participation, which is healthy.	
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart.	In 2019, the index of social justice and equity in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion was 93.1 (6.9 points below the baseline of 100 in 2007) and 19.3 points down from its highest score of 112.4 in 2009.	In 2020, the index of social justice and equity in the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion was renamed as the index of “social inclusion and justice” ⁴⁴ and achieved a score of 110.5, 18.1 points above the average score of 92.4 between 2013 and 2019, before falling again in 2021 to 97.4. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020 and 2021.
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.	Between 2013 and 2019, the average score for social justice and equity was 92.4.	 <p>The onset of Covid-19 resulted in a fall in the score on social inclusion and justice from 112 in July 2020 to 97.4 in 2021. But here has been no corresponding rise in political participation, which has remained flat</p>
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		

⁴⁴ In 2021, the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion changed the name of the index of social justice and equity to the index of “social inclusion and justice”. Extra questions were added to determine the Index going forward from 2021. No explanation appears to be available for the name change but it is assumed that the scores for social justice and equity will be projected out without disruption under the name of “social inclusion and justice” as though they are comparable.




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.</p>	<p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020.</p>	<p>across the same period with an average score of 94.7, 4 points below the average of 98.7 between 2013 and 2019.</p> <p>Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2021.</p> <p>The overall result implies that disengagement from participation in politics is increasing during a period of falling social justice and equity, a very unhealthy result. It implies a decline in social justice and equity and a decline in activism to remedy the inequity.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.</p>		
<p>Participation in democracy – voter turnout Gov01.03.01 Voter turnout at federal elections for the House of Representatives is steadily maintained above 94%.</p>	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>	<p>Between 2001 and 2016, voter turnout in federal elections for the House of Representatives trended in decline from 94.85% to 91.01%, the lowest recorded since the introduction of compulsory voting ahead of the 1925 federal election.</p> <p>Source: Australian Electoral Commission</p>	<p>In 2019 voter turnout in federal elections for the House of Representatives increased to 91.89%.</p> <p>Source: Australian Electoral Commission</p> <p>→</p> <p>Voter turnout improved in 2019 but does not meet the target of 94%.</p> <p>The longer term trend is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
<p>Participation in democracy – ability to have a say Gov01.03.02 The proportion of Australians who feel able to have a say within the community on important issues rises continuously.</p>	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>	<p>In 2019, 58.2% of Australians on survey felt they were “able to have a say within community on important issues”, some, most or all of the time – up from 53.4% in 2014.</p> <p>Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1</p>	<p>In 2020, 58.5% of Australians on survey felt they were “able to have a say within community on important issues”, some, most or all of the time – up from 53.4% in 2014.</p> <p>Source: ABS General Social Survey 2020, Table 17.1</p>
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			 The longer term trend has been negative. 
Cohesion and stability of democracy Gov01.03.03 The income based trust inequality gap does not rise above 10 points on a rolling three year average.	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	In 2018, Australians on both high and low incomes were distrusting of institutions within our democracy. Trust scores were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High income = 46. • Low income = 35. • Income based trust inequality gap = 11 points. Between 2012 and 2018, the average income based trust inequality gap was 10.6 points. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022 Note: This indicator and target have been selected as a reasonable means of monitoring changes in societal cohesion which may foreshadow a decline in the cohesion and stability of democracy itself, for example in the way that growing income inequality has split communities of the USA along economic lines and built a groundswell of populism which in turn resulted in the insurrection of 6 January 2022 and the violent attack on the Capitol Building in Washington	In 2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic high income Australians moved into trusting territory for the first time in ten years, but those on low incomes did not and the trust gap widened. Trust scores in 2021 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High income = 72. • Low income = 50. • Income based trust inequality gap = 22 points. In 2022, still during the Covid-19 pandemic, trust scores slipped back again. Trust scores in 2022 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High income = 62. • Low income = 44. • Income based trust inequality gap = 18 points. Between 2019 and 2022, the average income based trust inequality gap was 16.5 points, 5.9 points above (worse than) the average between 2012 and 2018. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022 
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	<p>aimed at stopping the peaceful transfer of democratic control from one administration to the next.</p> <p>Increases in the trust inequality gap signal impending danger for the stability of democracy.</p>	<p>The significant increase in the trust inequality gap provides early warning of a dangerous trend for cohesion and stability in Australia's democracy. Strategies to reduce income inequality and gaps access to education and information will be vital in heading off democratic decline.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p></p>
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
<p>National Integrated Planning & Reporting – legislative program Gov01.04</p> <p>By 2030, legislate at the federal level to make National Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) mandatory for all federal governments, with the IP&R framework to be based on the</p>	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.	<p>In 2021, Australians had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no long term plan for the nation as a whole; no say in developing such a plan; no say in what the nation should become; no assembled, easily accessible data about the nation's current health and wellbeing; 	<p>No progress towards legislation making National Integrated Planning & Reporting mandatory for all federal governments.</p> <p></p> <p>However in contrast to the situation in 2019, Australia does now have:</p> <p>1. assembled, easily accessible data about the nation's</p>
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>framework legislated in 2009 in NSW for local government, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compulsory community engagement on development of a community-owned long term strategic plan, minimum 20-year planning horizons with targets for society, the environment, the national economy and democracy, baseline data forming a comprehensive national wellbeing index, long term financial and asset planning, and “end of term” reporting. <p>Ensure that the legislation formally acknowledges the spirit and intent of Integrated Planning & Reporting, namely that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National IP&R shall be designed to ensure that the Australian community drives and owns the resultant national community 	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no means of transparently measuring the commitment and performance of governments in delivery of improved quality of life; no permitted role in providing guidance on preferences for how national wealth should be raised and fairly shared; and no transparent means of holding governments to account for conduct contrary to the public interest or for failures in delivery of longer term safety, security and wellbeing. <p>Source: By 2050.</p>	<p>health and wellbeing in the <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index;</p> <p>2. 60-70% of a starting draft of Australia’s first national community futures plan, <i>Australia Together</i>, with minimum 20-year planning horizons and Targets and Strategies for society, the environment, the national economy and democracy,</p> <p>3. a clearly prescribed, open and inclusive National IP&R process, including community engagement and long term financial planning.</p> <p>This End of Term Report constitutes the first report on Australia’s performance against the <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index. The report is comprehensive, free and open for all Australians. It provides a basis for greater engagement in future National IP&R and for development of stronger long term integrated national plans.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders’ conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>All All All other Directions</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>futures plans, and that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> while the resultant plans are not binding on any elected government, they are acknowledged as the most reliable guidance for selection by governments of strategies aligned with the long term aims of Australians for their society, environment, economy and democracy. 			
<p>Skills development in National Integrated Planning & Reporting and community engagement in national long term financial planning Gov01.05</p> <p>By 2023, establish a federally funded Institute for National Long Term Financial Planning within a major Australian University (in association with the Parliamentary Budget Office) with a charter to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop expertise in community engagement for National Integrated Planning & Reporting with 	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	<p>No progress towards establishment of a federally funded Institute for National Long Term Financial Planning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Skills development in the federal public service and in universities is yet to be introduced.</p> <p>No involvement by the community in the permission system for taxation and expenditure is yet in place. In the meantime, corruption and misuse of public funds has increased under the federal Coalition government since 2013, alongside a de-skilling of the federal Treasury and other federal agencies in</p>
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	
	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	
	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
	Econ 1	A model of transition from	
		<p>In 2021, Australians had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no say in the composition of federal budgets; no say in tax levels or distribution of burdens for taxation; no say in how their taxes should be spent; no forums in which they could set out their spending priorities for the long term based on properly foreshadowed demand and need; no forum in which to negotiate with governments about their preparedness to increase taxes in return for services and infrastructure that will ultimately expand national wealth and fair 	




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance






Governance 1 – Strength of democracy

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>a particular focus on national government sector long term financial and asset planning;</p> <p>2. teach techniques of Integrated Planning & Reporting and long term financial and asset planning to federal public servants (preparing them for the introduction of compulsory National Integrated Planning & Reporting under Gov01.04; and</p> <p>3. establish pilot programs for community engagement on development of long term financial plans for federal revenues and spending on the nation within the context of a community-owned national long term plan for society, the environment, the economy and democracy.</p>	excessive consumption to sustainability.	<p>sharing of that wealth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no ability to assess annual federal budgets and estimates in accordance with whether they reflect their projected long term demands and needs for service; and no way of holding governments to account for departing, without explanation, from known community preferences for living standards, fair sharing of national wealth and intergenerational equity. 	<p>administering expenditures of public funds with transparency and probity.</p> <p>←</p>
	Econ 2 A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
	Econ 7 A collaborative intelligent nation.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	All All All other Directions		

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 2 – National values & identity

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 2 – National values & identity			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Pride in Australian culture Gov02.01 The proportion of Australians reporting that they have great pride in their culture and way of life improves continuously.	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.	In 2019, 50% of Australians reported that they take pride in the Australian way of life and culture “to a great extent”, down from 58% in 2007. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2019	In 2021, 58% of Australians reported that they take pride in the Australian way of life and culture “to a great extent”, equal to the score in 2007. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2021  The longer term trend is slightly positive but performance is variable – improvement is not continuous. 
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 13 A wellspring of inspiration & creativity.		
Satisfaction with national direction Gov02.02 The proportion of Australians reporting that they are dissatisfied with the Direction of the country continuously declines.	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.	In 2019, 57% of Australians were dissatisfied with the direction of the country. Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2019 In 2021, 61% of Australians “did not believe that the country was any better than it was 5-10 years ago”. Source: Next25 Navigator, Social Research report 2021	In February 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of Australians on survey felt that “Australia was heading in the right direction”; 40% of Australians on survey felt that Australia was heading “off on the wrong track”; and 20% were undecided. Source: Essential Poll, 22 February 2022.  No conclusion can be drawn as to whether Australians are any less dissatisfied with the direction of the country than they were in 2019. Between 40% and 60% are dissatisfied in 2022.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 2 – National values & identity			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>That's a lot of dissatisfaction.</p> 
<p>Support for the Vision and Directions of Australia Together – support for the Vision elements Gov02.03</p> <p>The proportion of Australians who support the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> as a whole reaches 80%. Each element of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> is rated at or above 3.1 out of 5 as important.</p>	<p>Gov 2</p> <p>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>	<p>In 2020, there were no established data for approval of the Vision for <i>Australia Together</i>. Provision of a baseline is subject to availability of resources for statistically valid surveys of Australians.</p>	<p>No update available.</p>  <p>No funds are yet available for statistically valid surveys of the opinion of Australians about the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i>.</p>  <p>ACFP will work towards establishing support for surveys in the next cycle of National IP&R for the 47th Parliament (2022 to 2025).</p>
<p>Support for the Vision and Directions of Australia Together – support for the Directions Gov02.03.01</p> <p>Each Direction for <i>Australia Together</i> is rated at or above 3.1 out of 5 as important.</p>	<p>Gov 2</p> <p>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>	<p>In 2020, there were no established data for approval of the Directions for <i>Australia Together</i>. Provision of a baseline is subject to availability of resources for statistically valid surveys of Australians.</p>	<p>No update available.</p>  <p>No funds are yet available for statistically valid surveys of the opinion of Australians about the Vision and Directions of <i>Australia Together</i>.</p>  <p>ACFP will work towards establishing support for surveys in the next cycle of National IP&R for the 47th Parliament (2022 to 2025).</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 3 – Human & other rights			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution Gov03.01 By 2025, as an essential and defining part of nation-wide community engagement for a new Constitution under Gov04.01, ensure that Australia's Constitution confers explicit rights on Australians via a Bill of Rights or other legal basis in the Constitution with such rights, as a minimum, to include all rights consistent with a modern open democracy enabling equality, dignity and freedom for all citizens.</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution – Preparatory steps and an Australian Bill of Rights Commission Gov03.01.01 By 2022, preparatory to the Constitutional Convention, establish an Australian Bill of Rights Commission to supervise a process of development of</p>	Gov	3 A nation with avowed rights for all.	<p>In 2021, Australians did not have explicitly conferred rights to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freedom of speech, • peaceful assembly and protest, • freedom of the press, • trial in open court, • justice itself and without delay, or • freedom from unlawful detention. <p>We had a right to freedom of religion and a heavily limited right to freedom of political communication.</p> <p>Some human rights were being provided in state legislation but these could and were being actively extinguished because there was nothing in Australia's Constitution which ensured that those rights could not be extinguished.</p>
	Gov	1 A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov	2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov	4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.	
	Gov	5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	
	Gov	6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov	10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	
	Gov	11 A just participant on the global stage.	<p>Human rights for Australians are still not specified in the Constitution and remain unprotected.</p> <p>Since 2001, chokes on our democracy in Australia were boldly exhibited by conservative governments⁴⁵ in so many successive abuses of power that by 2020, independents and academic and media commentators had started characterising Australia as "arguably the most secretive democracy in the Western world"⁴⁶ or as "Orwellian"⁴⁷.</p> <p>The abuses or attempted abuses have included, but were not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reductions of freedom of the press, alongside a failure to protect democratic discourse from misinformation, "doublespeak",

⁴⁵ Since 2002 more than 70 pieces of national security legislation have been introduced in Australia which have the effect of limiting the civil liberties and democratic rights of Australians. Over 95% of these have been introduced by Coalition governments. The Labor governments during this period watered down some draconian powers introduced by the Coalition and introduced an independent national security monitor, a role which the Coalition attempted to abolish in 2014 but eventually supported. They also attempted to include safeguards for journalists in some cases (eg., requiring a warrant for access to journalists' metadata). By and large, Labor governments have kept democracy open, not choked it, although their track record on human rights is unfortunately a faltering one in the case of treatment of refugees and they have succumbed to wedge politics when in opposition, which led to their supporting legislation in late 2018 that significantly restricted rights of protest, criminalising peaceful protesters who affect business operations of corporations.

⁴⁶ Tony Walker, Vice Chancellor's Fellow at La Trobe University.

⁴⁷ Zali Steggall, Australian Parliament, Independent Member for Warringah.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>the terms of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution.</p> <p>Ensure that the Commission is unconstrained (including by inadequate funding and/or restricted terms of reference) in:</p> <p>a) the full and effective stewardship of:</p> <p>i. a nation-wide community engagement process for development of a draft set of rights to be enshrined in the Constitution;</p> <p>ii. a process for identification of – and nation-wide consultation on – other revisions necessary in the Constitution; and</p> <p>b) alignment of the process in a) with the process of truth-telling and agreement-making being simultaneously conducted by the Makarrata Commission under Soc02.01.01.</p> <p>By 2022 develop an agreed plan for the conduct of the nation-wide community engagement process on draft terms of a Bill of Rights, complete with objectives, timeframes, and rules of participation.</p> <p>By June 2023, open the nation-wide community engagement process in</p>	Gov	12	A nation assured of enduring peace.	<p>fake news, hate speech and cyber attacks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduction of transparency in government and access to public information; inequitable application of electoral funding rules and a lack of transparency in lobbying; suppression of free speech, protest and the right to organise; and significant reduction of human rights for Australians (not simply for refugees). <p>Source: <i>By 2050</i>, Chapter 8</p> <p>Attempts to limit and/or overturn rights legislated at the state level for some Australians, such as LGBTIQ+ adults and children, have been launched in draft legislation at the federal level by the Coalition government (legislation which has been withdrawn).</p> <p>It is significant that the Australian Government is also a party to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons but only as a non-legally binding document.</p>
	Soc	1	A safe home.	
	Soc	2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	
	Soc	3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc	6	A society of equals.	
	Soc	7	A success because of its diversity.	
	Soc	8	A success because of gender equality.	
	Soc	15	Confident of justice for all.	
	Econ	3	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	
	Econ	4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	
	Econ	9	Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>accordance with the pre-agreed plan.</p> <p>By 2024, deliver a statement to the Australian people on the outcomes of the nation-wide community engagement, preparatory to the Constitutional Convention.</p>			<p>Source: Australian Government Attorney-General's Department webpage on International human rights system.</p> <p>Australia continues to suffer increasing erosion of human rights, has made no progress towards adoption of a Bill of Rights and is the only democracy in the world without a national human rights framework.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>An Australian Bill of Rights in the Constitution – Rights conferred under international treaties, conventions and covenants Gov03.01.02</p> <p>By 2025, as part of the process of a Constitutional Convention established under Gov04.01, and establishment of a Bill of Rights under Gov03.01, ensure provision is made in Australia's Constitution that automatically grants all Australians the rights granted at any time in accordance with any international treaty, covenant or convention signed by Australia –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not Australia has ratified the treaty, covenant or convention, and whether or not such rights are legislated by states or federally. 	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	<p>In 2021, Australia was a party to the seven core international human rights treaties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) <p>In 2022, Australia remained the only democracy in the world not to have passed a law directly implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and had not complied with the requirement of the ICCPR (and other human rights treaties) that a ratifying state ensure that everyone has access to the rights set out in the treaty, together with effective remedies for breaches.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 10	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	
	Gov 11	A just participant on the global stage.	
	Gov 12	A nation assured of	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	enduring peace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) but only some rights under these treaties had been conferred by law on Australians and at the Federal level, Australia remained the only democracy in the world not to have passed a law directly implementing the ICCPR. <p>In 2021, Australia had not complied with the requirement of the ICCPR (and other human rights treaties) that a ratifying state ensure that everyone has access to the rights set out in the treaty, together with effective remedies for breaches.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government Attorney-General's Department webpage on International human rights system; State Library of NSW, Find Legal Answers webpage on human rights.</p>	
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 2 A land with an Indigenous heart		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising &		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 3 – Human & other rights

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	sharing its wealth.		
<p>Voluntary assisted dying – legislation Gov03.02 By 2023, all states and territories have legislated rights for voluntary euthanasia and voluntary assisted dying/suicide.</p> <p>Voluntary assisted dying – rights in the Constitution Gov03.02.01 By 2024, as part of the process of a Constitutional Convention established under Gov04.01, ensure that Australia's Constitution confers explicit rights on Australians to determine the circumstances and timing of their own death by means of safe and lawful euthanasia or assisted suicide.</p>	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.	<p>In June 2019, only one state of Australia had passed laws regarding euthanasia or voluntary assisted dying – Victoria. Voluntary euthanasia and assisted dying/suicide were illegal in all other Australian states and territories. Source: Wikipedia, Euthanasia in Australia, July 2021</p>	<p>In October 2021, five states (Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland) had passed legislation creating an assisted suicide scheme for eligible individuals, two of which were already in effect (Victoria and Western Australia). Source: Wikipedia, Euthanasia in Australia, October 2021</p> <p>➡</p> <p>Voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal New South Wales under state law and in all territories of Australia under federal law. Euthanasia was legal between 1996 and 1997 in the Northern Territory, until overturned by a federal law, removing the right of territories to legislate on euthanasia.</p> <p>Progress is generally positive but variable. No progress has been made to amend the Constitution to confer explicit rights on Australians to determine the circumstances and timing of their own death.</p> <p>← / →</p>
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		








Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of ***Australia Together***, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 4 – Constitutional reform

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 4 – Constitutional reform			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Constitutional Convention Gov04.01</p> <p>By 2025, and in full coordination with the process for Constitutional Recognition of First Nations in Soc02.01 and a process for development of a Bill of Rights under Gov03.01, Australia convenes a Constitutional Convention for purposes of developing a new Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing Australia as a free, 21st century, self-governing nation; affirming and securing our values, rights and equality as citizens; and affirming First Nations' sovereignty that coexists with the sovereignty of the Crown as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood. 	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	<p>No progress has been made on evolution of a Constitution fit for 21st century Australia. During the 46th Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nation was steered by the Coalition government away from, rather than towards, establishment of a First Nations Voice in the Constitution; legislation restricting human rights was prioritised over any reforms that might protect human rights; and no program was developed to address other failings within the Constitution – eg., failings which allow people to be held in detention indefinitely and for life without charge, allow the dismissal of public servants for free expression of opinion on social media, and allow journalists to be held liable for the comments of third parties on their websites. <p>Australia remains on the precipice of collapse of its cohesion as a nation due to its out of date Constitution.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Soc 2	A land with an Indigenous heart.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.	
	Soc 15	Confident of justice for all.	
		<p>The last Constitutional Convention was held in 1998.</p> <p>A National Constitutional Convention attended by 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates was also held in 2017.</p> <p>No Constitutional Convention has yet considered a bill or charter of rights for Australians, although the Constitutional Convention of 1998 did result in a Communique calling for a preamble which may have articulated national values. This preamble never eventuated.</p> <p>Source: Parliament of Australia, Research Paper 16, 1999/2000</p>	





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Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Trust in federal parliaments Gov05.01 Trust in the federal parliament to reach 55% and stabilise.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In 2019, 35% of Australians (net) said they trusted the federal parliament. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019	In March 2021, 54% of Australians said they trusted the federal parliament. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2021 
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	Between 2016 and 2019, 30% of Australians trusted federal parliament on average per annum. Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020	 Over the longer term, trust in federal parliaments has been low but trending towards improvement. 
Trust in state and territory parliaments Gov05.01.01 Trust in state and territory parliaments to reach 55% and stabilise.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In 2019, 36% of Australians (net) said they trusted the state and territory parliaments. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019 Between 2016 and 2019, 31% of Australians trusted state parliaments on average per annum. Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020	In March 2020, 51% of Australians said they trusted the state and territory parliaments. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2021  Over the longer term, trust in state and territory parliaments has been low but trending towards improvement. 
Trust in elected local governments (councils) Gov05.01.02 Trust in local governments to reach 55% and stabilise.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In 2019, 43% of Australians (net) said they trusted their local council. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019 Between 2016 and 2019, 40% of Australians trusted their local council on average per annum. Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020	In 2020, 53% of Australians (net) said they trusted their local council. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019  Over the longer term, trust in local councils has been higher than state and federal governments and trending towards improvement. 

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Trust in federal governments Gov05.01.03 The proportion of Australians who trust the federal government almost always or most of the time rises continuously and reaches at least 70% by 2030.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	Between 2007 and 2019, an average of 32% of Australians thought the government in Canberra could be trusted almost always or most of the time, compared to an average of 66% who said it could be trusted only some of the time or almost never. Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020	In November 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55% said the government in Canberra could be trusted almost always or most of the time, and 44% said it could be trusted only some of the time or almost never. In 2021, the proportions reversed, compared to 2020, and those who trusted the federal government only some of the time or almost never (52%) once again outnumbered those who said they trusted it almost always or most of the time (48%). Source: Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2020 and 2021.  The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
Trust in state and territory governments Gov05.01.04 Trust in state and territory governments to reach 70% and stabilise.	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In August 2020, 60% of Australians said they trusted state and territory governments. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2021	In March 2021, 66% of Australians said they trusted the state and territory governments. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2021  No longer term data analysed. 
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Openness and accountability of governments</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Royal Commission and community engagement to review national security legislation and its impact on key safeguards for Australia's democracy, including free speech, freedom of the press and transparency in government conduct Gov05.02</p> <p>By 2023, establish a royal commission or other powerful review mechanism with full open community engagement to review the full suite of Australia's national security legislation to determine whether such legislation safeguards democracy by a reasonable balance between genuine national security concerns and the public's right to know when the government is and is not acting in the public interest.</p>	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	<p>Between 2002 and 2019 the Australian government enacted more than 70 pieces of legislation which have cited "national security" as a basis for heavily limiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freedom of expression, • freedom of assembly and protest, • freedom of information, • freedom of the press, • whistleblower protections, • rights to open trial, and • the public's right to know of possible misconduct and illegal conduct by elected and government officials. <p>Source: By 2050, Chapter 8 and The State of Australia in 2020, Episodes 3 and 4 Part 1.</p>	<p>Between 2002 and 2019 the Australian government enacted more than 82 pieces of national security legislation, with no statement of the public interest served. Source: The Conversation, 30 September 2019⁴⁸</p> <p>←</p> <p>No progress with establishing a Royal Commission into national security legislation and its impact on key safeguards for Australia's democracy.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		

⁴⁸ Nicola McGarrity and Jessie Blackburn, "Australia has enacted 82 anti-terror laws since 2001. But tough laws alone can't eliminate terrorism", The Conversation, 30 September 2019, <https://theconversation.com/australia-has-enacted-82-anti-terror-laws-since-2001-but-tough-laws-alone-cant-eliminate-terrorism-123521>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Openness and accountability of governments</p> <p><u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Protection of whistleblowers making genuine public interest disclosures Gov05.02.01</p> <p>By 2023, regardless of the progress of any commissions of inquiry under Gov05.02, overhaul the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013 (Cth) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise professional journalists as legitimate recipients of protected Emergency or External Disclosures; identify public and democratic accountability as relevant public interest considerations; introduce a limited framework for external disclosures of intelligence information; and limit the scope of “intelligence information” insofar as it includes information relating to law enforcement. 	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>	<p>In 2020, the University of Queensland Law Faculty identified that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> “Whistleblowing is an important, legitimate and protected mechanism for ensuring integrity and accountability in the public and private sectors;” and “There are significant gaps and weaknesses in [whistleblower] protections, particularly in the intelligence sector.” <p>Between 2013 and 2020, several high profile cases emerged of government intimidation of whistleblowers known to have made external disclosures that are strongly in the public interest (and that the government has not denied are in the public interest), including prosecutions and threatened prosecutions of those making disclosures in the public interest and those receiving them (journalists and lawyers). By 2021, multiple sources reported this was having a chilling effect on efforts to expose corruption in Australia.</p> <p>Source: University of Queensland Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh, Whistleblowing to the Media, 2020</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, the federal government persisted with a range of prosecutions and potential prosecutions of whistleblowers who had made public interest disclosures, including proceedings against various citizens for disclosures regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> war crimes by the Australian Defence Force, abuse of powers by the ATO, breaches of international law and rights of foreign nations (Timor L’este). <p>In each case, it is the whistleblower that is on trial for disclosing the potential breaches of law by the Australian government, rather than the government itself.</p> <p>No legislation has been introduced the strengthen protections for whistleblowers making genuine public interest disclosures or for those receiving the disclosures.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>		
	<p>Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>		
	<p>Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</p>		
	<p>Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Funding for open and accountable governance Gov05.03</p> <p>By 2023, ensure that major components of transparency in Australia's democracy are securely funded by legislating to establish a floor increase in annual federal funding allocations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian National Audit Office, and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, <p>with the base for such funding increases from 2022/23 onwards to be established first by applying annual increases of CPI+5% year-on-year to whatever the budgets of these organisations were in 2013/14 and thereafter by applying statutory increases to the new 2022/23 base budgets of CPI+3% until 2030. Make provision in this legislation to protect the independence of these organisations from political interference by permanently outlawing real budget cuts and mandating annual increases which meet agreed floor increase requirements set by review every ten years from 2030 onwards.</p>	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In 2022, funding cuts for the ABC, ABS, ANAO and OAIC are still baked in because the public sector efficiency dividend (a pseudonym for budget cuts) has not been removed.
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	←
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	In 2022, the federal government announced that it would end its controversial decision in 2018 to impose an indexation freeze on the ABC's annual funding, a freeze which ultimately meant the broadcaster's funding did not keep pace with inflation and suffered an \$84 million cut, causing the loss of 250 jobs and significant programming cuts. The reversal of the freeze did not restore the ABC's funding to the position it would have been if \$783 million had not been cut in the first place.
	Gov 7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
	Gov 10	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	Funding cuts to the ABC, ABS, ANAO and OAIC are not the only way the Coalition government has attempted to undermine transparency in Australia's democracy. Intimidation of these agencies has taken several forms including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> politicised appointments,

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unjustifiable inquiries intended to intimidate and silence public servants, • legal actions taken by the government against public sector agencies, and • raids on ABC journalists. <p>Source: Fergus Pitt and Quentin Dempster, <i>Insidious and Intentional: Political interference and harassment of the ABC</i>, February 2020⁴⁹</p> <p>There is no evidence of support for funding cuts to the ABC. Results of polls by The Australia Institute in 2019 and 2020 showed that an increasing share of Australians agree with the general proposition that the ABC's funding should be increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, one in three Australians (33%) thought the ABC's funding should be increased, compared to 13% that thought it should be reduced. • In 2020, 35% of Australians thought funding should be increased, compared to 12% that thought it should be reduced. <p>Source: Australia Institute, <i>Polling – The ABC and public broadcasting</i>, April 2020</p>

⁴⁹ Report prepared for GetUp, February 2020.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>Intimidation, budget threats and downsizing of the entire public service remain a significant threat to democracy in Australia.</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Transparency in lobbying, gifts and donations</p> <p>Real-time disclosure Gov05.04</p> <p>By 2023, preparatory to:</p> <p>a) a community engagement process under Gov08.02 to determine informed community support for reforms of electoral funding laws, and to</p> <p>b) commencement of operations of a national independent body for investigation of government corruption under Gov06.04,</p> <p>legislate to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a fully funded, centralised, real-time register of all instances of lobbying (meetings, phone calls and other contacts), gifts and political donations for all three levels of government in Australia – federal, state/territory and local – with compulsory requirements for 	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p> <p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p> <p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p> <p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p> <p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p> <p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p> <p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p> <p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>	<p>In 2021, the Australian Government's Lobbying Code of Conduct required lobbyists to register and list their clients but did not require lobbyists and/or elected officials to register instances of lobbying (such as dates and issues discussed), gifts or donations – in real time or otherwise. Real-time disclosure is essential for transparency and assurance of ethical conduct.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department Lobbying Code of Conduct 2019</p>	<p>In 2018 and 2019, two private members bills were introduced to federal parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Real Time Disclosure of Political Donations) Bill 2019”, which proposed to require every recipient of a donation at the federal level to declare that donation within five days; and “Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering the Donation Disclosure Threshold) Bill 2019”, which proposed to place all political donations of \$1,000 or more on the public record. <p>Both bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. In both cases, the Committee recommended the bills not be passed.</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>100% compliance and statutory penalties for non-compliance; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an independent office of audit within the federal anti-corruption authority, or other suitable established auditing office, to monitor compliance with the real-time lobbying and donations register and to prosecute elected officials, political parties, and lobbyists for breaches. 			<p>No progress has been made to improve transparency of political donations at the federal level.</p> <p>No steps have been taken to require real time reporting of lobbying contacts.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Transparency in lobbying, gifts and donations</p> <p>Prohibition of gifts to politicians and public officials</p> <p>Gov05.04.01</p> <p>By 2023, in association with Gov05.04, legislate to prohibit acceptance of gifts by politicians and public service staff at all levels (and their spouse, partner, or families) and to mandate records of all gifts offered and the date of refusal and/or return.</p>	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	<p>No progress has been made to prohibit acceptance of gifts by politicians and public servants at the federal level.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
	Gov 8	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.	
	Gov 9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
		<p>In 2021, the Australian Government's Statement of Ministerial Standards required that ministers "must not seek or encourage any form of gift in their personal capacity" but did not prohibit the acceptance of gifts that could then be retained "in their personal capacity". Nor did the Standard place a \$ limit on the value of gifts that could be accepted and concessional arrangements were in place to allow officials to retain gifts of high value at discounted rates.</p> <p>Source: Australian Government, Statement of Ministerial Standards, August 2018, Parliament of Australia, Registration and Declaration of Senators' Interests, and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Guidelines Relating to Official Gifts Received</p>	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Post-separation employment of politicians Gov05.05</p> <p>By 2023 legislate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibit, for a period of three years after leaving office, post-separation employment of state/territory and federal elected members of parliament to any position within a private corporation (including a lobbying firm) with which they have had any dealings in their last five years in office; and to prohibit permanently employment in, or other forms of remunerative association with, private corporations in any of the following industries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fossil fuels, arms and military, private health insurance, gaming and racing, tobacco and alcohol, and pharmaceuticals, on the grounds that the public interest is unlikely to be served by free-flow of employment between government and these industries. 	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	<p>In 2022, the Statement of Ministerial Standards is still inadequate and unenforceable, as evidenced by the example of former federal government ministers, Christopher Pyne and Julie Bishop, who were cleared of breaching the ministerial standards with their post-politics jobs. The report on the investigation of these two ex-ministers post-parliament jobs, noted that “While there are certain actions available to you [the prime minister] when considering the conduct of a current serving Minister, and a possible breach of the Standards, there are no specific actions that can be taken by you in relation to former Ministers once they have left the Parliament”.</p> <p>Source: Martin Parkinson, letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison on results of the investigation into the post-separation employment of Christopher Pyne and Julie Bishop, July 2019⁵⁰</p> <p>No progress has been made to strengthen post-separation employment rules for politicians so that they are enforceable and protect the public interest. The danger of the “revolving door”</p>
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders’ conduct.	
	Gov 7	Committed to public service independence & excellence.	
	Gov 8	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.	
	Gov 9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	
	Gov 10	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	
	Gov 11	A just participant on the global stage.	
	Gov 12	A nation assured of enduring peace.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal	




⁵⁰ Michelle Grattan, [View from The Hill: Senate decides Pyne and Bishop have a few more parliamentary questions to answer \(theconversation.com\)](https://www.theconversation.com/news/501111), The Conversation, 22 July 2019.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 5 – Transparency, openness & accountability

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	health & wellbeing.		<p>still exists and is embedding undisclosed conflicts of interest in the Australian parliamentary system.</p> <p>←</p>
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		

Governance 6 – Government ethics

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 6 – Government ethics			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Perceptions of corruption Gov06.01 Australia's score in Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index is continuously improving and reaches the top rank (no. 1) by 2026.	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	In 2019, Australia was ranked no. 12 in the world in Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index with a score of 77/100. New Zealand was ranked equal first with Denmark with scores of 87/100 each. In the eight years to 2019, Australia's score dropped by 8 points. Source: Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2019	In 2021, Australia was ranked no. 18 in the world in Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index with a score of 73/100. New Zealand was ranked equal first with Denmark with scores of 88/100 each. Source: Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2021 In the ten years to 2021, Australia's score on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index dropped by 12 points to reach its lowest point since the start of the Index.  The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		
	Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.		
Trust in leaders' conduct – parliamentarians Gov06.02 Trust in elected members of parliament to reach and be maintained at a minimum of 55%.	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	In 2018, 48% of Australians distrusted members of parliament and only 21% trusted them a little or very much. Source: MOAD, Democracy 2025, "Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic decline and renewal", Report No. 1	No data update available from MOAD.  However, in 2021 in the ABC's Australia Talks survey of 60,000 Australians, 73% thought we (as a nation) were doing a very poor (46%) or somewhat poor (27%) job of holding governments to account, indicating that leaders were not trusted and were getting away with lying to the public.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 6 – Government ethics

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>	<i>Direction of movement from baseline</i>
			<p>Respondents also believed politicians should resign if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they take a bribe – 98%; • mislead parliament – 95%; or • engage in pork-barrelling – 77%. <p>Source: ABC Australia Talks Survey 2021</p> <p>Over the three years to 2021, the federal government and at least one state government – the Berejiklian government in NSW – engaged openly in pork barrelling and the Prime Minister was accused of lying to parliament and outside parliament on repeated occasions⁵¹, indicating that elected leaders' views of appropriate standards were out of step with the standards expected by Australians.</p> <p>In 2021, 27% of Australians said governments put the public before vested interests, indicating that those elected to government are not trusted to resist corruption and state capture.⁵²</p>

⁵¹ Instances which may be seen to fit the definition of “pork barrelling” include: the federal government dispensing hundreds of millions of dollars to retain seats, including: \$100 million for what became known as “sports rorts”, \$110 million for the “Safe Communities Fund” and \$600 million for community car parks; and the Berejiklian government in NSW dispensing up to \$259 million in grants to councils from the “Stronger Communities Funds”.

⁵² Examples justifying this distrust by Australians abound in the record of privatisation of public assets and services set by governments since the early 2000s. Typical of the examples is the sale in NSW of the Land and Property Information service by the Berejiklian government for a fraction of its worth. See ACFP, [The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 5](#) and [The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 4 Part 1](#).

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 6 – Government ethics

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>Source: Next25 Navigator, Social Research report 2021</p> <p>No data have been identified which would suggest that trust in the ethics of elected politicians has reached the target of 55%. Performance is variable in time and across issues. Governments appear to be trusted to shelter Australians in a pandemic but not to act ethically in the public interest.</p> <p>In the shorter term performance is mixed.</p> <p></p> <p>The longer term trend has been negative with respect to ethics.</p> <p></p>
<p>Trust in leaders' conduct – executive governments Gov06.02.01 Australia is ranked as a truster of government.</p>	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>	<p>In 2019, 42% of the general population said they trusted government. Source: 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results</p>	<p>In 2021, trust in government rose to a high of 61% before falling back in 2022 to 52%. Source 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results</p> <p>Performance is variable.</p> <p></p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including government was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. It would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on.</p>


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 6 – Government ethics

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Codes of conduct for parliamentarians</p> <p><u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Binding code of ethics and conduct for federal parliamentarians Gov06.03</p> <p>By 2022, ensure the passage of the National Integrity (Parliamentary Standards) Bill 2019 or similar with a binding Code of Conduct that meets modern standards of ethics in democratic governance.</p>	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	In 2017, 79% of Australians supported "strengthening the code of conduct for parliamentary behaviour". Source: Centre for Policy Development Study, "What Do Australians Want? Active and Effective Government Fit for the Ages", December 2017.	No data updates available.
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		No binding code of ethics and conduct has been developed for federal parliamentarians.
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	In 2020, a Senate Committee with Liberal, Labor and One Nation senators unanimously rejected the introduction of a Code of Conduct for parliamentarians. Source: Australian Senate, Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee – Report on the National Integrity (Parliamentary Standards) Bill 2019. See also The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 4, Part 1.	Ethical standards and behaviour are declining in federal parliament.
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		← The longer term trend is negative. ←
<p><u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Compulsory and satisfactory completion of training in ethics and proof of competency in permissible voting practice for parliamentarians Gov06.03.01</p> <p>By 2023, introduce legislation requiring all elected federal parliamentarians (on election to each new parliament) to complete training and pass examinations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prove comprehensive knowledge of the Code of 	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	In 2016, no compulsory training or tests were in place for federal parliamentarians to prove competency in relation to basic behaviours, norms, procedures, rules of voting, declaration of conflicts, policy and legislation analysis, and general understanding of ethical standards and parliamentary procedures. Source: Colleen Lewis, Ken Coghill, Editors, Parliamentarians' Professional Development: The need for reform, 2016.	During the 46 th parliament, several parliamentarians demonstrated no understanding of any obligation on the part of democratically elected members to govern in the interests of all Australians rather than solely in the interests of their own constituency, or personal/sectional/vested interests. As such, several deals were done or attempted, particularly between the government and minor party cross-benches in which the interests of all Australians or groups of Australians would be injuriously traded in exchange for
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 6 – Government ethics



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Conduct arising from the passage of a National Integrity (Parliamentary Standards) Bill as per Gov06.03;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate competency in the rules of behaviour under Codes of Meeting Practice and disclosure of conflicts of interest; maintain accreditation in the above through updated training; and comply with programs of professional development suited to their role as elected members, ministers, committee chairs, etc. 			<p>favours for sectional interests.⁵³</p> <p>The need for compulsory training and competency assessment for parliamentarians is increasing. No progress has been made.</p> <p>The trend in competency appears to be negative, if the performance of the 46th parliament is any guide.⁵⁴</p> <p></p>
<p>Federal independent commission against corruption</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</p> <p>Federal independent commission against corruption</p>	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>	<p>In 2017, 77% of Australians supported "introducing an independent federal corruption Commission".</p> <p>Source: Centre for Policy Development Study, "What Do Australians Want? Active and</p>	<p>In 2021, 88% of Australians on survey agreed that "the government should establish a federal corruption watchdog".</p> <p>Source: ABC Australia Talks National Survey 2021</p>
	<p>Gov 5</p> <p>Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>	<p>Source: Centre for Policy Development Study, "What Do Australians Want? Active and</p>	

⁵³ Perhaps the most notable example was the attempt during the (failed) passage of the "Religious Discrimination Bill 2019" to confer rights on religious groups to discriminate against and reduce the rights of children and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

⁵⁴ A salutary example of the need for ethics training and proof of competency was in the performance of the former Attorney General Christian Porter who declared acceptance of significant donations to pay for his personal legal fees but without disclosing the donor or the amount accepted (thought to be in the order of \$1 million) and the subsequent interference by the Defence Minister Peter Dutton in the ruling of the Speaker of the House Tony Smith in recommending referral of the matter to the Privileges Committee.




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 6 – Government ethics

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Gov06.04 By 2024, a national independent body for investigation of corruption by federal parliamentarians and public servants commences operation.	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.	Effective Government Fit for the Ages”, December 2017. In 2020, all states of Australia had established some form of independent commissions against corruption by elected members and officers of governments. No such body existed for the federal government.	Despite promises to the contrary, the Coalition government has failed to introduce legislation establishing a federal independent commission against corruption.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		





Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 7 – Public service independence & excellence

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 7 – Public service independence & excellence			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Trust in the public service Gov07.01 Trust in the Commonwealth public service improves continuously.	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.	In 2019, 42% of Australians (net) said they trusted the Commonwealth public service. Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2019 Between 2016 and 2019, 39% of Australians trusted their local council on average per annum. Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020	In March 2021, 57% of Australians said they trusted the Commonwealth public service but this dropped 5 points in October 2021 to 52% Source: Essential, Trust in Institutions 2021  Over the longer term, trust in the Commonwealth public service has been low but trending towards improvement. 
Satisfaction with the public service – federal and state Gov07.02 Satisfaction with the public service improves continuously.	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.	In 2021, 27% of Australians felt “the public service acts on the needs of Australians and in the public interest”. Source: Next25 Navigator, Social Research report 2021	No update available.  No longer term trend analysed. 
Satisfaction with the public service – Commonwealth Gov07.02.01 Satisfaction with the Commonwealth public service improves continuously.	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.	In 2019, the Australian Government reported that “Only 56 per cent of Australians are satisfied with the services they receive from the Australian Government, well below levels for leading governments and private-sector businesses.” Source: 2019 Independent Review of the Australian Public Service, “Our Public Service Our Future”, known as the “Thodey Review”	No update available.  No longer term trend analysed. 


Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
Truth in advertising – legislative program Gov08.01 By 2023, introduce legislation federally and in all states requiring truth in political advertising, including stipulated penalties such as loss of public funding and fines.	Gov 8	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.	No progress. South Australia remains the only state with laws on truth in political advertising.  Federal laws prohibiting untrue political advertising were enacted in 1983 but repealed in 1984. Source: Parliament of Australia, Research Paper 13, 1996/97, Truth in Political Advertising Legislation in Australia At the Commonwealth level the longer term trend is negative. 
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
Electoral funding reform – community engagement on electoral funding reform Gov08.02 By 2024, in association with the establishment of a Constitutional Convention under Gov04.01, commence a community engagement process to determine informed community support for reforms of electoral funding laws so that they increase the possibility of fairness in elections and equality for citizens as electors. Minimum terms of reference for this	Gov 8	Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.	No progress has been made on engagement with Australians on preferred reforms of electoral funding laws and arrangements. For the 2022 federal election, no constraints are being applied which would stop corporations or wealthy individuals from buying elections.  The longer term trend is negative. 
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	
	Gov 4	A free, self-governing, modern nation.	
	Gov 5	Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
		In 2019, 84% of Australians supported the introduction of laws for truth in political advertising but South Australia was the only state with truth in advertising laws. Source: Australia Institute Between 2015 and 2020, amendments by the federal parliament to legislation on electoral funding and disclosure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focussed on attempted capping or other constraints on the small donations of the many to non-party organisations engaged in political policy development (such as GetUp and charities like the Climate Council), rather than capping the large donations of the few to registered political parties; and • did nothing to strengthen disclosure requirements such as 	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>section of the Constitutional Convention must provide for engagement on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the issue of transparent taxpayer funding of election campaigns, and options for reform that will eliminate the influence of corporate money and wealthy donors in democratic elections. 	<p>Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>	<p>requiring real-time disclosure.</p> <p>In effect, in 2021, it was lawful for anyone to buy an election – as Malcolm Turnbull did in 2016 with a \$1.75 million personal donation to the Liberal Party campaign and as Clive Palmer did with an \$83 million campaign designed to preference the Liberal Party.</p> <p>Source: By 2050, Chapter 8 and Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.</p>	
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p>		
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Electoral funding reform – abolition of corporate and union donations Gov08.02.01 Preparatory to Gov08.02 (and subject to review after completion of that community engagement process), legislate to:</p> <p>a) cap political donations (on a cumulative basis over two consecutive election terms) at \$10,000 for individuals;</p> <p>b) require compulsory disclosure for any donation above</p>	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>	<p>Between 2012 and 2020, cumulative donations by corporations to Australia's two major political parties were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to Labor = \$80.3 million to Liberal/National = \$129.9 million <p>The largest donations were from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> banking and finance = \$71.6 million developers and property = \$28.4 million energy and resources = \$16.6 million government contractors = \$14.4 million private health insurance and services = \$14.2 million 	<p>No progress has been made to cap political donations. The system remains awash with corporate donations and far too much in total donations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Between 2012/13 and 2020/21, total donations received by all election candidates and political parties amounted to \$1.95 billion. Of that amount, Australia's four major political parties received \$1.69 billion in declared donations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberal Party = \$812 million (42%), National Party = \$104 million (5%), Labor Party = \$638 million (33%),
	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>		
	<p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>\$5,000 (or once a total of donations exceeds \$5,000 from a single donor within a single federal election term);</p> <p>c) ban outright donations from corporations, non-profits, unions and any other incorporated body – such ban to include a ban on individuals self-funding their own campaign or that of their party other than by the \$10,000 donation permitted under a) – in short, individuals may not buy elections; and facilitate the above legislative reforms via the staged process set out in Gov08.02.02.</p>	<p>Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> media and communications = \$11.9 million <p>Source: Guardian Australia Transparency Project, Citizens Hub for exploration of political transparency and open governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greens = \$142 million (7%). All other parties and candidates shared the remaining 13% of the donations. <p>Given the progress reported in this End of Term Report, the best that can be said about this is that \$1.69 billion doesn't buy much the way of governance that will reliably result in improved quality of life. No-one outside wealthy corporations is getting value for money in election funding. Parliamentary performance is in decline due to the disproportionate influence of wealthy individuals and corporations in Australia's democratic election processes.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8 A success because of gender equality.</p>		
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Electoral funding reform – protection of democracy through introduction of equitable taxpayer funding for elections Gov08.02.02</p> <p>For the federal election of 2025, for purposes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fostering equity in elections consistent with electoral principles of one vote, one value; 	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>	<p>In 2019, electoral funding laws operated on a principle of one vote, one value, but only insofar as redistributions of electoral boundaries were required by law to ensure that electorates have the same number of enrolled voters within a specified percentage of variance (currently 10%).</p> <p>Source: Commonwealth Electoral Act (No. 2) 1973</p> <p>In 2019, the principle of one vote, one value was not applied in laws regarding funding of the</p>	<p>No progress.</p> <p>Electoral distortions in favour of corporate donors are on the rise in Australia.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend in electoral distortion through current donations laws is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>		
	<p>Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>and for practical purposes of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">replacing the campaign funding capacity lost under part c) of Gov08.02.01, establish a trial of a voucher system for funding of election campaigns run by registered candidates – such voucher system to be administered by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and to entail the following: <p>1) issue by the AEC to every registered voter of one electoral donation voucher designated with a value of \$5; and</p> <p>2) unimpeded distribution of the received voucher by each voter, at their discretion, in favour of any registered party or independent candidate between 6 months and one month prior to an election.</p> <p>By 2023, for purposes of evaluation of the 2025 election voucher system trial, and in conjunction with community engagement under Gov08.02, determine evaluation criteria for the trial.</p>	<p>governments & institutions.</p>	<p>campaigns of candidates and political parties seeking election.</p>	<p>In 2019, in regard to fair and adequate funding for ethical campaigns by quality, competent political candidates, Australia’s electoral system was not positioned to protect its democracy from capture by wealthy donors motivated to act in their own sectional or vested interests against the wider public interest.</p>
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>	<p>In 2019, in regard to fair and adequate funding for ethical campaigns by quality, competent political candidates, Australia’s electoral system was not positioned to protect its democracy from capture by wealthy donors motivated to act in their own sectional or vested interests against the wider public interest.</p>	
	<p>Gov 10</p> <p>A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>		
	<p>Soc 3</p> <p>Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6</p> <p>A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Soc 8</p> <p>A success because of gender equality.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 8 – Electoral system & funding reform

<i>Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance</i>	<i>In the Directions of becoming ...</i>	<i>Baseline data</i>	<i>Direction of movement from baseline</i>
<p>By 2026, once the trial has been evaluated, and should the system be deemed beneficial according to the evaluation criteria, abolish all other political donations including those from individuals under a) and b) in Gov08.02.01.</p> <p>See Note⁵⁵ for financial impacts and more information on rationale.</p>			

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

⁵⁵ The above proposed voucher based system would introduce additional taxpayer funding for election campaigns. Taxpayers will pay more for elections but will benefit because of removal of distortions in funding created by the current laws, distortions which not only skew election outcomes but result in poor quality governance and democratic stability. For the 2025 trial, approximately 17 million registered voters would each receive a \$5 voucher, adding an estimated \$85 million to taxpayers' costs for the 2025 federal election, in effect replacing the average of \$70 million that was probably raised from corporate donations and spent by the two major parties per election term between 2012 and 2020 across both state and federal elections. This additional cost to the taxpayer could be partially offset by reduction of payments made now under Part XX of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (in 2021 = \$2.871 per eligible vote). Alternatively the voucher could be additional to the current Part XX payments, estimated at approximately \$48 million. While voters would, for the 2025 trial at least, be called on to distribute their vouchers (in electronic transactions – no money actually changes hands and the vouchers could be used for no other purpose) only once every three years, candidates and parties who receive vouchers will have discretion enabling them to spend all of the value received in vouchers on the federal election campaign or retain the funds for use in state and local government campaigns. Effectively the system deletes (prohibits) all the funding currently being supplied by corporate donors for each election cycle and replaces it with a somewhat larger amount of funding by taxpayers. The intention is to secure stable funding of elections with outcomes that are more balanced in the public interest, not skewed to corporate or sectional interests.

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Trust in NGOs Gov09.01 Australia is ranked as a truster of NGOs.</p>	<p>Gov 9</p> <p>A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>	<p>In 2019, 56% of the general population said they trusted NGOs. Source: 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results</p>	<p>In 2021, 62% of the general population said they trusted NGOs, making 2021 the only year in the last decade in which Australians trusted NGOs. The trust was short-lived. In 2022, trust in NGOs fell to 58%. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>Shorter term performance is variable.</p> <p></p> <p>Between 2012 and 2019, 52.25% of Australians trusted NGOs on average per year. Between 2020 and 2022, 58% of Australians trusted NGOs on average per year. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>The longer term trend is positive.</p> <p></p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including NGOs was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. It would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on.</p>
<p>Trust in private institutions and public institutions Gov09.01.01</p>	<p>Gov 9</p> <p>A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging</p>	<p>Between 2016 and 2019, Australians generally trusted private institutions less than they trusted</p>	<p>In 2020, trust by Australians in private institutions was recorded on survey as:</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
Trust in both public and private sector institutions rises continuously.	private sector ethics & community partnership.	public/government institutions, although the private institutions of charitable organisations and environmental groups were more trusted than the public institutions of elected parliaments and the Commonwealth public service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable organisations = 54%. Environmental groups = 46%. Trade unions = 42%. Business groups = 40%. Religious organisations = 35%. Political parties = 33%.
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.	Among private institutions, average trust between 2016 and 2019 was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable organisations = 47%. Environmental groups = 42%. Business groups = 29%. Trade unions = 27%. Religious organisations = 27%. Political parties = 17%. 	In 2020 trust by Australians in public/government institutions was recorded on survey as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal police = 68%. State police = 68%. High Court = 61%. Reserve Bank = 60%. The ABC = 58%. Courts and legal system = 57%. Federal parliament = 53%. Your local council = 53%. Commonwealth public service = 52%. State parliament = 51%.
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		
	Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.	Among public/government institutions, average trust between 2016 and 2019 was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal police = 68%. State police = 66%. High Court = 59%. The ABC = 53%. Reserve Bank = 49%. Your local council = 40%. Commonwealth public service = 39%. State parliament = 31%. Federal parliament = 30%. 	In 2020, the average trust recorded across public/government institutions was 58%, up 10 points from the average recorded between 2016 and 2019.
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	Source: Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020	Source: Essential Report, Trust in Institutions, 21 April 2020

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	<p>Soc 14 A model of community service & responsible exercise of authority in policing.</p>		<p>In 2020, trust in all private and public/government institutions rose above the average trust recorded between 2016 and 2019. Australians still place greater trust overall in public institutions than in private institutions.</p> <p>→</p> <p>No comparable data updates beyond 2020 have been released by Essential, although other data released by Essential and other agencies would suggest that the improvement in trust has thus far been sustained beyond the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>→</p>
	<p>Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.</p>		
	<p>Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.</p>		
<p>Trust in corporates Gov09.02</p> <p>Australia is ranked as a truster of business.</p>	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>	<p>In 2019, 52% of the general population said they trusted business.</p> <p>Source: 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results</p>	<p>In 2021, 63% of the general population said they trusted business, making 2021 the only year in the last decade in which Australians trusted business. The trust was short-lived. In 2022, trust in business fell to 58%.</p> <p>Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>Shorter term performance is variable.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>Between 2012 and 2019, 47.63% of Australians trusted business on average per year. Between 2020 and 2022, 57.7% of Australians</p>



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>trusted business on average per year. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>The longer term trend is positive.</p> <p>→</p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including business was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. It would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on.</p>
<p>Trust in corporates – perceptions of corporate versus worker power balance Gov09.02.01</p> <p>Perceptions of the balance of power between corporates and unions are equal and neither corporates nor unions are perceived by more than 50% of Australians to have too much power.</p>	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>	<p>In 2019, 76% of Australians said, “big business has too much power”, up from 51% in 1987. In 2019, 42% of Australians said, “unions have too much power, down from 71% in 1987. Source: ANU Trends in Australian Political Opinion, 1987 to 2019</p>	<p>No further update available.</p> <p>← / →</p> <p>The longer term trend for Australians’ views on whether big business has too much is power steeply negative, meaning the proportion who think big business has too much power has been growing.</p>
	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>		<p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend for Australians’ views on whether unions have too much is power steeply positive, meaning the proportion who think unions have too much power has been declining.</p>
	<p>Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>		
	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>		
	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>		
	<p>Soc 6 A society of equals.</p>		
	<p>Econ 3 A country where</p>		<p>→</p> <p>Source: ANU Trends in Australian Political Opinion, 1987 to 2019</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		Australians think unions have too little power relative to the power of corporates.
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
Prohibition of rent-seeking by for-profit companies in certain community services Gov09.03 By 2025, enact federal legislation to exclude for-profit companies from qualifying for any form of taxpayer assistance – including but not limited to direct funding, subsidies and tax breaks – for provision of services in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aged care, childcare, vocational education (including Technical and Further Education), placement services for the 	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	In 2021, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety reported that, “private providers [in aged care] have much worse quality outcomes than government and not-for-profit providers. In effect, the increasingly private composition of the market has placed further pressure on quality and safety in aged care.” The finding has implications for the sustainability of taxpayer support and value-for-money returns for taxpayers when core community services are provided by for-profit companies. For-profit involvement in certain community services is not sustainable for taxpayers.	No progress in enacting legislation in excluding for profit companies from taxpayer assistance for provision of in the listed industries.  Private sector failure was evident during the Covid-19 pandemic with the high numbers of deaths in privately run aged care facilities, signalling the need for wholesale reform. The longer term trend is negative. 
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 4 A place of optimal health & wellbeing.		
	Soc 5 A model of educational opportunity.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 10 A place of supportive familial & other connections &		



Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unemployed, and administration of welfare payments for the unemployed, the disabled, single parents, youth allowances and pensions. 	without domestic abuse.		
	Soc 11 A land without child disadvantage.		
	Soc 12 A sure provider of lifelong dignity.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 3 A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.		
	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		
Prohibition of government contracts to private sector companies that do not have certified plans to achieve	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics &	In June 2021, the UK government announced measures requiring businesses to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and publish clear and credible	No progress made in legislation requiring businesses seeking government contracts to submit plans for to reach net zero carbon emissions.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>net zero carbon emissions by 2033 Gov09.04</p> <p>By 2022, legislate that by 2023, businesses seeking government contracts (federal, state and local) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submit to the Australian Clean Energy Regulator clear, credible and financed plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2033 and achieve certification by that Regulator of such plans before they can bid for government contracts; and demonstrate (by submission of annual compliance statements) compliance with approved plans for purposes of renewing any contract and/or bidding for any future contract, unless and until each business is accredited by the Australian Clean Energy Regulator as having fully 	community partnership.	<p>carbon reduction plans before they can bid for major government contracts.</p> <p>In 2021, Australia had no similar requirements.</p> <p>Source: UK government, Cabinet Office Press Release 7 June 2021</p>	<p></p> <p>The federal government has established no mechanisms by which businesses can be held accountable for their part in achieving the nation's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Time is running out.</p> <p></p>
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env 4 A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.		
	Env 6 A renewable energy superpower.		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Econ 4 A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.		
	Econ 5 A strong regulator of fairness in		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 9 – Corporate & NGO responsibility

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
reached net zero emissions.	markets creating confidence for investors.		
Important Note: No private certification or self-certification is to be permitted in this legislation, due to the increased potential for conflict of interest and corruption.	Econ 6 An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.		



Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of **Australia Together**, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance				
Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation				
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Trust in the media Gov10.01 Australia is ranked as a truster of the media.</p>	Gov	10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	<p>In 2019, 40% of the general population said they trusted the media. Source: 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results</p>	<p>In 2021, 51% of the general population said they trusted the media. In 2022, trust in the media fell back to 43%. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>Shorter term performance is variable.</p> <p></p> <p>Between 2012 and 2019, 35% of Australians trusted the media on average per year. Between 2020 and 2022, 44% of Australians trusted the media on average per year. Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Australian Results 2021 and 2022</p> <p>The longer term trend is positive.</p> <p></p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 on trust in institutions, including the media was positive with Australians relying more on all institutions. It would appear the rise in trust has not been sustained as the pandemic has dragged on.</p>
<p>Trust in news media and journalism –</p>	Gov	10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in	<p>In 2014, the Australian Press Council updated its</p>	<p>In 2021, a Senate Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in</p>

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance


Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
effectiveness of self-regulation Gov10.01.01 By 2023, unless and until the self-regulation system for Australian news media is replaced by a properly resourced independent standard-setter and compliance auditor as per Gov10.03 and Gov10.03.01 , ensure a national survey is established which monitors trust in news media and journalism – in terms of perceptions of their performance as good corporate citizens and compliance with regulations or voluntary codes of practice in ethical information dissemination and journalistic standards of reporting.	political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	Statement of General Principles ⁵⁶ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the post-2014 Statement, “fairness and balance” are no longer required in relation to news “reporting” – either in individual reports or as an editorial whole. Before 2014, the need for “balance” in editorials and journalism was required only in relation to opinion pieces and usually only where individuals or groups are a major focus of news reports. From 2014 onwards, “balance” is required, strangely, in relation to facts. Whereas before 2014, a fact was a fact; after 2014 balance was required in relation to facts but no longer required in reporting as a whole. As such, the Press Council had laid a basis for and indeed authorised the propagation of alternative facts while removing the	Australia concluded that “There was clear evidence that the self-regulation model for print media through the Australian Press Council is woefully inadequate.” Source: Final Report, Senate Environment and Communications References Committee on Media Diversity in Australia, December 2021. Otherwise, no progress has been made in establishing an adequately resourced independent standard-setter and compliance auditor for Australian news media.  The longer term trend has been negative. 
	Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.		
	Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.		
	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.		

⁵⁶ The [Australian Press Council’s General Statement of Principles](#) is a half-page statement which is the peak document to indicate what standards journalism businesses are willing to hold themselves to account for in Australia. Once revised in 2014, journalists were no longer being required to hold themselves to account for veracity in reporting. The post-2014 Press Council Statement: removes the need for fairness and balance in reporting; effectively authorises journalists to publish “alternative facts”; loosens the need for comprehensive reporting of all essential facts; imposes no requirement to verify facts by citing sources; introduces the possibility of using “public interest” as a defence for reporting that causes or contributes materially to prejudice and health and safety risks; introduces the possibility of using “public interest” as a defence for racism, gender bias and all other sorts of discrimination; removes the need to publish the adjudication of a complaint; and imposes no obligation to prevent advertising and other commercial considerations from undermining accuracy, fairness or independence.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		requirement for balance in overall reporting.	
<p>Trust in social media – effectiveness of self-regulation Gov10.01.02 By 2023, unless and until the self-regulation system for Australian social media is replaced by a properly resourced independent standard-setter and compliance auditor as per Gov10.03 and Gov10.03.01, ensure a national survey is established which monitors trust in social media – in terms of perceptions of their performance as good corporate citizens and compliance with regulations or voluntary codes of practice in ethical information dissemination.</p>	<p>Gov 10 A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>	<p>In 2021, no regulations existed to hold social media to account for dissemination of misinformation and disinformation. However, a voluntary “Australian Code of Practice on Misinformation and Disinformation” was adopted by Twitter, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Redbubble and TikTok.</p> <p>Source: DIGI Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation, February 2021</p> <p>In 2019, Australians on survey said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There should be tighter regulation of online platforms like Facebook and Google.” = 80%. • “Platforms like Facebook and Google are responsible if deliberately misleading and harmful news stories are distributed on their platforms.” = 75%. • “A specialist body is needed to oversee the operations of Facebook and Google.” = 75%. <p>Source: Essential Report, 6 August 2019</p>	<p>In 2021, a Senate Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia recommended that “the terms of reference for a judicial inquiry [into media regulation and ownership] include consideration of mechanisms for regulatory oversight, including the establishment of a <i>platform-neutral</i> single news regulator.”</p> <p>Source: Final Report, Senate Environment and Communications References Committee on Media Diversity in Australia, December 2021.</p> <p>Despite the Senate Committee’s acknowledgement that self-regulation of both news and social media is no longer effective, no progress has yet been made with establishment of a monitor of either performance or perceptions of performance by social media in ethical information dissemination.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>No systems are in place to</p>
	<p>Gov 1 A proactive participatory democracy.</p>		
	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>independently monitor the compliance of DIGI Code signatories with their own Code.</p> <p>In the absence of a regulatory framework and an independent authority for enforcement of standards, the utility and effectiveness of self-regulation by social media companies remains unclear.</p> <p> / </p>
<p>Regulation of an ethical, democratic information market</p> <p><u>Top Priority Target/Strategy:</u> Development of a national regulatory framework for an ethical, democratic information market Gov10.02</p> <p>By 2022, establish a national community engagement process for collaborative planning of a democratic information market fit to handle the challenges to truth, ethics, community safety and market power arising from the digital age.</p> <p>By 2023, consider the feedback from the community and design a draft framework for ethical regulation of</p>	Gov 10	A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.	<p>No substantive progress has been made in establishing a regulatory framework for an ethical, democratic information market.</p> <p> / </p> <p>In 2022, market rules for ownership of information infrastructure and services, eg., search services and platforms for information transmission (including digital platforms and news media platforms such as broadcast TV) remained either poorly specified or totally unspecified. And no coherent regulation framework existed.</p> <p>In 2020, legislative reforms known as the “News Media Bargaining Code” were</p>
	Gov 1	A proactive participatory democracy.	
	Gov 9	A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	
	Soc 3	Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.	
	Soc 4	A place of optimal health & wellbeing.	
	Soc 5	A model of educational opportunity.	
	Soc 6	A society of equals.	
		<p>In 2020, no steps had been taken by the Australian government to develop an integrated regulatory framework for either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the operations of the digital-age information market (governing such things as ownership, competition rules and monopoly regulation), or the conduct of users/operators of digital platforms. <p>In 2020, legislative reforms were instead being developed in a piecemeal fashion, often with the effect of increasing the possibility of unethical conduct in and concentration of markets and lessening accountability for responsible publishing.</p> <p>Source: ACFP, Bronwyn Kelly, Prospects for journalism, the free information market and</p>	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>the information market in Australia that is consistent with that feedback.</p> <p>By 2024, introduce legislation consistent with the recommended regulatory framework.</p>	Soc	7	A success because of its diversity.	<p>democracy in Australia under the ACCC's News Media Bargaining Code⁵⁷</p> <p>passed by federal parliament and marketed as a “step towards regulating Google and Facebook”⁵⁸ – or at least their market power. However, the perverse result of the News Media Bargaining Code was increased market power by large news media companies, particularly News Corp and Nine, with no corresponding improvement in the accountability of these news media outlets for irresponsible publishing.</p> <p>No specific acknowledgement has been forthcoming from the federal parliament of the need to design an <i>integrated</i> regulatory framework suitable for an information market in the digital age, although a Senate Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia did conclude that the regulatory framework for news media is not fit for purpose, especially in prevention of the spread of misinformation. The Senate Committee</p>
	Soc	8	A success because of gender equality.	
	Env	5	An environmentally educated community.	
	Econ	5	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	
	Econ	6	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	
	Econ	7	A collaborative intelligent nation.	
	Econ	8	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.	

⁵⁷ Bronwyn Kelly, [Prospects for journalism, the free information market and democracy in Australia under the ACCC's News Media Bargaining Code](#), September 2020

⁵⁸ Final report of the Senate Environment Communications References Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia, page xi.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>noted that in the last decade “no progress has been made on updating Australia’s out of date media regulation system”. Source: Final report of the Senate Environment Communications References Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia</p> <p>The longer term trend is best characterised as negative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>Regulation and codes of ethical conduct for news media and social media</p> <p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Independent regulation of compliance with a code of ethical conduct by publishers and social media – development of a model Code Gov10.03</p> <p>By 2023, recognising that codes regulating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ethics and quality in journalism, and distribution of misinformation and disinformation in journalism and social media <p>are inadequate for prevention of harm in digital-age open democracies, introduce legislation requiring the Australian Communications and</p>	<p>Gov 10</p> <p>A guardian of freedom & accountability in political discourse, news media & the wider information market.</p>	<p>In 2021, both news media and social media businesses were “self-regulating” in terms of compliance with standards for truth and for prevention of harm that may be caused by published content.</p>	<p>In December 2021, the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee released the final report on its Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia.</p>
	<p>Gov 1</p> <p>A proactive participatory democracy.</p>	<p>In 2021, “big tech” businesses – Google, Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft, TikTok and Redbubble established an Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation (the DIGI Code). Source: Digital Industry Group Inc. (DIGI).</p>	<p>The Committee “found that the current regulatory environment for news media is weak, fragmented, and inconsistent. As a result, large media organisations have become so powerful and unchecked that they have developed corporate cultures that consider themselves beyond the existing accountability framework.”</p>
	<p>Gov 3</p> <p>A nation with avowed rights for all.</p>		
	<p>Gov 5</p> <p>Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>	<p>In 2014, the Australian Press Council changed its Statement of General Principles (its code of ethics for journalists) so that “fairness and balance” were no longer required in relation to news reporting but balance was henceforth</p>	
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		<p>The Senate Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recommended a judicial inquiry with the powers of




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Media Authority (ACMA) to develop a platform-neutral model Code of Conduct with binding standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> news media on ethics in production and publication of journalistic content, and social media on practice in management of misinformation and disinformation on their platforms. <p>Independent regulation of compliance with a code of ethical conduct by publishers and social media – ensuring compliance with Codes Gov10.03.01</p> <p>By 2024, establish a well-funded, transparent and independent audit and complaints handling authority responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring compliance with, and examining breaches of, the model Code of Conduct; implementing statutory penalties which increase per proven offence and are scaled to reflect the size of the corporation committing any proven breaches; 	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>	<p>required in relation to facts. The change ushered in a regime of support for the generation of “alternative facts” and discarded the traditional role of journalism in seeking truth and distinguishing fact from opinion. The new Statement also laid the basis for several other types of unethical conduct by journalists, including permission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cause a substantial risk to health or safety, gather material by deceptive or unfair means, and be offensive (including via racism) <p>if doing so is, in the view of the publisher, “sufficiently in the public interest”.</p> <p>By contrast, in 2021, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance’s Code of Conduct effectively operated on the opposite basis to the Press Council Statement. Source: Australian Press Council Statements of General Principles pre-2014 and post-2014 & MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics</p>	<p>a royal commission, as had been called for by former prime Minister, Kevin Rudd and over 500,000 petitioners;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stated that “evidence ... testified to the inability of existing regulators to ensure that standards of fairness and accuracy are maintained, and to prevent the spread of misinformation”; stated that “it is the committee’s strong view ... that focusing on the internet platforms alone will not resolve the grave problems in Australia’s media sector”; and recommended the “establishment of a platform-neutral single news regulator”. <p>A dissenting report by Liberal Party Senator Bragg rejected the Committee’s recommendations, sought perpetuation of the current self-regulation system, and rejected the need for market interventions. Source: Final report of the Senate Environment Communications References Committee Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia</p>
	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		
	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		




Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 10 – Free communications policy & regulation

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publishing adjudications of complaints and audit findings; and for maintaining an open, permanent register of all determined breaches of the model code and the journalist/news business responsible for each breach. 			<p>Parliament itself has taken no action to implement the Senate Committee's recommendations.</p> <p>Some progress has been made in the shorter term in heightened awareness of the significant threat to democracy posed by the current failure of regulation.</p> <p> / </p> <p>The longer term trend is best characterised as negative.</p> <p></p>


Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 11 – International participation & global justice

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 11 – International participation & global justice			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data
Participation in international cooperative forums Gov11.01 Australia is ranked as a truster of the United Nations.	Gov 11	A just participant on the global stage.	In 2022, Australia was one of 7 markets globally which neither trusted nor distrusted the United Nations. Comparing trust rankings for Australia with major powers, on a nine point scale, trust rankings in 2022 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia = 55, neutral trust • US = 48, distrust • Russia = 35, distrust • China = 85, trust Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Global Reports 2019, 2020, 2022
	Gov 3	A nation with avowed rights for all.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 12	A nation assured of enduring peace.	
	Gov 13	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.	
		In 2019, Australia was one of 8 markets globally which neither trusted nor distrusted the United Nations. Comparing trust rankings for Australia with major powers, on a nine point scale, trust rankings in 2019 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia = 56, neutral trust • US = 54, neutral trust • Russia = 32, distrust • China = 83, trust Source: Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report 2019	Australia's trust in the United Nations improved briefly in 2021 (to 60) but did not enter trusting territory.  The slide by the US into distrust of the United Nations indicates increasing hostility by the US towards global collaboration forums. By contrast, the population of China is very positively disposed to cooperation. The longer term trend for Australia is stagnant.  The global cooperation trends within Western countries are disturbingly negative. 
International cooperation for	Gov 11	A just participant on	In 2021, Australia scored 63.9/100 on the United No data update available.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 11 – International participation & global justice

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
global sustainability Gov11.02 By 2030, attain a minimum score of 90/100 on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals International Spillover Index.	the global stage.	Nations Sustainable Development Goals International Spillover Index, below the average for OECD members. The Spillover Index records the extent to which rich countries generate negative international spillovers that undermine other countries' ability to achieve the SDGs. Source: Jeffrey D. Sachs, Christian Kroll, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller, and Finn Woelm, Sustainable Development Report 2021, The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals	 However, it is worth noting that as a rich developed country, Australia scores poorly in moderating the impact of its development on other countries. With a score of only 63.9/100, Australia compares unfavourably to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD countries = 70.1/100, • Eastern Europe & Central Asia = 87.6/100. • Middle East & North Africa = 93.4/100. • Latin America & the Caribbean = 95.1/100. • East & South Asia = 97.6/100. • Sub-Saharan Africa = 98.4/100 • Oceania = 100/100. Source: Jeffrey D. Sachs, Christian Kroll, Guillaume Lafortune, Grayson Fuller, and Finn Woelm, Sustainable Development Report 2021, The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals Australia is among the least cooperative countries in the world in terms of attempts to mitigate the impacts of its development on other nations attempting to meet Sustainable Development Goals. Australia's continuing increase in fossil fuel exports over the last decade indicates that the longer term trend is likely to have been negative.
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Env 1 A leading global advocate for action on climate change.		
	Env 2 - 19 All remaining Directions for our Environment		
	Econ 1 A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 11 – International participation & global justice

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			←
Protection of refugees seeking asylum Gov11.03 By 2024, as part of the process of a Constitutional Convention established under Gov04.01 , and establishment of a Bill of Rights under Gov03.01 , Gov03.01.01 and Gov03.01.02 , ensure provision is made in Australia's Constitution that automatically grants all refugees seeking asylum in Australia the full rights and protections granted under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and any other relevant Convention, Covenant, and international law.	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.	In October 2001, Prime Minister John Howard proclaimed that, "we will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come", ushering in a period of increasing injustice for refugees and illegal acts of detention by Australia including cases of children who were indefinitely detained without charge in onshore and offshore detention facilities in full denial of their rights under international law and our commitments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. In 2013, the Australian government under Prime Minister Rudd legislated to make offshore detention mandatory for all asylum seekers who arrive by boat, resulting in more than 3,000 refugees being sent to offshore detention, where 12 died and the remainder endured cruel, inhumane treatment equating to torture.	No discernible progress.
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		Australia has improved compliance with some of its obligations to refugees by reducing the number of women and children in offshore refugee centres (Nauru and Manus Island, PNG) but not before causing unnecessary harm.
	Gov 3 A nation with avowed rights for all.		Australia continues to deny rights to asylum seekers consistent the with international conventions to which we are a signatory.
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		In 2021, indications of the financial and human cost of Australia's current approach to detention of asylum seekers and denial of their human rights included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of detaining Sri Lankan family from Biloela for 16 months to 31 January 2021 = \$6.7 million. Comparison of cost in 2021 of different forms of immigration detention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted detention facility: 694 persons x \$430,611 (est. average) per person per annum = \$299 million. Detention in the community: 51 persons x \$46,490 (est.) per person per annum.
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 11 – International participation & global justice


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
	Soc 1 A safe home.	In 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees urged Australia (not for the first time) to end offshore asylum processing which, “undermined the rights of those seeking safety and protection and significantly harmed their physical and mental health”. But in 2021 approximately 230 refugees who legally sought asylum in Australia were still being held illegally by Australia in offshore detention, because they arrived by boat.	<p>3. Human cost of extended detention in immigration facilities 2017 to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual self harm = 774. • Threatened self harm = 1,698. <p>Source: Refugee Council of Australia Statistics webpage, viewed 22 February 2022</p> <p>←</p> <p>In addition to the costs of Australia’s immigration and refugee detention policies in financial and human terms, the cost to Australia’s international reputation as a supporter of the rule of law and protector of human rights is incalculable.</p>
	Soc 3 Inclusive, welcoming & enabling.		
	Soc 6 A society of equals.		
	Soc 7 A success because of its diversity.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.	In 2021, the Australian government also passed laws making indefinite detention of asylum seekers lawful in Australia in contravention of international law and defiance of the “rules based order”. Sources: Parliament of Australia, Asylum seekers and the Refugee Convention webpage and Migration Amendment Bill 2021; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 1951 Refugee Convention webpage; and Ben Doherty Guardian Australia 20 July 2021	<p>Prior to 2001, Australia had a much better record on immigration and refugee rights. The longer term trend on human rights for refugees and others in immigration detention is negative.</p> <p>←</p>

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 12 – Peace & security			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Australian involvement in military operations Gov12.01 Participation by Australian armed forces as combatants in military operations (other than genuine peacekeeping and humanitarian aid sanctioned by the United Nations) is zero unless Australia has been directly attacked or unless both houses of parliament agree in the majority that its security has been directly, demonstrably and imminently threatened.</p>	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>	<p>Between 1945 and 2021, Australian military forces participated in no less than 10 military operations overseas, none of which were the result of a direct or indirect threat to Australia's security and only one of which could be justified on genuine humanitarian grounds (East Timor). Source: Wikipedia, List of Wars Involving Australia</p>	<p>Since Australia's withdrawal from war in Afghanistan in 2021, Australian armed forces have not participated as active combatants in military operations. However, the federal government has adopted hawkish policies and attitudes to aggressive containment of rising non-Western powers including China and other developing Asian nations. Such "drums of wars" policies predispose Australia to military aggression rather than planned peace.</p> <p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend of Australia's participation in wars where it has no strategic interest has been poor, eg., Iraq and Afghanistan (for 20 years).</p> <p>As at February 2022, the Australian government shows no sign of replacing belligerent postures with postures for promotion of peace in foreign relations. Belligerent postures are intensifying in relation to China.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>Australian preference for peace versus war Gov12.01.01 The proportion of Australians preferring neutral postures in military conflicts does not diminish.</p>	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>	<p>In 2021, the Lowy Institute stated that “Australians have become increasingly wary of military engagement in some parts of the world, and support for deploying military forces has been consistently low for hypothetical scenarios involving China”.</p> <p>In the 2021 Lowy Poll, in relation to a military conflict between China and the US, Australians preferred a passive, neutral response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% said “Australia should remain neutral”; • 41% said “Australia should support the United States”; and • 1% said “Australia should support China”. <p>The Lowy Institute noted that, “There is a stark divide between the youngest and oldest Australians on this question: only one in five (21%) Australians aged 18–29 say Australia should support the United States in the case of conflict, a view held by the majority (58%) of Australians aged over 60.”</p> <p>Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021</p>	<p>No update available on the Lowy Poll results.</p> <p></p> <p>However in February 2022, Australians on survey expressed the view that Australia’s relationship with China is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “a positive opportunity to be realised” – 13%; • “a complex relationship to be managed” – 61%; • a threat to be confronted” – 26%. <p>Source: Essential Poll, February 2022</p>
	<p>Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		<p>These responses indicate that while China is no longer viewed as positively as it was in the recent past, there is little appetite for confrontation and aggression with China, and a substantial appetite for sound relationship management to avert war.</p> <p>The indication is that in promoting aggressive “drums of war” postures, the federal government of 2022 was out of step with the views and preferences of the majority of Australians.</p>
	<p>Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
			<p>While the longer term trend of relationships with China is negative, Australians continue to support neutral postures.</p> 
<p>Australian preference and readiness for an independent defence capability versus dependence on the US alliance Gov12.01.02 Australians' support for the US alliance does not detract from its capacity to develop independent defence capability and does not lead Australia into instigation of military conflict or other involvement in military conflict that may be inconsistent with the Statement of Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence to be developed by the Green Paper and community engagement process under Gov12.04.01.</p>	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.	<p>Between 2005 and 2019, an average of 77% of Australians on survey reported support for Australia's alliance with the US.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lowest support was in 2007 – 63%. The highest support was in 2010 – 86%. <p>Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021</p> <p>In 2019, a turning point in Australia's understanding of the utility and future of the US alliance was marked by Hugh White, Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre of the Australian National University, as follows:</p> <p>"The simple, historical fact is that Western powers, and especially our great allies Britain and America, have been able to dominate Asia strategically and keep Australia safe because they have been far richer, stronger and more technologically advanced than any Asian rival. The rise of these immense Asian powers means those material</p>	<p>In 2020 and 2021, 78% of Australians on survey reported support for Australia's alliance with the US, 1 point higher than the average between 2005 and 2019 but 8 points lower than the peak of support for the alliance in 2010.</p> <p>Source: Lowy Institute Poll 2021</p> <p>In late 2021, Australia's prime minister, Scott Morrison, announced an economic and trilateral security pact with the USA and UK – AUKUS – for development of defence hardware and systems, particularly nuclear powered submarines. This tightened Australia's alliance with the US at a time when the reliability of the alliance is in decline, thereby exposing Australia to heightened risk of being drawn into conflicts which are not in its strategic or national interests.</p>
	Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.		
	Gov 4 A free, self-governing, modern nation.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
		<p>foundations of Western preponderance have decayed, and without them the Western position in Asia, which we have taken for granted and depended on for so long, cannot last. Indeed, its passing is already far advanced. This changes fundamentally the nature of Australia's strategic choices. For the first time we have to contemplate defending ourselves independently. ... It means that 'defending ourselves' must now encompass defending ourselves from a major Asian power without the substantive help of a major-power ally, or committing our forces alongside those of Asian neighbours rather than relying on Western allies to protect our strategic interests."</p> <p>Source: Hugh White, How to Defend Australia, La Trobe University Press, 2019, page 316, Scribd edition.</p>	<p>←</p> <p>The longer term trend of maturity in policy and risk management on alliances is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
<p>Prohibition of weapons exports Gov12.02 By 2024, legislate to totally prohibit exports of any and all weapons and any military specific goods and technology (eg., ammunition, missiles, armoured vehicles, military vessels and enabling software,</p>	<p>Gov 12</p> <p>A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>	<p>In 2014, Australia led in the United Nations Security Council with the development of the Arms Trade Treaty and ratified this legally binding instrument. But in 2018, Australia earmarked the Middle East as a "priority market" in its Defence Export Strategy, publicly</p>	<p>In 2022, the Commonwealth Government Defence Export Strategy remains in place, supported by \$20 million in additional annual taxpayer funding. A new Australian Defence Export Office has been</p>
	<p>Gov 2</p> <p>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
hardware and targeting systems) from Australia to any other country.	Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.	pursuing weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (then making war and humanitarian crises in Yemen and breaching multiple international laws) in direct contravention of the 2014 Arms Trade Treaty which requires Australia to take into account the risk that arms exports will be used “to commit or facilitate acts of gender-based or serious acts of violence against women and children.” Between 2018 and 2021 Defence Department approvals for export of weapons rose from \$1.5 billion to \$5 billion. Source: United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, Commonwealth Government Defence Export Strategy 2018	<p>created within the Department of Defence and is supporting private sector profit-making in sale of weapons to countries that are actively engaged in violent incursions of defenceless populations and in creating humanitarian crises.</p> <p>←</p> <p>Exports of weapons are set to rise in under the current arrangements.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.		
	Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.		
	Soc 1 A safe home.		
	Soc 15 Confident of justice for all.		
Prohibition of funding of public institutions and officials by foreign-owned or domestically owned/operated arms dealers or manufacturers Gov12.03 By 2024, recognising the potential that donations, gifts and other in-kind favours from arms dealers, manufacturers and their agents will give rise to actions by government officials and public sector agents that are contrary to Australia’s sovereign interests and national security, legislate to:	Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.	In 2021, nothing in Australian statutes sufficiently prevented arms dealers, manufacturers and their agents from attempting to influence Australian officials in national security and related policy/contractual decisions through pecuniary and non-pecuniary donations, gifts and in-kind favours.	<p>No progress has been made in prohibition of funding of public institutions and officials by foreign-owned or domestically owned/operated arms dealers or manufacturers.</p> <p>←</p>
	Gov 5 Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.		
	Gov 6 A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.		


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> totally prohibit direct and indirect funding of all public institutions and government instrumentalities (including universities, government run cultural facilities, museums, memorials, and policy development/administrative/ operational entities) by foreign owned or domestically owned/operated arms dealers or manufacturers and their agents or associates; prohibit any private entity (foreign or domestic) from qualifying for state or federal government contracts if they have received funding – either financial or in-kind, directly or indirectly – from foreign or domestically based arms dealers, manufacturers or their agents/associates at any time from the date of assent to the legislation onwards; prohibit donations to political parties and candidates/elected representatives in federal, state and local government by foreign or domestically owned/based arms dealers, 	<p>Gov 7 Committed to public service independence & excellence.</p>		
	<p>Gov 8 Protected from undue sectional influence in elections.</p>		
	<p>Gov 9 A nation outlawing corporate greed & encouraging private sector ethics & community partnership.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>manufacturers or their agents; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibit post-separation employment of elected members of state and federal parliament with consulting, lobbying or other corporate entities operating in association with arms dealers, manufacturers or their agents for a period of five years after relinquishing their elected office. 			
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security Gov12.04 By 2023, recognising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a strategy of over-reliance on expansion of defence for maintenance of an aggressive footing in international relations (rather than a genuinely defensive footing) is both insupportably expensive and ultimately futile for Australia, and that 	<p>Gov 12 A nation assured of enduring peace.</p> <p>Gov 2 A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>	<p>In 2019, the Australian National Outlook 2019 identified a direct connection between the incidence of fractious international relations and slow economic decline for Australia. They identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the case of fractious global relations: “National and protectionist rhetoric stalls global trade, economic growth slows, population increases and there is no firm action on climate change, resulting in 	<p>No progress has been made with development of an Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security.</p> <p>In 2022, it was reported that the Defence Department’s planning and procurement is a “shambles”.⁶⁰</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>In 2022, with the establishment of AUKUS and the</p>

⁶⁰ See Mack Williams, “[Ukraine highlights our defence procurement shambles](#)”, Pearls and Irritations, 11 March 2022: “The Ukraine invasion has thrown into sharp focus the massive failure of the Coalition’s defence procurement program to strengthen our military capability. The facts cannot be regarded as anything less than shocking as the following list reveals:

- 1) The whole Collins class submarine replacement drama, which apart from the \$2 billion already sunk into it, also has seen deals first with Japan, then Germany and finally France being rejected.
- 2) Scrapping of \$ 3.8 billion French Taipan helicopters program because of potential maintenance problems and replaced with at least \$7 billion for US helicopters.
- 3) \$16.6 billion Joint Strike Fighters continues to be plagued by serious problems – 36% reduction in flying time last year.
- 4) \$1.5 billion C-27 airlifters reclassified to humanitarian aircraft.
- 5) \$3 billion Battle Management System suspended.
- 6) \$4 billion Offshore Patrol Vessel program delayed.
- 7) \$435million Cape Class Patrol boats delayed – imported aluminium from China sub-standard.

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> we are living through an era of both irreversible globalisation and superpower shifts (China and Asia rising, the West in relative decline and instability), and that Australia's national security is largely dependent on economic security which in turn is dependent on a positive relationship with China and Asia, and that because Australia's defence policy is set towards aggression in the Oceania region and our diplomatic stance and policies are likewise set towards hawkishness and containment rather than peace and global collaboration, they are undermining not improving national security and the risk of war, develop a draft integrated defence, diplomacy and security strategy to ensure peace in our region based on acknowledgement of the 	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>	<p>a global average temperature rise of 4°C by 2100.”; but on the other hand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the case of cooperative global relations: “Global trade and geopolitical tensions are more positive than they are today, populations increase, but at the low end of projections, and there is effective global action on climate change to limit global average temperature rises to 2°C by 2100.” <p>In effect, the Australian National Outlook 2019 identified that up to the year 2060, the prospects for positive economic outcomes for Australia (GDP growth per capita) are halved in the event of fractious international relations. Source: NAB & CSIRO, Australian National Outlook, 2019</p> <p>In 2020, Australia's relationship with its biggest trading partner, China, deteriorated significantly, resulting in</p>	<p>agreement to consider purchase of nuclear powered submarines, Australia is at risk of being locked into aggressive campaigns by the US that are beyond areas of strategic interest to Australia and which are likely to expose Australia as a target for a first strike from any enemy.</p> <p>Australia is pursuing an approach to foreign relations in which strategies for defence and diplomacy are set to disable strategies for security, independence, sovereignty, growth in national resilience, and peace.</p> <p>With the establishment of AUKUS, defence and foreign relations policy is moving in the opposite direction to the proposal to develop an Integrated</p>
	<p>Gov 11</p> <p>A just participant on the global stage.</p>		
	<p>Gov 13</p> <p>A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>		

8) \$1.3 billion Landrover replacement (Hawkei) stalled on technical issue only weeks after production line starting following 6 years of troubles.

9) \$1.1 billion in major upgrade of Jindalee Operational Radar Network radar with long delays.

As Greg Sheridan commented recently in *The Australian* : “Every one of our major defence programs is in disarray or scheduled to deliver capability so far into the future that it's in the realm of science fiction, or delivers assets that have no weapons on them or is completely irrelevant to the maritime military challenge we face”. This lack of military preparedness at a time when the Coalition is ramping up fears about the international scene amounts to a national disgrace.”

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>following geopolitical realities for the 21st century:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that Australia's traditional allies of the USA and the UK cannot and should not be relied on to come to Australia's aid in the event of a military or economic threat from an external source; that Australia cannot expect that in the event of a global clash between superpowers (China, the USA, Russia) that Asian countries (eg., Japan and India or Indonesia) will side with Australia against China; that continuation of the post-WWII exclusive reliance on the USA alliance and the ANZUS Treaty now works against Australian security objectives wherever and whenever pursuit of the USA's objectives and interests undermines stability in the Oceania region; that the only feasible strategy for Australia in armed conflict is to avoid it entirely and that soft power resources – built steadily on the basis 	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>	<p>the loss of between \$19 billion and \$40 billion in annual exports to China. But in 2021, Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> had no strategy in place either for restoring relations with China or restoring our reputation as a mature, respected collaborative, trading and research partner with other countries; in foreign policy, was stoking fractiousness with China, rather than developing policies to ensure that China's inevitable global ascendancy will work in Australia's favour; was over-reliant on expansion of defence and "hard power" hawkish stances that are provocative of war, and was under-reliant on diplomatic strategy and accumulation of "soft power" for prevention of war. <p>Source: Australian Community Futures Planning, The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 4 Part 2.</p> <p>See Note⁵⁹ for further baseline analysis and reference materials.</p>	<p>Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security, based on the new geopolitical realities of the 21st century, and must be seen to be running counter to the target for independence in defence under Gov12.01.02.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.</p>		

⁵⁹ In early 2021, Australian attitudes to foreign policy and relations were mixed. While the Australian government promoted military build-up by reliance on "drums of war" rhetoric and claims that "[everyday Australians](#)" supported getting prepared for war (rather than getting prepared to avoid it), Australians themselves in the majority rejected confrontation, as evidenced by the fact that in the [Lowy Institute Poll 2021](#), "when asked about a military conflict between China and the United States, more than half the

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>of ethical and cooperative behaviour by Australia in trade, climate change, human rights, humanitarian aid, observance of the rule of law, and just participation in global forums (the UN, WTO, WHO) – are therefore the most reliable means (economically and strategically) by which Australia may secure its people and borders;</p> <p>and acknowledge that, given these new geopolitical realities, Australia cannot afford an approach to foreign relations in which strategies for defence and diplomacy are set to disable strategies for security, independence, sovereignty, growth in national resilience, and peace.</p>			

population (57%) said ‘Australia should remain neutral’” and the [Institute commented further that](#) “Australians do not want regional competition to slide into confrontation.” In the same Lowy Institute Poll, however, 75% of respondents said that “The United States would come to Australia’s defence if Australia was under threat,” implying a degree of complacency among Australians (in relation to pro-US foreign policy and its efficacy in the event of military threats) that was at odds with what several experienced diplomats, analysts and commentators saw as a necessary shift in strategic relationships in the Oceania region, due to the rise of China. Recommended policy shifts included those of:

- experienced diplomat [Geoff Raby](#) who said, “Strategic cooperation [with China and Asia] rather than US-led strategic competition with China offers not only the most constructive means by which to protect and advance Australia’s interests in the region, it is also the most realistic in view of China’s regional weight and influence. ... Diplomacy, after all, is the only instrument realistically available to ensure Australia’s security. Australia itself can never fund the military defence of the continent, nor can Australia confidently rely on other states to protect us. In the new world order, the safest premise on which to build security policy is that we are on our own. Diplomacy therefore should not be seen as a cost but as an investment in Australia’s future security.”; and
- the Australia Institute’s [Allan Behm](#) who said, “However Australia decides to address its relationship with China, it must be seen to be acting clearly in its own interests, and not as a US franchise.”

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
By 2024, establish a fully open program of community engagement on the draft integrated defence, diplomacy and security strategy , and incorporate feedback on the potential of the draft strategy to achieve the primary objectives of security, national resilience, economic prosperity and peace in our region.			
<p>Top Priority Target/Strategy: Green Paper and community engagement to define Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence Gov12.04.01</p> <p>By 2023, preparatory to process for development of the Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security in Gov12.04, federal parliament will legislate to develop a process of engagement with Australians to develop a Statement of Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence.</p> <p>Ensure the Green Paper and community engagement process are overseen by DFAT or, if necessary, by another duly appointed independent commission of public engagement with powers to:</p>	<p>Gov 12</p> <p>A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>	<p>In 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72.7% of Australians on survey supported a "ban on nuclear weapons, as a step towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons". Only 11.3% opposed a ban, and 65.7% of Australians agreed that Australia should sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Only 13% disagreed. <p>Source: Greenpeace Poll on Australians' attitudes towards nuclear weapons, 19 September 2017</p> <p>In 2018, 78.9% of Australians on survey said they supported Australia joining the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Source: Harvard Law School, International Human Rights Clinic, "Australia and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" December 2018.</p>	<p>No progress has been made with development of a Green Paper and community engagement to define Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence.</p> <p>←</p> <p>In 2022, the whole notion of engaging Australians in an open process for determination of what is and is not in their nation's strategic interest and what is and is not appropriate in principle for decision making on security issues, remains a concept that is not comprehended by key security policy makers. This, despite the fact that Australians are entirely capable of</p>
	<p>Gov 1</p> <p>A proactive participatory democracy.</p>		
	<p>Gov 5</p> <p>Open, transparent & accountable in its governments & institutions.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct genuine, fully open and well informed public engagement; report transparently to parliament on the preferences of Australians for such a Statement; and ultimately design a Statement that will provide sufficient guidance to parliaments and ensure that any decisions made on territorial defence will in fact be in the acknowledged best interests of Australians and will thereby safeguard our independence, sovereignty, security and peace. <p>As a minimum, the Green Paper should include options for:</p> <p>a) a process by which the nature and limits of Australia's geopolitical interests may be determined and reviewed every three years in open consultation with Australians; and</p> <p>b) draft principles for possible inclusion in the Statement governing decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> entry into and exit from participation in wars and any other form of military deployment or incursion, 	<p>Gov 11 A just participant on the global stage.</p>	<p>In 2021, the Australian Government, without consultation with the Australian people or its parliaments, entered into an economic and trilateral security pact with the United States and United Kingdom (AUKUS) under which the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The pact was made regardless of any consideration as to whether nuclear capability would be in Australia's domestic or wider strategic interests and regardless of whether Australia would, by virtue of the pact, be effectively surrendering its independent sovereignty in decisions on future military engagements.</p> <p>In 2021, Australia had no agreements with the Australian people on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any statement specifying the nation's strategic interests (as they relate to defence), any statement specifying that Australia is required to frame decisions on military engagement and foreign policy as a fully independent sovereign power acting solely in the interests of Australia, 	<p>determining what is in the best interests of their nation and, within a fully open process, are best placed to develop principles and instructions for government on how decisions of national security may be made, including those decisions which commit Australia to wars.</p> <p>The longer term trend of decency in policy development on national security and respect for the Australian people in this area is negative.</p> <p>←</p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Soc 16 A society prepared and resilient in times of disaster.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • escalation and de-escalation of military involvement beyond Australia's borders, • entry into and exit from military alliances, • entry into and exit from treaties which relate to maintenance of peace or prevention/cessation of wars, • permissible occupation or prohibition of foreign military and associated intelligence capability on Australian soil, • permissible entry of foreign military forces and transports to Australian waters and ports, • acquisition by the Australian Defence Force of weapons and major military hardware, such as submarines, warships, aircraft, landing equipment, drones, tanks, bombs and other large scale incendiary devices, and detection and surveillance technology, • international cooperation to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any statement which may provide guidance on when or whether alliances may be formed or continued with foreign powers, • the process by which commitments of Australians to military engagements may be made, • the process by which foreign military personnel or installations may be permitted on Australian soil, or • the process for approval of acquisition of nuclear weapons capability and energy generation in Australia. <p>In 2021, Australia was not a signatory to the United Nations Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, although it was a signatory to the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.</p>	


Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>reduce and/or eliminate nuclear weapons, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plans to restructure and equip Australia's military to concentrate on territorial sovereign defence. 			
<p>Development of the capacity of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and abolition of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) Gov12.05</p> <p>By 2022, dissolve the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).</p> <p>By 2023, after establishing an Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security as per Gov12.04, commence a review of the capacity of DFAT to lead in oversight and implementation of the Integrated Strategy, including in policy setting for defence postures and international military relationships to ensure they are aligned with the overarching objectives of the Integrated Strategy for security, national resilience, economic</p>	<p>Gov 12</p> <p>A nation assured of enduring peace.</p>	<p>From around 2017 the Australian government's foreign policy capability was compromised in its independence, quality and objectives, in large part through the association of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) with foreign arms dealers and the adoption of aggressive and competitive (rather than collaborative) policies in relation to China by ASPI and security agencies such as ASIO. The rise of ASPI, headed by advisers who pushed Australia into the Iraq War, together with a significant diminution of policy capacity in DFAT contributed to what, by 2021, was acknowledged as "the biggest Australian foreign policy disaster in seventy years with the collapse of the relationship with China".</p>	<p>In 2022, there are no indications that the Australian government is poised to cease the association of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) with foreign arms dealers and manufacturers.</p> <p>←</p> <p>In 2022, there is no evidence that ASPI's continued involvement in the Australian in foreign policy and defence is having a positive effect on Australia's relations with China. Australia's relationship with China continues to decline.</p> <p>The longer term trend in relations with Australia's biggest trading</p>
	<p>Gov 2</p> <p>A nation knowing and affirming decency.</p>		
	<p>Gov 6</p> <p>A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.</p>		
	<p>Gov 11</p> <p>A just participant on the global stage.</p>		

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance



Governance 12 – Peace & security

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...	Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline
<p>prosperity and peace in our region.</p> <p>By 2024, develop a new workforce plan for DFAT to ensure it retains the capacity for foreign policy development and leadership in implementation of the Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security.</p> <p>By 2024/25 ensure the new workforce plan is fully costed and funded.</p>	<p>Gov 13 A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.</p>	<p>By 2021, institutional arrangements for the development of Australian foreign policy focussed squarely on maintaining peace, cooperation and stability in the Oceania region had failed completely due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriate corporate influence in policy agencies, • an excess of confrontational tactics with China, and • insufficient independence in policy determinations – rising from ceding sovereignty to the US in multiple ways, eg., allowing American military installations in Australia, American command of such facilities and decisions on initiation of nuclear attacks, and embedding interoperability in naval and other defence operations. <p>See Note⁶¹ for baseline reference materials.</p>	<p>partner continues towards decline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
	<p>Soc 1 A safe home.</p>		
	<p>Econ 9 Productive & prosperous through fair & ethical trade agreements, labour hire & procurement.</p>		

⁶¹ By 2020 and 2021, multiple experienced commentators and analysts in foreign relations, including former senior diplomats, had coalesced in their views that Australia had not fulfilled the ambitions of the Australia Government's [2017 Foreign Policy White Paper](#), and had instead dismantled the preferred strategy of that Paper which was based on engagement, constructive cooperation, and in the words of then Prime Minister Turnbull "mutual respect". See Geoff Raby, [China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order](#), Melbourne University Press 2020. Other examples include but are not limited to: David Brophy, Senior Lecturer in Modern Chinese History, University of Sydney, [Australia's China policy can't be based on paranoia or corporate interests — there is a better way](#), The Conversation 29 June 2021 and Bruce Haigh, [A sinking DFAT has given policy making over to ASPI](#)", Pearls and Irritations, 29 June 2021.


Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of ***Australia Together***, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Governance 13 – Humanitarian effort

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance			
Governance 13 – Humanitarian effort			
Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Direction of movement from baseline
Foreign aid Gov13.01 The federal government cap placed on expenditure on foreign aid in 2017 is dispensed with and foreign aid from 2021/22 is restored to the 2014/15 level of \$5.04 billion and increased annually thereafter by at least the CPI.	Gov 13	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.	In 2017/18 the federal government capped foreign aid at \$4 billion until 2021/22. Source: Parliamentary Budget Office, 2019-20 Medium Term Fiscal Projections In 2019/20, federal budgeted expenditure for foreign aid was \$4.044 billion, down 20% from actual expenditure in 2014/15 of \$5.04 billion. Source: Australian Aid Tracker
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 11	A just participant on the global stage.	
	Gov 12	A nation assured of enduring peace.	
	Soc 1	A safe home.	
	Soc 7	A success because of its diversity.	
Contribution to the Green Climate Fund under the Paris Agreement Gov 13.02 By 2022, in accordance with initiatives under Env01.01 , renew Australia's commitment under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Green Climate Fund with a minimum	Env 1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	In 2021/22, federal expenditure for foreign aid was estimated to be in the order of \$4.335 billion, down 14% from actual expenditure in 2014/15 of \$5.04 billion but up from what was expected in 2017/18 when expenditure was capped at \$4 billion. Source: Australian Aid Tracker  The longer term trend for spending on foreign aid is still negative. 
	Gov 13	A nation leading in empathy & global cohesion.	
	Gov 2	A nation knowing and affirming decency.	
	Gov 6	A world benchmark in leaders' conduct.	
	Gov 11	A just participant on	

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for the success of Our Governance

Governance 13 – Humanitarian effort

Indicators, Targets & Strategies for successful performance	In the Directions of becoming ...		Baseline data	Direction of movement from baseline	
pledge of \$4 billion – \$1 billion per annum from 2022 to 2025 – in addition to all other commitments to humanitarian aid and for developing nations.		the global stage.	2018, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced over talkback radio that Australia would no longer “tip money into that big climate fund”.	These amounts are improvements on what the Prime Minister had previously committed but they do not meet the target of \$4 billion from 2022 to 2025.	
	Gov	12			A nation assured of enduring peace.
	Soc	1			A safe home.
	Econ	4	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	Australia has diverted some \$500 million to Pacific Island countries but has not renewed its commitment to the Green Climate Fund. Source: Jonathan Pickering and Paul Mitchell, DEVPOLICYBLOG, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, 30 November 2020	 The longer term trend is stagnant.
	Env	1	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	In 2021, the USA doubled its commitment to the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Council in Australia recommended that Australia accordingly increase its pledge and “provide at least AU\$3 billion over 2021-2025 towards the shared international goal of providing US\$100 billion a year.” Source: Climate Council, From Paris to Glasgow: A world on the move, October 2021.	
	Env	2	A net zero emissions nation.		
	Env	3	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.		
Env	4	A nation that puts the environment before unsustainable consumption.			

Note: Baseline data, Targets, Indicators and Strategies in this section will expand in future issues of *Australia Together*, based on availability of data and on the input of Australians.

Chapter 11 – Are we moving towards the Vision for *Australia Together*?

A basic premise of *Australia Together* is that we have a common Vision for our preferred future as a nation. This premise is built on observations that when it comes to our children and fostering a safe and secure future for them, most Australians aspire to the same things. We might argue about **how** we can make a better future but whenever Australians have been asked in the last decade about what they really want now and for future generations it is always the same things, including:

- safety,
- good health,
- security,
- equity,
- inclusion,
- fairness,
- an affordable home,
- freedom of expression,
- freedom from poverty,
- freedom from discrimination, and
- opportunity particularly through education.

For more information on the similarity of the aspirations of Australians for the future, view the [Launch of Australia Together](#) on YouTube.

This Vision for *Australia Together* provides some specificity to these fundamental aspirations in the form of 17 draft statements that paint a more detailed picture of the life we wish to be able to lead and the country we wish to live in by 2050.

A second basic premise of *Australia Together* is that if we are to reach the Vision we will need to follow directional signposts which keep us safe while we travel. This is why the Vision for *Australia Together* includes 57 signposts of safe paths to the future. With this structure of 17 Vision statements and 57 Directions we can determine whether we are moving towards or away from the Vision. To assist with this, *Australia Together* provides a checklist of which Directions contribute to which parts of the Vision as shown in the following Table:

Checking the Aim of <i>Australia Together</i> How do Directions contribute to the Vision?	
Vision element	Directions Contributing
We are safe	Soc 1 through to Soc 12, Soc 14 through to Soc 16 Env 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 Gov 1 through to Gov 13
We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures	Soc 1 through to Soc 7, Soc 9 through to Soc 16 Env 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 4, Gov 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13
Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life	Soc 1 through to Soc 13 Env 5, 17, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 Gov 1 through to Gov 10

Checking the Aim of <i>Australia Together</i> How do Directions contribute to the Vision?	
Vision element	Directions Contributing
We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing	Soc 1 through to Soc 8, Soc 10 through to Soc 13 Env 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 10, 13, 17, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 Gov 1, 2, 3, 4, 10
We act together as a compassionate society	Soc 1 through to Soc 16 Env 1, 3, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 Gov 1 through to Gov 13
Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress	Soc 1 through to Soc 8, Soc 10 through to Soc 13 Env 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 10, 13, 17, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 Gov 1, 2, 3, 4, 10
Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society	Soc 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 Env 17, 18, 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 9 Gov 1 through to Gov 13
Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice	Soc 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 Env 5, 17, 18, 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 8 Gov 2, 10
Vital services are fully accessible	Soc 1 through to Soc 16 Env 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 19 Econ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 Gov 7, 9
Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared	Soc 2, 6, 8 Env 1, 2 3, 4, Env 6 through to Env 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 6 Gov 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13
National wealth is fairly shared	Soc 2 through to Soc 12, Soc 14 through to Soc 16 Env 1, 2 3, 4, 18, 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 6 Gov 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13
Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone	Soc 1 through to Soc 16 Env 1, 2 3, 4, Env 6 through to Env 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 9 Gov 2, 3, 7, 9, 10
As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society	Soc 1, 4 Env 1 through to Env 19 Econ 1 through to Econ 9 Gov 1 through to Gov 13
Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival	Soc 1, 2, 4, 16 Env 1 through to Env 19 Econ 1, 7 Gov 3, 6
Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community	Soc 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15 Env 1, 5 Econ 7, 8 Gov 1 through to Gov 10
We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future	Soc 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 15 Env 1, 2, 4 Econ 1 through to Econ 7 Gov 1 through to Gov 10

Checking the Aim of <i>Australia Together</i> How do Directions contribute to the Vision?	
Vision element	Directions Contributing
We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world	Soc 1, 6 Env 1, 2, 5, 10 Econ 1, 7, 9 Gov 1 through to Gov 13


Toward the Vision or toward its reverse – which way are we travelling?

Because several Directions can contribute to several different parts of the Vision, it is not easy to reduce the complexity of such an integrated plan to enable Australians to step back from the detail and gauge progress.


A simpler way to gauge whether we are moving towards or away from the Vision is to describe ***the reverse of the Vision*** – its polar opposite – and then estimate whether we have moved towards the reverse of the Vision or in the preferred Direction.

The following tables utilise knowledge gained in this End of Term Report and the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index to determine on balance whether we are moving towards or away from the Vision for *Australia Together*.


Vision element 1 – We are safe

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> We are safe.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: We are unsafe, either from threat of war or military invasion, invasion of privacy, increased crime rates, risk of domestic abuse, traffic accidents, bushfire, poverty, financial ruin, infectious disease, debilitating air quality, toxic water quality, workplace injury – etc.</p>	<p></p> <p>There are significant indications are that we are moving away from the Vision and closer to the reverse vision.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some crime and traffic accident rates are improving. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are more at risk of involvement in war. Domestic abuse, sexual assault, poverty, bushfires and floods, infectious diseases are all on the rise.


Vision element 2 – We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> We are reconciled with and celebrate our First Nations peoples and their cultures.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: We have made no place available in our Constitution or legislation for the oldest continuing civilisation on the planet. They still have no Voice. And we still carry on without having acknowledged a need to work as a unified, uplifted nation. Our human rights record and credibility plunges. We are unable to define ourselves with decency.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we have been moving more in the reverse direction, away from the Vision and from a proper and respectful response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian attitudes are changing for the better towards First Nations. • Some states are beginning to assemble treaty processes. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have been refused a process to consider a Voice in the Constitution. • Our reputation as a supporter of human rights has declined because of our treatment of Indigenous peoples.

Vision element 3 – Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> Everyone is welcome to participate positively in community life.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: We exclude people from participation. There is little or no sense of community or belonging. Volunteering is reduced. Transport and communications systems are inadequate for connecting communities.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Covid-19 Australian attitudes to inclusion of migrants became temporarily positive before declining again slightly. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As measured in the Scanlon Index, social cohesion and particularly our sense of belonging have declined significantly since 2007. • Volunteering has also declined significantly since 2010.


Vision element 4 – We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Sports, creative arts and music play little role in our wellbeing. People succumb more frequently to illness, including mental illness. Life expectancy falls. Cultural heritage is forgotten. Opportunities for fulfilment, purpose and meaning in our lives are significantly reduced. The possibility of defining ourselves, culturally and as individuals, is diminished.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision in several of the aspects of our lives that make it worth living.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy has increased slightly. • The incidence of cancer and cardiovascular disease is declining. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Covid-19, those Australians working in arts and music were excluded from support by the federal government. • Tertiary education courses in Arts were made less affordable. Universities were heavily de-funded by the government through targeted denial of financial assistance during Covid-19. This particularly affected Arts and Humanities courses. • Mental illness, anxiety, depression, obesity and diabetes are increasing. • The cultural heritage of Indigenous Australians has been threatened and destroyed, especially in the north and west of Australia. • On balance, the proportion of Australians reporting that they are in excellent or very good health has been declining. • There has been a steady decline in reported happiness by Australians.

Vision element 5 – We act together as a compassionate society

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> We act together as a compassionate society.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Disadvantaged people suffer and grow in numbers. A survival of the fittest, dog-eat-dog culture prevails. People cease to help each other in crises. Refugees from climate change, war, torture and economic disasters are turned away and no reciprocal kindness is shown by other nations to Australia in our own disasters.</p>	<p>←</p> <p>On balance we are moving in the opposite direction to the Vision. Many Australians have displayed compassion but governments they elect, particularly the federal government, have not.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Australians reach out to help each other, particularly in food relief, charitable contributions and support in natural disasters. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government has progressively withdrawn from providing support to disadvantaged Australians and has verged towards cruelty, despite the fact that Australia, as the 12th largest economy in the world, can afford to ensure a dignified life for all by provision of adequate welfare safety nets. • Government policy has been oriented towards increasing inequality and provision of welfare only for those they deem worthy. • Tax breaks for the wealthy and subsidies for corporations are embedding inequality. • Australia has treated refugees and migrants in ways that contravene the human rights conventions we have signed. • Australia has cut humanitarian aid and left victims of war stranded in Afghanistan.


Vision element 6 – Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> Equality is valued as enriching human community, cultural harmony and social progress.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Inequality is continually growing and the economy is contracting due to the hollowing out of the middle class. Poverty is growing. Social capital is depleted. Business plays a socially irresponsible role instead of cooperating with workers as partners.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving more away from the Vision than towards it.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about growing inequality and rejection of it are rising. Australians are rejecting growth in the gap between rich and poor. • There has been a rise in appreciation of the benefits of equality and working together as partners. • Equal access to the benefits of institutions (eg., for LGBTIQ+ marriage rights) has been a positive feature of Australian society. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income and wealth inequality are growing continually and causing contractionary effects in our economy. • The proportion of Australians who perceive themselves to be “middle class” is falling and a majority think their children will be worse off than they are. • Poverty and hunger have been increasing, especially for children. • The “gap” for Indigenous is on balance not closing – especially in relation to incarceration, suicide and removal of children from their families. • Peak business bodies are behaving in a socially irresponsible and unfair manner.

Vision element 7 – Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together Diversity is positively appreciated as a basis for a successful society.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Diversity is a source of division. Social cohesion is fractured. Religion divides, not unites communities. Contributions of all cultures, genders, faiths, sexual orientations are lost and the creative economy suffers.</p>	<div data-bbox="651 353 778 407" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>On balance, Australia appears to be travelling neither toward nor away from a Vision in which diversity is viewed as a strength.</p> <p>Getting better in part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a steady increase in rejection of diversity, the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a turnaround in the appreciation of the positive diverse cultures and races, as measured by the Scanlon Index. But the acceptance of diversity remains the lowest of the five domains of social cohesion measured in the Index. • Australians have rejected new legislation legalising discrimination on the grounds of religion. <p>Getting worse in part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While rejection of diversity has lessened during Covid-19 and a majority of Australians think multiculturalism has been good for Australia, the fact remains that support for multiculturalism drops when Australians are asked to consider whether “accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger”. Australians are ambivalent but generally welcoming of immigration, but not so much from “many different countries”. • The sentiment proclaimed by John Howard that “we will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they will come”, along with all that it implies about a less diverse Australia, still persists.

Vision element 8 – Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together Everyone can realise their full potential in life, as individuals, members of a family and citizens through unlimited opportunities in education and employment of choice.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Optimism is lost. Self-actualisation and self-determination are impossible. Suicide and violence are endemic through a preponderance of shame. People have dissatisfying jobs in careers not suited to them and are precluded from contributing to national development by capitalising on their strengths as individuals.</p>	<p></p> <p>Attacks on the higher and public education sectors and reduction of their funding indicate that Australia is moving away from this element of the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of Australians who are optimistic about their future "overall" has slightly improved since the onset of Covid-19. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend of economic optimism has been falling and the trend of economic pessimism has been rising. • Suicide is rising in disadvantaged communities, especially among our Indigenous. • Access to educational opportunity is distinctly declining. Equality of access to quality education at the school level has fallen. And the affordability of tertiary education has fallen sharply. • Adult learning and re-training opportunities are being reduced by cuts to vocational educational courses and by a narrowing of access to the fuller array of university courses, particularly in the Humanities. • Many Australians now cannot afford the education they need to maximise their chances of doing a job they love and will be good at. Opportunities for meaningful work – work which gives us a sense of achievement and worth, work which is not drudgery and demeaning – are being denied to many young Australians. • Work which is enormously valuable to any society (such as welfare services in aged care or cleaning or nursing or child care or teaching) but which is severely undervalued in terms of wages, continues to be undervalued.


Vision element 9 – Vital services are fully accessible

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together Vital services are fully accessible.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Human dignity is lost for the aged, in family services, health and employment.</p>	<p>←</p> <p>On balance we are moving more away from the Vision than towards it.</p> <p>Getting better in part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government accepted some of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and has committed to a new Aged Care Act. However, they have also rejected vital recommendations for institutional change, without which access to quality agreed care services will decline. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services for remote and Indigenous communities have been withdrawn. Social welfare services operated by the private sector are tending to exclude victims and the unemployed. Emergency services are not performing and are not adequately resourced and prepared. They have failed during our recent bushfires and floods. Vital institutional reforms for resilience in emergency services are non-existent. Family support services are being reduced particularly for domestic violence victims and Indigenous families. Employment placement services are oriented more to keeping people in long term unemployment and in poverty.


Vision element 10 – Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Resource consumption is entirely excessive and national assets are not shared.</p>	<p>←</p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better - undetermined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's most scarce natural resource is water. No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equitable access to water resources of the Murray Darling is in decline. Water rights are being traded and plundered at the expense of downstream users and the environment itself. Aboriginal owners of traditional lands are not able to share in the benefits of mineral and other resources. In the Beetaloo and broader Artesian Basin water resources are being destroyed by gas fracking.


Vision element 11 – National wealth is fairly shared

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together National wealth is fairly shared.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Meanness prevails and the economy contracts. The wealthiest 20% of households hold over 80% of all household wealth and the lowest 20% still control less than 1 per cent of all household wealth. The neoliberal project has been completed. Australians own few if any of the government services and assets they owned in 2020. If they can afford it, they pay a small number of excessively rich private interests (monopolies and oligopolies) for their education, health and other vital services. Redistribution of wealth raised by Australians via an equitable welfare system has ceased.</p>	<p> On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better – undetermined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neoliberalism has been on a steep ascendancy for over 30 years with the result that large swathes of publicly built and owned assets and services have been sold to private companies, often for far less than they are worth, and to companies that are increasingly paying little or no tax. Australians have lost control of the returns they used to enjoy from these assets and no compensating price or risk reduction has accrued. • A regime of cruelty, limiting access to welfare to those arbitrarily determined as worthy (not equal) is now deeply embedded across the government service sector. Robodebt was a criminal expression of this attitude. • Sharing of taxation revenues has declined, as has fair sharing of the burden of raising revenue from taxation. Laws have been enacted that mean that over the decade to 2030 average tax for the poorest 80% of earners will rise and will fall for the top 20% of earners. • The taxation system is getting less progressive and no compensating fairer re-distribution system, such as a social wage, is being considered. • Big news media businesses are increasing their market concentration. • Oligopolistic control of mining and some types of farming is excluding Australians from the returns on their resources. • Oligopolistic control of the big four banks and the big four accounting firms, in the absence of regulation, is embedding corruption and theft from Australians. • Shares of the national wealth generated through the labour of Australians are not being returned to worker through wages. In 1975, 62% of national income went to Australians in wages and the share that went to corporate profits was only 17%. But by 2021, only 51% of national income went to Australians in wages and the share that went to corporate profits had almost doubled to 30%. • While a universal health care system – Medicare – is still in place, access to it is stratified as the wealthy can gain priority. There is a divide opening up between health for the rich and health for the poor.


Vision element 12 – Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together Our economy is sustainable and supports rewarding opportunities and continuous improvements in living standards for everyone.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: The economy sustains only the rich and poverty is widespread. Human capital is depleted. Our natural assets are depleted or lost. A once burgeoning eco-tourism sector is devastated. Other nations fail to invest in Australia due to the risk of investing in a country that fails to achieve sustainability. Living standards fall continuously for the majority of Australians.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better – undetermined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's economy is no longer growing enough to carry all Australians safely to a more prosperous future. Nor is the economy growing sustainably, through productivity increases. Productivity has been declining. Poverty in Australia is rising. More than 3 million Australians, including over 700,000 children, are living in deep poverty for extended periods of time. Eco-tourism has been shattered by bushfires, floods and decimation of the Great Barrier Reef. Australia continues to behave with little or no integrity on the international stage, especially in relation to climate change, market establishment and rules for carbon trading and other obligations as a member of the WTO, humanitarian aid, and military contracts (eg., submarines). As such Australia is no longer trusted as a reliable and trustworthy trading partner or as an investment prospect. The economy is stuck in a phase of relying on fossil fuels rather than switching to renewable energy. Export markets are producing much smaller returns than they otherwise might. Reliance on export markets in minerals is increasingly self-defeating since the profits are being largely offshored and relatively few jobs arise from the sector. Meanwhile, the sectors of the economy that do provide returns to Australians and create the most jobs – health, welfare and education – are being attacked and underfunded. Living standards are falling, particularly as measured by affordability of housing and the proportion of people who now require more than one job to make ends meet.

Vision element 13 – As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together As a nation we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Our international reputation for environmental and humane responsibility is lost. Our climate has heated by more than 4° Celsius due to our obstructive and destructive international participation. Vast areas of Australia are uninhabitable for humans. Ecosystems have collapsed and with them our economy.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better – undetermined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia’s behaviour in Paris Agreement negotiations has been nothing short of appalling. We now set the standard for indecency on climate. Australia has failed to heed warnings of climate scientists in favour of corporate greed in fossil fuels, minerals, insurance funds and big news media profits. The result has been an earlier than expected onset of bigger natural disasters, including bushfires, floods, massive inland river fish kills, and loss of large sections of the Great Barrier Reef. Destruction of the resources of the Great Artesian Basin by gas fracking and mining exploitation is creating the conditions where land in Australia’s interior will be uninhabitable. Australia’s reduction of humanitarian aid and contribution to the UN Green fund has reduced us to international pariahs. Courage and international leadership on climate change is non-existent.

Vision element 14 – Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> Stewardship of ecology is affirmed as fundamental to planetary and human survival.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: The health of ecosystems is in decline and trending towards extinction of species, including humans.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance we are moving away from the Vision.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia has experienced the largest documented decline in biodiversity of any continent over the past 200 years and the rate of decline is accelerating.⁶² • South-east Australia's bushfires in 2019 and 2020 burnt out 97,000 square kilometres of vegetation – habitat for 832 species of native vertebrate fauna. • 70 types had more than 30% of their habitat impacted and 21 of these were already listed as threatened with extinction. • Land clearing is continuing unabated and is causing disaster for both biodiversity and global temperature rises. • Policy and regulation for biodiversity protection is in tatters. In 2020 the Australian National Audit Office released an audit report on the government's management of approvals of controlled activities under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The report was scathing in its findings on the use of an "offset system" for controlling the impact of development on biodiversity. These "offsets" do not guarantee replacement habitat for threatened species or ecosystems and corruption and profiteering from the system is increasing. Administrators are giving approvals for destruction on a grand scale, and then failing to gather data to monitor impacts or compliance.


⁶² See ACFP, [The State of Australia in 2020, Episode 6 Part 1](#).

Vision element 15 – Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> Strong democracy is assured by a well informed and engaged community.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Democracy is weak or overtaken by autocracy. People are too frightened to participate, let alone protest. Human rights are extinguished.</p>	<div data-bbox="651 389 778 448"> </div> <p>On balance, we have been moving away from being a strong, participatory democracy. But we now have the means of reversing this.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While no legislation is yet in place to enhance the possibility of participation by Australians in their own democracy, Australia does now have some increased capacity to operate as a well informed and engaged community in democracy. • <i>Australia Together</i> is being built and provides easily accessible data about the nation's health and wellbeing in the <i>Australia Together</i> National Wellbeing Index; • We also have a clearly prescribed, open and inclusive National Integrated Planning & Reporting⁶³ process, including community engagement and long term financial planning. • One salutary feature of the political landscape in 2022 is the emergence of a strong contingent of independent candidates. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in Australia in democracy has been showing signs of declining. • Autocratic features of our society are on the rise, exhibited in restriction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rights for both victims and those who find themselves accused in the justice system, ○ rights to presumption of innocence, ○ rights to free speech and assembly and ○ rights to open justice. <p>Some of these laws criminalise public protest as though it is espionage. In some cases, ten to twenty-five year prison sentences now apply for protest, even on public land. This is oppressive. We brandish our liberal democracy but it is getting less liberal by the year.</p> • Much emphasis has been placed by the Coalition government on threats to democracy arising from authoritarian regimes, particularly China, but the more substantive threats to our democracy are coming from within our own country.


⁶³ View ACFP's video series explaining National IP&R on YouTube: [What is National Integrated Planning & Reporting? – or how Australians can rise above politics and set the agenda for the nation's future](#)

Vision element 16 – We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future

<i>Options for a Vision By 2050 ...</i>	<i>Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?</i>
<p>The current draft Vision for <i>Australia Together</i> We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: Authoritarianism is entrenched and the national interest is sacrificed to a rich and powerful elite. We can design no way out of our problems that will be heard. It is impossible to identify either truth or falsity.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance, we are moving away from the vision.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. • However, free speech opportunities are now available on social media and other forms of internet communication. The internet has made it possible for any Australian to gain free access to information and then present reform proposals directly to governments in coherent and substantiated forms. They can now get their voices heard. The downside is that governments have not been receptive to these developments and have tried at times to suppress them (eg., attempts to suppress new breeds of policy commentators on YouTube such as Friendlyjordies and Juice Media). • Australians have yet to organise their use of the internet as a respectful public forum suitable for effective participation in democracy. However, with the advent of National Integrated Planning & Reporting they can now create a single space on the internet for free, fully open and orderly engagement about choices for the future⁶⁴. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive market concentration of large news media businesses has become a significant threat to our social cohesion, climate security, defence security and to our democracy. • Oligopolistic control of fossil fuel industries, mining, banking, accounting and news media is building environmental disasters, unsustainable development and economic crisis for the nation. This was most obvious in the federal government's appointment of gas industry magnates to a National Covid-19 recovery commission. • The vast majority of Australians do not believe that governments put the public before vested interests, or that they consider the interests of future generations. • The vast majority also do not believe they can influence the future and do not believe they have a say beyond voting. Voting is not perceived to offer equal shares of power to Australians. • Many parliamentarians are tone-deaf to the views of the community, which explains why they have taken so long to begin listening to those calling for women's and LGBTIQ+ rights and safety. • The Coalition federal government does more that indicates a swing to secrecy, exclusion and authoritarianism than it does to indicate a willingness to respect and engage with Australians as equals. • Corruption is rife in government in Australia and both major parties have serially resisted being held accountable.

⁶⁴ View ACFP's video series explaining National IP&R on YouTube: [What is National Integrated Planning & Reporting? – or how Australians can rise above politics and set the agenda for the nation's future](#)

Vision element 17 – We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world

Options for a Vision By 2050 ...	Are we moving closer to the preferred Vision or in the reverse Direction?
<p>The current draft Vision for Australia Together We take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world.</p> <p>A Reverse Vision: We are an international pariah. Or worse – the United Nations has collapsed and military alliances vanquish diplomacy and the rule of international law. International collaborative research has ceased. We have become a poor nation, more vulnerable than ever to invasion.</p>	<p></p> <p>On balance, we are moving away from the vision. In some respects we have already made the reverse vision a reality.</p> <p>Getting better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monitoring is in place yet that has indicated positive travel. <p>Getting worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia is already an international pariah for refusal to cooperate with other nations on the biggest threat humanity has ever faced – climate change. • The United Nations struggles under the weight of its original structure which allows vetoes to be exercised by only five countries as permanent members of the Security Council. Australia, like so many other developed countries, follows resolutions and submits to calls from the United Nations and other international courts and organisations only when it suits us. We are guilty and seen to be guilty of breaches of international law, human rights crimes, unlawful detention and expulsion of refugees, and breaches of the law of the sea. • Aggressive, hawkish defence postures have almost totally replaced diplomacy. Defence advisors are funded by foreign arms dealers. The Defence Department effectively brokers profitable sales for private arms dealers, who then sell arms that are used to kill children, eg., in Yemen. • Collaborative scientific research projects have been unreasonably and unnecessarily cut back. • Missed opportunities for development of profitable export industries in renewable energy are threatening to impact the economy. • Our alliance with the United States has reached a point where, when it comes to decisions on participation in wars, our sovereignty has virtually been ceded to America and we have been set up as a proxy target for aggression (due to the installation of American military operations on Australian soil). Entry into nuclear military agreements with the United States and United Kingdom is poised to threaten our alliance with New Zealand and increase the chance that neighbours to our north will not welcome or join with us in future military troubles.

Chapter 12 – Progress in the top twenty urgent areas

In late 2020 and early 2021, ACFP produced a seven-part video series on **The State of Australia in 2020**.

This functioned as the first report on the state of the nation at the commencement of the planning period for *Australia Together* and marked the starting points for the nation's journey towards the Vision by 2050 or sooner.



The video series described in pictures how healthy and secure we are as a nation. It identified twenty key areas of weakness for Australia in 2020 that must be solved by 2050 and preferably before 2035 if future generations are to be assured of a safer and more secure future. They are listed here, not in any particular order, although the first one is critical to the success of all the rest:

1. Growing inequality
2. Growing poverty, homelessness and hunger
3. Loss of the fair go for all
4. Growth in racial and religious conflict
5. Indigenous exclusion
6. An outmoded and failing Constitution
7. Loss of rights, open governance and transparency
8. Declining participation in democracy
9. Unethical governance
10. Fractious international relations
11. Corporate irresponsibility
12. Economic decline
13. Lost public ownership
14. Inertia in transition to decarbonisation
15. Environmental decline
16. Climate policy failure
17. Declining health and safety at home
18. Declining educational attainment
19. Declining quality of life and loss of social cohesion
20. Declining wellbeing and happiness

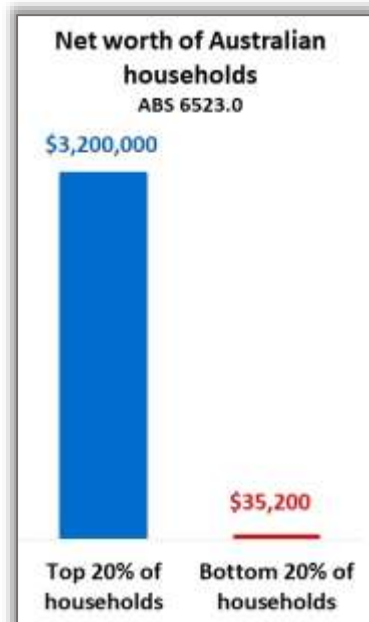
Australia has been performing particularly poorly in all these areas and not much has changed since 2020. If anything, performance in some areas has deteriorated. This applies particularly to:

- Issue 9 – Unethical governance
- Issue 10 – Fractious international relations
- Issue 16 – Climate policy failure

The following sections provide a summary update of where we are in 2022 in relation to each of these top twenty issues based on the data in the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index.

Issue No. 1 – Growing inequality

The gap between rich and poor has been widening continuously since the mid 1990s.



Income inequality is widening →

Wealth inequality is widening even more →

Inequality in Australia	2003/04	2015/16	2017/18
Income inequality	0.306	0.323	0.328
Wealth inequality	0.573	0.605	0.621

The closer the coefficient moves towards 1.0, the more unequal we are becoming.
Source: ABS 6523.0

Since 2014:

- The wealthiest 25% of Australians have increased their income by nearly double that of median household incomes, while the wealth holdings of the poorest 20% of households has actually declined.
- **The average net worth of the top 20 per cent of households is now more than 90 times that of the lowest 20 per cent – some \$3.2 million compared to just \$35,200.**
- The wealth of the average Australian household has surged past \$1 million but low-income families have not seen any increase in their net worth for more than a decade.

Government policy settings in 2020 that are aggravating this problem include:

- historically low top marginal tax rates,
- increases in average tax from low and middle income earners, and
- substantial drops in tax for high income earners.

Because of the tax cuts legislated in 2018 and 2019, over the next decade Australians will experience a rise in the average tax gathered from middle and low income earners, hitting those earning below \$58,000 especially hard. By contrast the top 20% of earners will experience a drop in their tax on average and the top 1% of earners will experience a drop of more than \$11,000 a year in their tax.

Policies on tax are not just making the tax system unfair. They are having an unnecessary contractionary effect on the economy. Growth in the economy will slow and the total size of the economy will be smaller than it should be because too many Australians will have too little to spend.

Perhaps the worst effect of the tax cuts is that they removed over \$300 billion from tax revenues over the decade to 2029. They deleted the equivalent of a full year's worth of spending on social security, welfare, health and education, which in 2019 was \$298.3 billion. It also deleted our capacity to repay the public debt we have now taken on due to Covid-19.

Inequality comes in many forms other than income and wealth inequality. But it starts there, and it locks in declines in standards of living for everyone, not just the poor. Stopping it will require entirely new approaches to taxation and the introduction of a social wage.



Issue No. 2 – Growing poverty, homelessness and hunger

The Australian government has committed to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of eliminating poverty, hunger and homelessness by 2030. Nevertheless, in Australia today it is estimated that **well over 3 million people are living in poverty**, meaning they are living on an income that is half or less than half of the median income for Australian households. These are pre-Covid-19 estimates. Even many Australians with a full time job are living below the poverty line. And they were living that way before Covid-19.

Of those Australians deemed to be living in poverty between 2017 and 2019, almost 25% had a full time job, indicating that they are being paid so poorly that even full time employment is now not enough to shield over one million employed Australians from poverty, let alone their children.

Based on figures supplied by the ABS, the Australian Council of Social Service and the University of New South Wales have estimated that as at 2018:

- Over 13% of Australians were living in poverty.
- Over 17% of children under 15 or 774,000 children were living in poverty.
- Almost 14% of young people aged between 15 and 24 years were living in poverty.

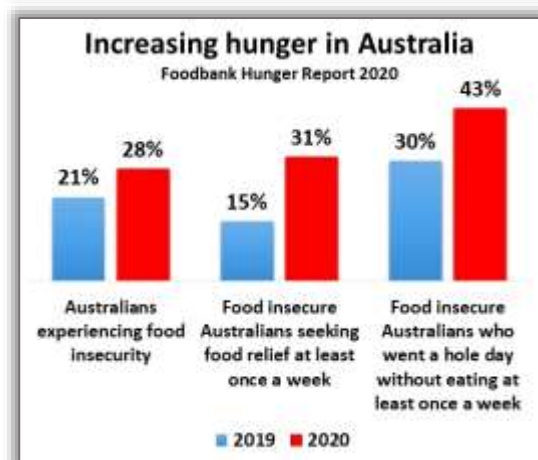


Well before Covid-19 there were millions of Australians living in poverty.

Growing homelessness is a key feature of this level of poverty. **Since 2006, the number of homeless people in Australia has increased by almost 30% or almost 27,000 extra people.** This is both a numerical and per capita increase. We could half fill the seats of Sydney's new football stadium just with those 27,000 extra people, every night.

In terms of home ownership, the picture is one of intergenerational inequity. The dream of owning a home has all but disappeared for most young people. Astounding price growth and five years of weak income growth have pushed up the cost of an average first home deposit from 70% of average annual household disposable income to more than 80%.⁶⁵ For the poorest who are confined to renting, the situation is becoming dire. **The number of low-income households experiencing rental stress has roughly doubled since 1994-95.**

As to hunger in Australia, **more Australians are going hungry every year.** In a wealthy country, there should be none of this. Certainly no child should have to go hungry. And yet they do, every day.



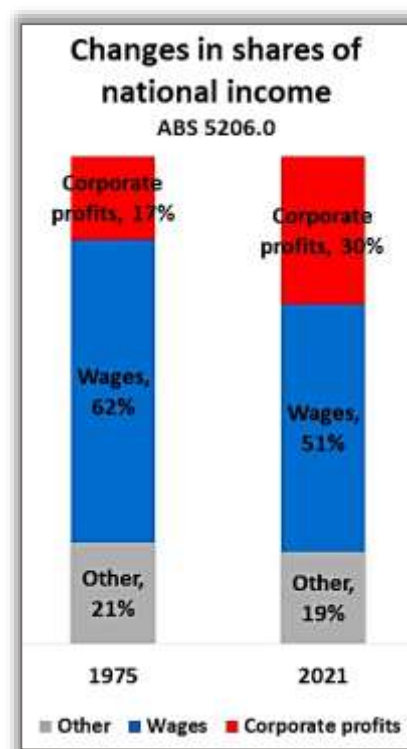
⁶⁵ See [Peter Martin, ABC News, 13 October 2021](#): "Ownership is becoming hereditary."

Issue No. 3 – Loss of the fair go for all

Australians work to produce almost \$2 trillion per annum of output. This makes our economy the 12th largest in the world. And yet **the benefits of our labour are not being returned fairly to Australians.**

The Australian economy is now 400% bigger than it was in 1975. But in 1975, 62% of national income went to Australians in wages and the share that went to corporate profits was only 17%. Since then shares of wealth have steadily and significantly reversed so that **in 2021 only 51% of GDP is returned to Australians in wages and the share for corporate profits had almost doubled to 30%.**

Much of the corporate profit is now being transferred offshore by multinationals who pay little or no tax and new private capital investment has been dropping. As a result, productivity – the engine of the economy that makes it grow sustainably, rather than unsustainably – has fallen significantly. In the thirty years to 2014, Australian workers and business owners managed to work together to increase productivity on average by 1.6% every year. But since 2015, labour productivity has increased at less than half a percent a year.



The fair go is also being lost because the government sector is reducing its participation in the economy. There are big job opportunities in services where demand is growing, such as health, welfare, education, renewable energy and buildings efficiency, housing and land care, but services are being reduced in those sectors. Spare capacity in Australia's willing labour force is being left on the shelf, which is having a significant effect in flattening wages rises. All of this results in an economy that is smaller than it otherwise would be and which is carrying fewer people to safety and security. At the same time, **access to the welfare system is being cruelly curtailed** by the introduction of "welfare conditionality" and illegal attacks on Australians through programs like Robodebt and reduction of access to support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Under neoliberalism, Australians are being taught to think welfare is a burden to the economy when in fact it boosts the economy probably more than any other sector and always has. Withdrawal of support for welfare is embedding inequality and is economically contractionary.

Welfare recipients are lifters not leaners. Their demand is a major source of our economic growth.

Provisions for health and welfare equate to about half of what the federal government injects into our economy every year.

This is a stimulant not a burden.

13% of Australia's labour force works in this service.

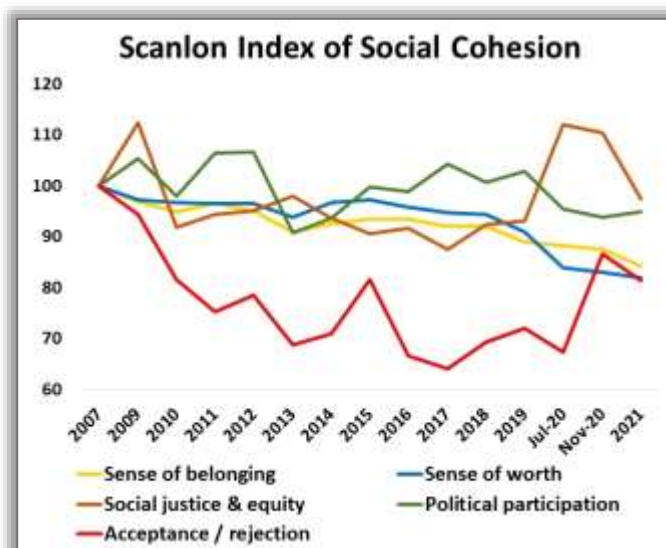
Imagine how the economy would shrink if the spending of those on welfare was not part of our economy and how many other Australians would no longer be employable in health and social services that are central to our quality of life.

Neoliberalism is the main cause of the loss of the fair go. Sale of public assets and divestment of services to the private sector has embedded inequality in Australia. The sooner Australia turns away from neoliberalism, the sooner fairness and growth in our economy will resume.

Issue No. 4 – Growth in racial and religious conflict

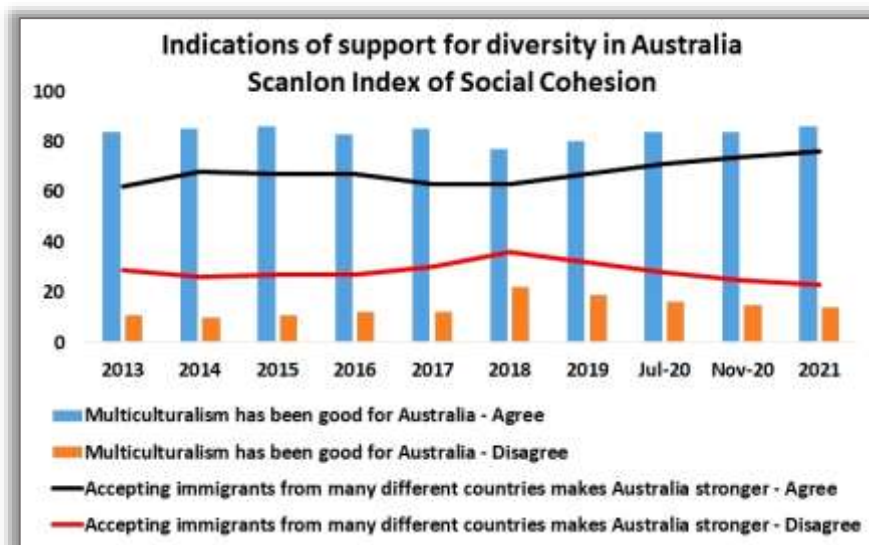
Australia is a country that has thrived in multiculturalism and diversity, and most Australians appreciate that. According to the Scanlon Foundation, an organisation that has independently surveyed social cohesion annually for more than a decade in Australia, **85% of Australians agree or strongly agree with the statement that “multiculturalism has been good for Australia”**.

However, that sense of appreciation of multiculturalism has declined over the last decade, enough to make many Australians feel excluded. Between 2007 and 2017 Australians indicating a sense of rejection and reporting experience of discrimination “because of [their] skin colour, ethnic origin or religion” more than doubled, from 9% to a high of 20% in 2017. An average of 18% of Australians have reported racial discrimination over the last 5 years. In the Scanlon Index, fewer Australians have reported rejection because of race since Covid-19 but acceptance/rejection remains the lowest score in the Index.



And while there is very high support for multiculturalism, support is significantly lower on whether accepting migrants from many different countries makes us stronger. This indicates that **while Australians support immigration, many would prefer it to be less diverse than it is.**

Support for multiculturalism in Australia falls away significantly when people are asked if they prefer migration from **many** different countries. However, during Covid-19 there has been a reversal of that trend.

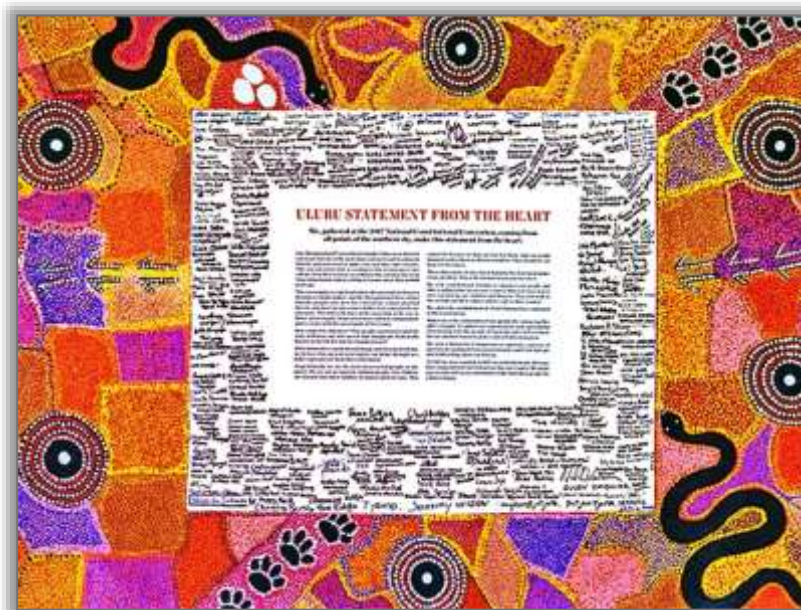


In another positive trend, Australians have to date rejected legislation enabling discrimination on the grounds of religion. This indicates strong support for an inclusive society. A singular, even joyous achievement endorsing inclusion was marked when Australians voted to legalise same sex marriage in a 2017 plebiscite, although there has been pushback from some religious groups with religious discrimination legislation being prioritised ahead of items that are more urgent to larger numbers of Australians such as climate change and a federal corruption watchdog. This upending of priorities – providing legislation for protection of rights to churches who are the only group that has protected rights already under our Constitution – is more of a divisive step than it is a unifying one. Australia needs the parliament to organise our legislative agenda so that priorities are fairly set and **no-one** – religious or secular – misses out.

Issue No. 5 – Indigenous exclusion

In 2017, the Uluru Statement from the Heart was put to Australians by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who had come together “from all points of the southern sky” in a National Constitutional Convention. In the Statement our **First Nations issued a gracious invitation to walk with them in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.**

The invitation was rudely rebuffed by the then prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull.



The Uluru Statement called for:

- the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution; and
- a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

It would be reasonable to conclude that almost no progress has been made in relation to these requests. **The Australian government established an Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process in 2019 but prohibited consideration being given to developing models for a national Indigenous Voice enshrined in the Constitution.** In December 2021, the Final Report of Co-Design Process was released and this provided for the establishment of Local and Regional Voices and offered a model for a National Voice to parliament and government, but not a constitutionally protected one. No commitments were given by the government to implementing the National Voice. Effectively, the process fully sidelined issues regarding sovereignty which have afflicted First Nations for over 200 years. A failure to resolve this issue is debasing Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians alike.⁶⁶

Meanwhile, **very little progress has been made towards the goals of the Closing the Gap partnership.** Notable positives include improvements in life expectancy, birthweight and pre-school education for Indigenous people, although there is still a long way to go to close the gap. Notable negatives are in Indigenous suicide, incarceration and removal of children from their families. In other words, the things most lamented in the Uluru Statement from the Heart are getting worse, not better. The signing of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap represents some progress in the short term, inasmuch as it signals the start of a shift to partnership between governments and First Nations. The denial of the request for a National Voice enshrined in the Constitution threatens to undo the progress made. **It is not possible to “close the gap”, let alone such a huge one, if the cause of the gap – a fundamental refusal of self-determination for Indigenous and a failure to tell the truth about the violent foundations of Australia – is still in place.**

⁶⁶ For more detail see Bronwyn Kelly, “[On Australia Day we must proclaim an Indigenous Voice to Parliament](#)”, Pearls and Irritations Public Policy Journal, 26 January 2022.

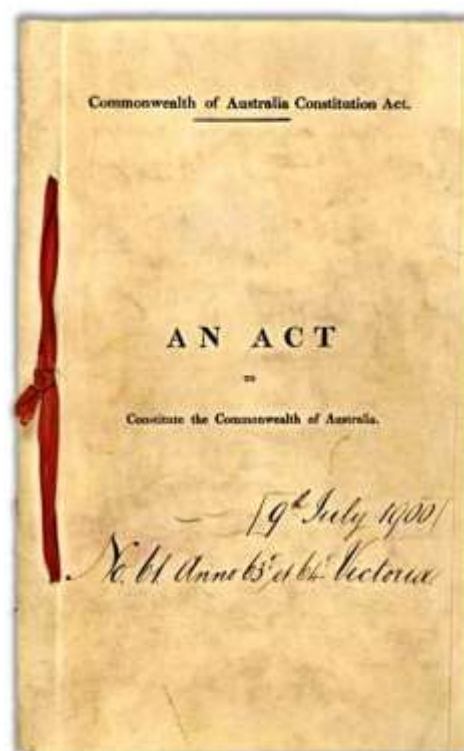
Issue No. 6 – An outmoded and failing Constitution

Australia's Constitution is the product of 19th century thinking for a distant land. It is singularly ill-suited for a 21st century Australian democracy.

The Constitution acknowledges and provides for “the people” but only insofar as they may elect representatives, not insofar as they might play a more influential role in a participatory democracy.

It also ignores our First Nations and their custodianship of this land for over 60,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. This particular failing in our Constitution is hampering Australia in its capacity to:

- come to terms with the difficult truth of our origin as a nation,
- acknowledge the impact of this on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and
- move forward as a reconciled nation, according equal dignity to all.



The fact is that as far as our Constitution goes, our Indigenous do not exist. They rate no mention whatsoever in our nation's “birth certificate”. This explains why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are now asking for a Voice in the Constitution and it is an indictment of Australians that in the 21st century we are still mired in a debate which we should have settled decades ago.

A fundamental flaw in the Constitution is that it does not accord equal rights to all. Australians tend to take it for granted that we have basic human rights. But except for protection of a right to freedom of religion, Australia's Constitution confers *no explicit human rights* on either non-Indigenous or Indigenous as individuals. A Constitution without a Bill of Rights protects no-one. And for as long as **we remain the only democracy in the world without a national human rights framework**, we will be placing our fundamental liberties and our democracy itself at risk.

The freedoms Australians have enjoyed, particularly of free speech and peaceful protest, have been progressively eroded since 2001 in more than 80 pieces of legislation. See Issue No. 7. These freedoms are being lost because there is nothing in the Constitution that says they can't be.

Australia's Constitution has its strength in that it enshrines democracy for Australians – albeit a limited representative democracy. But at the same time **this outmoded Constitution is standing in the way of our growth to maturity as a modern nation with clear values and a coherent agreement on decency.** 120 years after we, or rather our distant Victorian-age sovereign, first defined how we were to govern ourselves, we still have not defined to what end we want to govern ourselves and how we might fairly make our nation together. The Constitution should go to the heart of our national identity. At present, it and we are silent on that topic. We are silent on what we stand for.

Before the freedoms we value are removed forever, it is essential to use the democracy we have left to set down our desired national character and values and establish a firm platform for a participatory democracy fit for the 21st century.

Issue No. 7 – Loss of rights, open governance & transparency

Australia is moving closer towards autocracy. The authoritarianism we fear and criticise in non-democracies such as China has been on the rise in Australia itself ever since the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001. Those attacks ushered in a massive overhaul of national security legislation which has resulted in significant loss of rights and freedoms for Australians. **We are witnessing the rise of an oppressive, secret state in Australia.**

Under these legislative and other administrative changes, **we have experienced reductions in freedom of the press, alongside a failure to protect democratic discourse from misinformation, fake news and hate speech.** Attacks on the press have been particularly fearsome including:

- raids on journalists' homes and files and attempted seizure of material which would disclose journalists' sources;
- intimidation of journalists via criminalisation of public interest journalism;
- prohibition of reporting on human rights abuses in offshore detention centres;
- vesting of power in politicians instead of justice officials to sign off on prosecutions of journalists; and
- severe funding cuts to the ABC and threats to its independence – cuts totalling more than \$780 million dollars since 2014.

Examples of loss of transparency in government include:

- increases in refusals of FOI applications by the federal government and federal ministers;
- extensive delays in the time taken to respond to FOI applications.
- reduction of funding for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian National Audit Office; and
- suppression of the public's right to know through serious intimidation of whistleblowers who disclose matters of government conduct and potential misconduct, knowledge of which is clearly in the public interest.

Intimidation of whistleblowers is becoming a particular concern. Prison terms now apply for whistleblowers who make public interest disclosures of classified information on immigration or border enforcement matters. Legislation now deems any and all such disclosures "reckless", before the fact. In these areas, almost nothing can be disclosed no matter how much it may be in the public interest to know about it. In the event of charges being laid against whistleblowers or journalists in relation to disclosures, no onus exists on the government to prove that the disclosure was in fact reckless or was contrary to the public interest, and a defendant cannot plead public interest as a defence. Effectively, there is now no mechanism by which Australians can be advised when the government is secretly acting contrary to the public interest in these areas. The injustice to whistleblowers is utterly contrary to effective democracy.

Added to this is the problem that **lobbyists have free rein to enter parliament and promote their sectional interests without accountability.** Our democracy is near to fully hostage to them. Lobby



groups and rich individuals are allowed to buy elections, such as Clive Palmer who paid \$83 million in 2019 to sway preferences towards the Coalition and Malcolm Turnbull who paid almost \$2 million in person to boost the Coalition's electoral campaign in 2016. And yet the Coalition government attempted to introduce legislation in 2018 which would restrict small donations by householders to activist groups like GetUp and charities like the Climate Council. **All the legislative actions of Coalition governments since 2014 have been aimed at capping the small donations of the many, not the massive donations of the few.**

At the same time as the government is reducing transparency about its own activities it is increasing its intrusions on the privacy of Australians, for example, by new laws in 2015 requiring phone and internet providers to store metadata of all subscribers. These laws have provided a platform on which abuses of power can be and are being more easily mounted. The metadata can be and is being used by surveillance and policing agencies for the purpose of forming what is called a "reasonable suspicion" that a person has committed a security offence, from whence a person can be raided, detained without charge, provided with no information of the nature of any offence, and is unable to complain because it is a criminal offence to disclose information relating to a "special intelligence operation", even when it is impossible to know that the offence might relate to a special intelligence operation. These laws are in full operation without sufficient accountability and safeguards being in place to prevent abuse of the extra powers granted under these laws.

Over 80 pieces of national security legislation have been passed since 2002 which introduce or increase coercive powers for the federal government, including:

- powers of police to hold people in police custody without charge;
- powers of surveillance and interrogation of non-suspects;
- powers of monitoring non-suspects' computers;
- powers of coercion in testimony;
- secret warrants and secret evidence;
- warrantless search powers for persons and homes;
- immunity from civil and criminal prosecution for ASIO officers in covert "special intelligence operations" (except in cases of torture, murder, and rape); and
- powers to jail journalists who inadvertently reveal ASIO "special intelligence operations".

ASIO officers operating covertly are safe from prosecution for fraud, theft, coercion, violation of privacy laws and almost any other breach of law, outside torture, murder and rape if the illegal action occurred in association with a "special intelligence operation". The illegal behaviour doesn't even have to be in the public interest. It is an abuse waiting to happen because there is no requirement to account for any abuse. **Australian lawmakers have created a class of people in intelligence agencies who are above the law but at the same time we have diminished the rights of all other Australians under the law. Equality before the law in Australia is declining.**

Australians already have evidence that these new laws are in full play in Australia today in a manner that is not in their interests. **Secret trials have been held and more and more cases are emerging where the government is prosecuting people for ostensible security offences in closed courts without having to demonstrate that secrecy is in the national interest and that they are doing anything more than covering up conduct that is merely embarrassing to the government or covering up outright illegal misconduct.**

This has removed almost all restraints on illegal or unethical behaviour by intelligence officials, such as behaviour that has been obvious in:

- the widely acknowledged event of Australia's bugging in 2004 of the Cabinet meetings of the Timor-Leste government during negotiations on oil rights; or
- the revelation that in 2018 the government sought to use the Australian Signals Directorate to spy on Australians without a warrant and access their personal and financial data without their knowledge.

It is clearly in the public interest for Australians to know these things but the current conservative federal government is clamping down on the meagre rights we have assumed in this regard.

In other infringements of rights, Australians have experienced:

- **removal of the presumption of innocence** until guilt is proven for recipients of welfare and a foisting of the onus of proof onto those recipients in cases where Centrelink, without evidence, has served them with notice of a debt for overpayments they may or may not have received, a Centrelink procedure – Robodebt – which has since been found to be entirely unlawful and destructive of mental health and even life;
- **concentration of power in one minister, rather than the courts, as to who shall be allowed to stay in Australia and who shall not;**
- **forced deportation** of Indigenous Australians who have committed a crime and served their time or who have not committed a crime and have even served in the national forces but who may not be able to prove citizenship;
- **effective withdrawal from, or active violation of human rights conventions, to which we have been a signatory for decades** (including violation of the rights of refugees, children and Indigenous Australians in being locked up without charge);
- repeal of the only decent laws made by Australia in relation to refugee rights in the 21st century – namely the Medevac legislation which was passed by the federal Parliament in late 2018 and repealed in late 2019 by the Morrison government for absolutely no purpose and benefit other than to impose further pain on refugees that we have illegally detained for years; and
- **attempted subversion of the nation's human rights agencies** – particularly the Human Rights Commissioner Gillian Triggs in retaliation by the Liberal National Party government for her decision to conduct an inquiry into children in immigration detention.

In 2022 there really is nothing good to say about this multidimensional attack on the rights of all Australians. With each step towards secrecy and diminished human rights, we are moving closer by the year to living in an autocracy.

Australia's Constitution gives us a representative democracy. But Australians aren't using this gift to its full potential. We are using it less and less as time passes. This is not just reflected in our declining rates of voter participation, although they are a concern. Turnout at the 2016 federal election for the House of Representatives was only 91%, the lowest turnout recorded since the introduction of compulsory voting in 1925. There was a slight bounce back in 2019 but still well more than 1 million enrolled voters failed to vote.

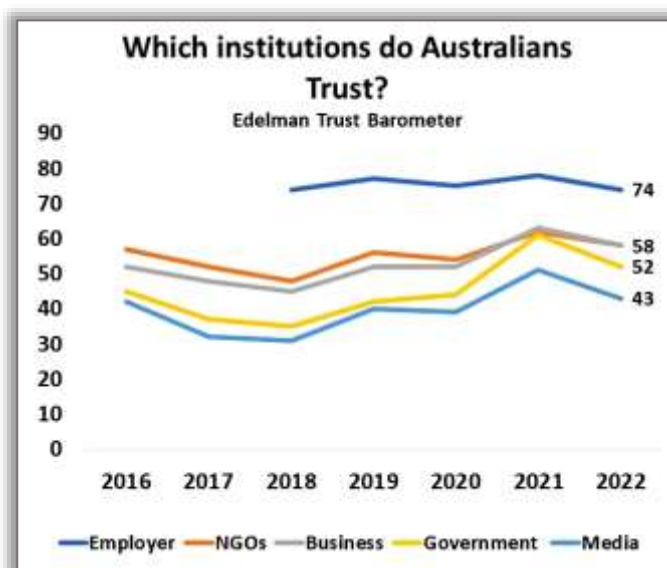
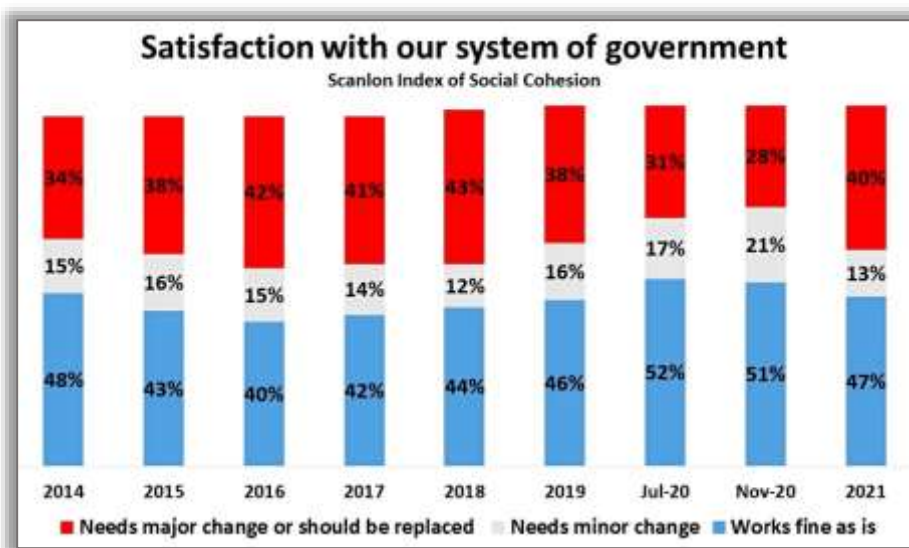
This drop in voter turnout has run in parallel with a decline in satisfaction with our democracy. According to the Museum of Australian Democracy and the University of Canberra's research for the Democracy 2025 project, 86% of voters were satisfied in 2007 with Australia's democracy, but that figure dropped to 72% by 2010, where it plateaued for three years, and then plummeted to 41% by 2018.

A significant majority of Australians in the Scanlon Survey also reported more dissatisfaction than satisfaction with our system of democratic governance.

Satisfaction exceeded 50% only during Covid-19 but even then did not last. This is not a ringing endorsement of confidence in our governance and the way we are running our

democracy. It suggests it is fragile and perhaps on the brink of turning towards civil unrest. The prospect that peaceful transfers of power may be disrupted as they were in the 6 January 2021 insurrection in America is not one to be ignored. Populist demonstrations in Canberra in early 2022 involving property destruction do not bode well. There is a need to improve the way we utilise our democracy.

In the 2019 and 2022 CIVICUS International Monitor of global freedoms, Australia was downgraded from an open society and democracy to a narrowed one. We are being given less freedoms to exercise within our democracy and our trust in our institutions has dropped accordingly. The Edelman Trust Barometer, an international survey of trust in institutions for over 20 years, has reported survey results from Australians that show **the general population of Australia generally distrusts all institutions except their direct employer.** For only one year, during Covid-19, did we move into trusting territory for NGOs,



business and government. At no stage did Australians trust the media.

This trust deficit is a likely cause of Australians' withdrawal from full and beneficial use of their democracy. It is likely that they see their influence through the ballot box process is declining and as yet they have no other way to re-balance shares of power between governments, businesses, institutions and "we the people".

However, during the term of the 46th parliament, Australians have been offered their first opportunity of joining together to build a plan for Australia's future. A process has been developed that they can begin to use to define their preferred future and speak with one voice to parliamentary leaders about where they want to arrive as a nation by 2050 and how they want to travel there. This same process can significantly increase their shares of power in democracy. The process is **National Integrated Planning & Reporting (National IP&R).**

Significant advances have been made in trialling the National IP&R process during the 46th parliament. It has been used help build a starting draft of Australia's first national long term, integrated, community futures plan – *Australia Together*. That in turn has enabled the production of the End of Term Report.



Using National IP&R, Australians can now insert an additional step into the process of their democracy to strengthen it, make it more efficient and give parliamentarians a helping hand. This is a small change to make but it represents a paradigm shift in the way power is shared between governments, other institutions and we the people. The diagram below illustrates the small change that can make a huge difference to our ability to use our democracy to secure our preferred future.



Find out more by watching ACFP's video series, [What is Integrated Planning & Reporting?](#)

Issue No. 9 – Unethical governance

Australia has slipped from its pedestal as a nation without significant corruption. **In the ten years to 2021, Australia's score on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index dropped by 12 points to reach its lowest point since the start of the Index – 73 points.** New Zealand and Denmark currently occupy 1st place with 88 points each, 15 points more than Australia.



Australia used to be ranked in the “very clean” category; not any more.

Essentially Australia is stepping slowly but steadily into structural corruption, **giving simply too much power to corporate interest groups such as the Minerals Council of Australia, the Business Council of Australia, multinational corporations in fossil fuels, and one dominating conservative media organisation – Murdoch.** The influence of Murdoch is plain and it has been particularly effective, resulting in massive funding cuts for one of its main competitors, the public's own ABC – the most trusted media network in Australia.



The scores on perceived corruption are dropping because **Australians can easily see a spectrum of corruption ranging from relatively small infractions to gross misuse of power and trust**, for example:

- Federal and politicians giving out grants for sporting facilities to marginal electorates during elections, against the recommendations of Sports Australia and the Department of Health, against the rules of Ministerial authority, and probably against the Constitution. They can see at least one state Government, New South Wales, doing the same thing.
- Unenforceable and unethical standards for post separation employment of politicians which, for instance, allow Cabinet Ministers to court and subsequently take up employment with lobbying firms and other influential corporations within the ambit of their portfolio, including arms dealers.
- Interference with public servants in the course of their duty such as apparent attempts by federal minister Angus Taylor to interfere on a matter relating to his family company's breach of environmental regulations by their destruction of protected native grasslands.
- Public servants being put upon to administer unlawful schemes for recovery of welfare payments which the government alleged but did not prove to have been overpaid – Robodebt. Australians can see that the government has admitted unjustly enriching itself in this manner.

The federal level of government is the most problematic at present. Ministerial codes of conduct are too loose and are unenforceable. Ethical standards and behaviour are openly declining in federal parliament and **the government has stonewalled for years on its commitment to legislate a federal corruption and integrity commission.** The federal parliament has even refused to introduce a binding code of conduct for parliamentarians.

Amid this culture of “unaccountability”, Australians have been forced to support an economy based on fossil fuels at the expense of far more productive structures for a modern economy. It has been skewed to drive Australia's economy into industries currently providing no new jobs and away from industries that will provide vast numbers of jobs. Australia has become a victim of state capture.

Australia's prospects for safety and security in the coming decades have been deeply and negatively affected over the last two decades due to increased tensions between rising and declining global powers. But they have also been badly impacted by:

- deterioration in our own foreign policy and soft power capability;
- our reduced reliance on diplomacy;
- our shift towards a hawkish stance dominated by secretive intelligence, security and defence agencies;
- the permission we have given to foreign arms dealers to fund the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and directly influence our foreign policy settings so that they beat the drums of war;
- our persistence in making an enemy of our biggest trading partner, China;
- our decisions to reduce humanitarian aid;
- our withdrawal from collaborative arrangements for research and trade and infrastructure partnerships, in particular with China; and
- our postures characterising the United Nations as an unaccountable bureaucracy of “negative globalism” instead of the world’s only global forum for leadership on peace, human rights, sustainable development and promotion of respect for the sovereignty of all its members.

In its foreign policy posture, Australia has been set on a path towards enduring war. It is not positioning itself to become a nation assured of enduring peace. These trends have also had a deleterious affect on our reputation as a trustworthy and reliable trading partner and attractive country for investment.

Australia is not a powerful country and since World War II our sense of vulnerability has driven us to rely heavily on our alliance with America. However, there is no guarantee that America will come to Australia’s aid in the event of an attack on our territory. In fact, Australia’s current arrangements with the US as an ally are *increasing* our exposure as a potential target for aggression, given that we have located American military, intelligence, surveillance and command installations on our soil. The potential for Australia to become a first strike target or a proxy target for the US is increasing with the new “AUKUS” partnership, announced in late 2021 by the prime minister without consultation with Australians. AUKUS introduces the possibility that nuclear powered submarines will be based in Australia. While it is not currently envisaged that these submarines will be nuclear armed, the fact remains that nuclear reactors will shelter in Australia and they therefore constitute a nuclear target. This significantly and perhaps catastrophically endangers Australia.

Australia is entirely unprepared for the changing global order that will come with the inevitable rise of Asia in the next 10 to 20 years. At this time, we should be preparing ourselves to:

- make fully independent decisions on foreign policy and entry to war,
- build a fully independent defence capability, and
- stand on our own but recognise that Australia is located in the Asian part of the world, not in Europe or America, and must therefore pursue its security *in* Asia, not *from* Asia.

Above all, if the Vision for *Australia Together* is to be made a reality, Australia needs to acknowledge that in the new world order – Asia rising, America in relative decline – the safest course is to work on the precautionary premise that we are on our own and build a strategy of cooperation with every nation, not just our traditional allies and not just with democracies.

If a war involving global powers starts in our region, it should be understood that on the balance of probabilities Australia would not win. We would win nothing but misery. Every endeavour should therefore be made to ensure such a war never starts at all and to that end Australia should replace its gratuitously pugnacious and self-defeating postures in relation to China with a genuine offer of respect where it is due. This involves adopting a strategy of high class diplomacy combined with constant cultivation of soft power through a consistent demonstration of the highest ethics and commitment to the common good and shared humanity.

Delusions of the West's capacity to **contain** China using military aggression or brinksmanship through trade – and delusions that there is even any benefit to Australia in doing so – should be dispensed with in favour of a more considered pursuit of enduring peace.

This will involve dispensing with the worst aspects of Australia's current security apparatus, including:

- abolishing the Australian Strategic Policy Institute,
- prohibiting funding of policy development by arms dealers and any foreign agency, and
- reducing secrecy over any matters and information that are central to the public interest and the right of the Australian people to all knowledge necessary for *their* ability determine the future of their country and how their safety may be secured.

In effect this will involve bringing Australians into the centre of planning processes for national security. Strategies for these purposes are being incorporated into *Australia Together*. Current Targets and Strategies include but are not limited to:

Code	Target/Strategy
Gov12.01	Australian involvement in military operations
Gov12.01.01	Australian preference for peace versus war
Gov12.01.02	Australian preference and readiness for an independent defence capability versus dependence on the US alliance
Gov12.02	Prohibition of weapons exports
Gov12.03	Prohibition of funding of public institutions and officials by foreign-owned or domestically owned/operated arms dealers or manufacturers
Gov12.04	Integrated Strategy for Defence, Diplomacy and Security
Gov12.04.01	Green Paper and community engagement to define Australia's Strategic Interests in Territorial Sovereign Defence
Gov12.05	Development of the capacity of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and abolition of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)
Gov13.01	Foreign aid
Gov13.02	Contribution to the Green Climate Fund under the Paris Agreement
Gov11.01	Participation in international cooperative forums
Gov11.02	International cooperation for global sustainability
Gov11.03	Protection of refugees seeking asylum

In February 2022, 61% of Australians on survey expressed the view that Australia's relationship with China is "a complex relationship to be managed" and a further 13% said it is "a positive opportunity to be realised". Only 25% held the view that it is "a threat to be confronted".⁶⁷ Other surveys indicate that there is little appetite for confrontation and aggression with China, and a substantial appetite for sound relationship management to avert war. The indication is that in promoting aggressive "drums of war" postures, the federal government of 2022 was out of step with the views and preferences of the majority of Australians, who predominantly support neutral postures.

⁶⁷ [Essential Poll, 22 February 2022.](#)

Issue No. 11 – Corporate irresponsibility

The standard of corporate responsibility in Australia in the early 2020s is a bit of a mixed bag. The mining industry and fossil fuel companies would score near zero in any examination of their credentials to corporate responsibility. Their track record of environmental and heritage devastation is appalling including:

- wetland destruction by Adani at Abbott Point in Queensland in 2018,
- oil spills by Woodside in Western Australia in 2016, and
- destruction of ancient Aboriginal heritage sites, particularly in Western Australia where 46,000 year old rock shelter sacred sites were destroyed by Rio Tinto at Juukan Gorge

These and other mining companies are totally out of step with modern standards for responsible and ethical participation in business. And this is before we get to issues like:

- their failure to pay tax,
- their failure to share profits with the taxpayers who subsidised them,
- their failure to pay to restore the environments they destroy, and
- their failure to respect the need to eliminate carbon emissions.



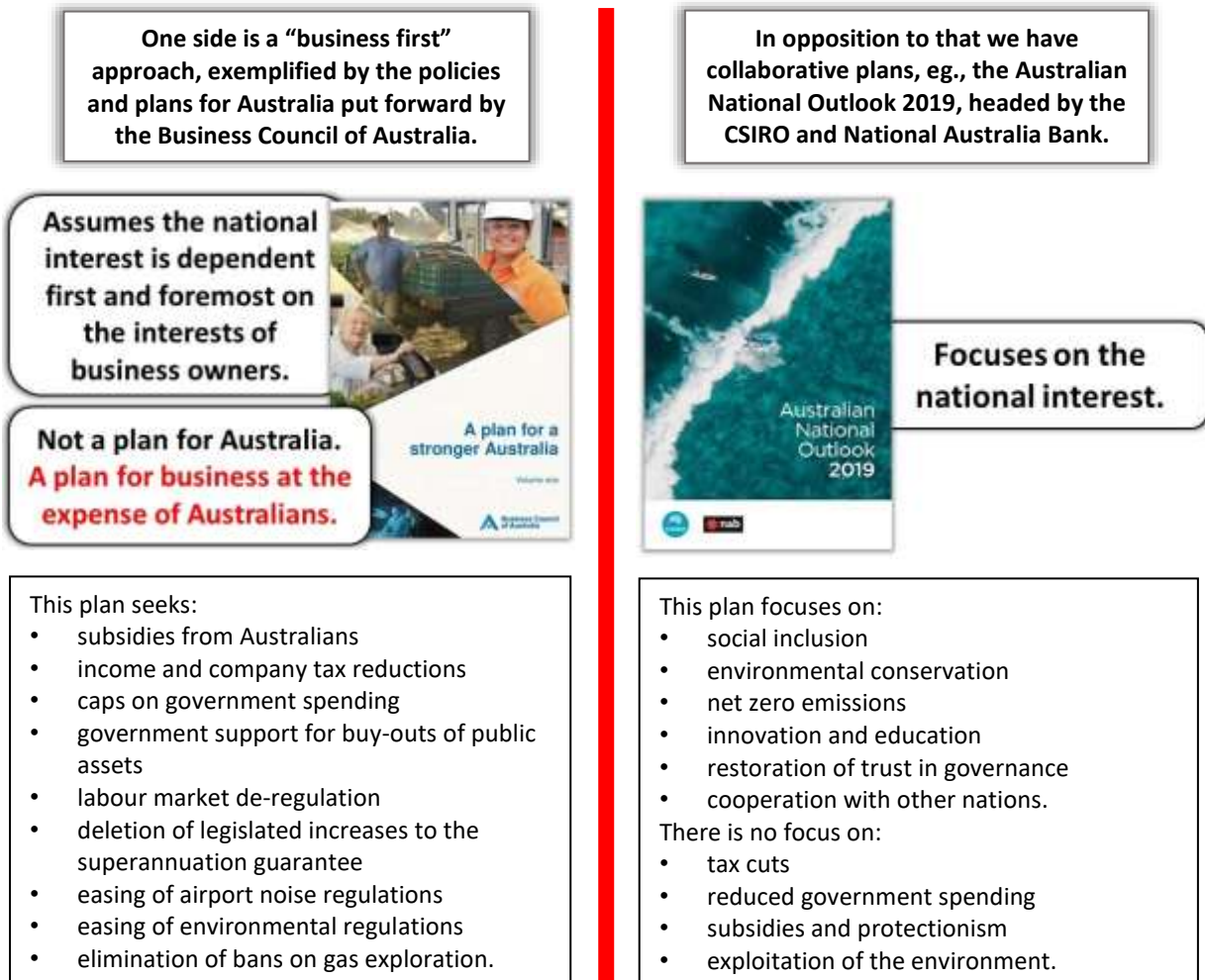
Other businesses – outside mining and fossil fuels – display varying degrees of responsibility and performance in relation to climate and environmental regulations, workers' rights, human rights and ethical governance. A few are set up to be green and ethical and they are growing in number daily. Our biggest banks support all these businesses, ethical and unethical, pretty much regardless of their records on ethical and environmental parameters. Australia's big four banks have shown little sign of genuine commitment to ethical investment. Between 2016 and 2020 Australia's big four banks:

- invested more than three times as much in fossil fuels as they did in renewables;
- enabled 13.9 billion tonnes of CO₂ to be emitted to the atmosphere;
- provided finance for another 33 new or expanded fossil fuel projects since committing to support the Paris Agreement, projects which over their lifetimes are expected to enable the release of an additional 9 billion tonnes of CO₂ – enough to cancel out Australia's planned emissions reduction target for 2020 to 2030, 21 times over.



1.5°C Scorecard: Bank actions since January 2016				
				
Total lending to fossil fuels	\$10,843 million	\$12,059 million	\$7,274 million	\$5,396 million
Total lending to expansionary projects	\$2,222 million	\$2,827 million	\$1,214 million	\$843 million
Fossil fuels vs renewables lending ratio	\$5.49 : \$1	\$3.73 : \$1	\$1.35 : \$1	\$2.71 : \$1
Total emissions enabled (tonnes CO ₂)	4.1 billion	5.4 billion	2.5 billion	1.9 billion

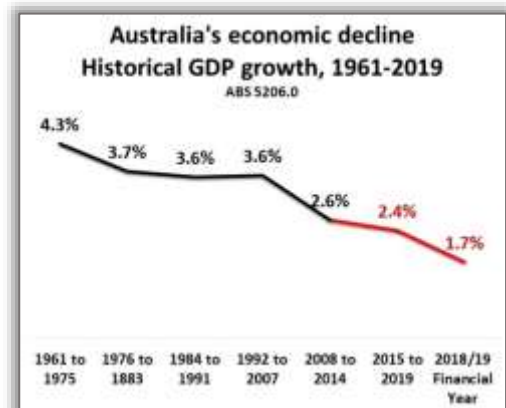
The split in consciousness and conscience about corporate responsibility and ethics can be understood as **an ideological divide**. Australia and Australians are stuck in the middle of a clash between two different approaches to business – **neoliberalism and its reverse**.



The BCA’s plan is straight down the line neoliberalism, an approach to economic management which makes sense only if we do *not* wish to achieve a coherent inclusive nation where inequality is minimised, equal opportunity is maximised, the natural environment that we depend on is cared for, and everyone shares fairly in the returns from the national wealth they help to generate.

Neoliberalism has dominated the Australian economic management during the 21st century. But it is not working. The economy is no longer thriving and expected benefits have not and will not arrive:

- ✗ Australians are not gaining wage improvements.
- ✗ Benefits are not trickling down to workers.
- ✗ Prices for privatised public services are not dropping.
- ✗ Tertiary education is becoming unaffordable.
- ✗ Lower taxes for the rich are not translating into new investment by business, job creation, or higher incomes for the poor.



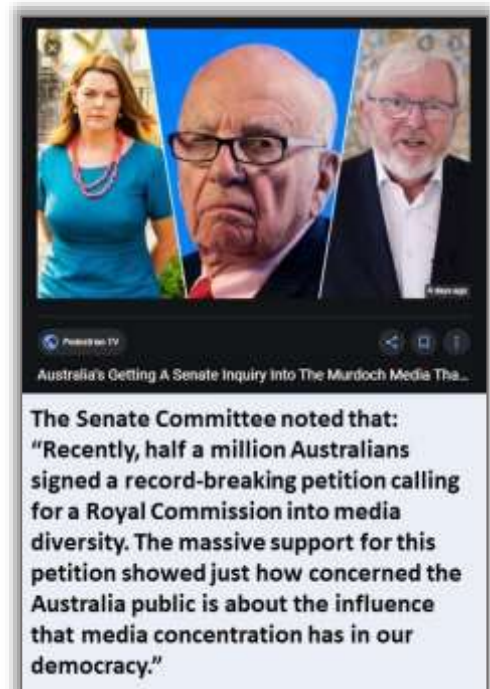
All we have achieved is corruption of our government on a grand scale through corporate capture and an economy that has sunk into decline. Taxpayers' assets and services have been ransacked.

In the early 2020s some major Australian businesses are attempting to shift the economy onto a new footing based in large part on renewable energy. But there is a long way to go before corporate responsibility could be claimed. In big business, collaboration especially with workers is not on their agenda and there is no welcome mat being put out to the millions of investors seeking more control of corporate boards due to the growing influence and shareholdings of members of industry superannuation funds. **Big business groups are lobbying in herds wherever they can to stop implementation of the legislated increases to the Superannuation Guarantee** – increases that are due to grow by increments of half a percent per annum between 2021 and 2025 – providing a total of a 2.5% income increase to workers over the next 5 years.

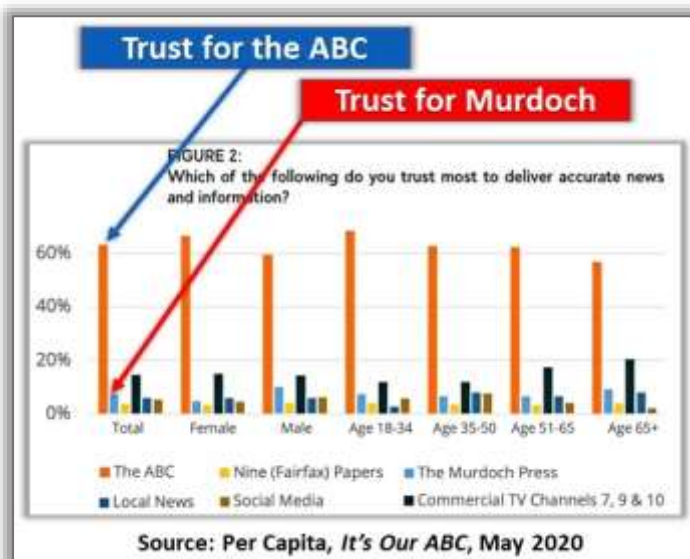


Running in parallel with this corporate playbook is a partnership between the conservative federal government since 2014 and the Murdoch media. This partnership has been operating in an anti-competitive way to gradually disable the taxpayer-owned ABC and reduce whatever competition it may pose to Murdoch. It has also operated very effectively to disable the open-market design of Australia's National Broadband Network, with the Coalition government abandoning the original NBN design of fibre optic cable to homes in 2014 and replacing it with mixed cables to nodes remote from homes. This meant that households would have to pay extra to connect to the NBN and also that it would be slower than the original design. These were strongly anti-competitive moves in Murdoch's favour.

Murdoch market dominance has been aided and abetted by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. **The ACCC has played a pivotal role in aggravating market concentration problems in Australia's news media,** problems which became so severe that in 2020 over 500,000 Australians signed a petition calling for a Royal Commission into the Murdoch media, which in turn resulted in a Senate Inquiry. The ACCC had contributed to market concentration by approving the takeover of Fairfax media by Nine – thereby creating an effective duopoly. **Then in 2020, the ACCC developed legislative reforms known as the "News Media Bargaining Code" which had the perverse result of increasing the market power of large news media companies, particularly News Corp and Nine even more, with no corresponding improvement in the accountability of these news media outlets for irresponsible publishing. The ACCC has demonstrated incompetence in its core function.**



Under cover of misleading messages portraying the News Media Bargaining Code as a clever attempt to rein in social media and promote diversity in Australia's news media, the government has actually attacked the taxpayer's main interest in the news and entertainment market, which is of course the ABC. In short, the government and its competition regulator have intervened in the market to benefit a media business that the public does not trust at the expense of one that it does. The fraud on the Australian public could hardly be worse and hardly more damaging to their democracy.



News Media Bargaining Code

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TREASURY LAWS AMENDMENT (NEWS MEDIA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS MANDATORY BARGAINING CODE) BILL 2020

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP)

AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION & CONSUMER COMMISSION

An anti-competitive move by the federal government and the ACCC in Murdoch's and Nine's favour against the public interest.

Through this and other similar anti-competitive, irresponsible policies against the public interest, Australia's democracy is being turned into a plutocracy. **In the early 2020s Australia is being run by unelected fossil fuel, banking and media magnates. These sectors do not have a care for the nation's best interests and are running amok without fair and reasonable regulation.**

With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the only moves we have seen from the federal government on corporate sector regulation seem to have been to remove it. One egregious example is the federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's amendments of regulations in mid 2020 that effectively released private companies from legal obligations to keep markets and investors informed of their financial standing. He has released private businesses from having to disclose whether they are heading into or trading in insolvency. His stated objective in this is to ensure these failing companies will still be able to attract investment from Australians, particularly from their pooled superannuation funds, even though such investment may not be a safe one at all. The move is openly and unashamedly stated by the Treasurer as one designed to make class actions harder in the event of losses caused to Australians on investments made in good faith by them but courted and accepted by corporations in very bad faith. Further examples of corporate corruption abound in the sale of public assets and services and in support of the mining and fossil fuel industries – against the public interest. For more information see Issue No. 13 – Lost public ownership.

The current federal government under Scott Morrison has not proved its credentials in independent regulation of corporate entities who seek market dominance. On the contrary, it has proved only that it is deeply susceptible to crony capitalism.

Issue No. 12 – Economic decline

In today's forums for economic debate there are two schools of thought about economic growth, or growth of GDP:

- One school says GDP isn't a good measure of a nation's wealth and wellbeing.
- The other holds that growth in GDP is the best indicator of our economic strength.

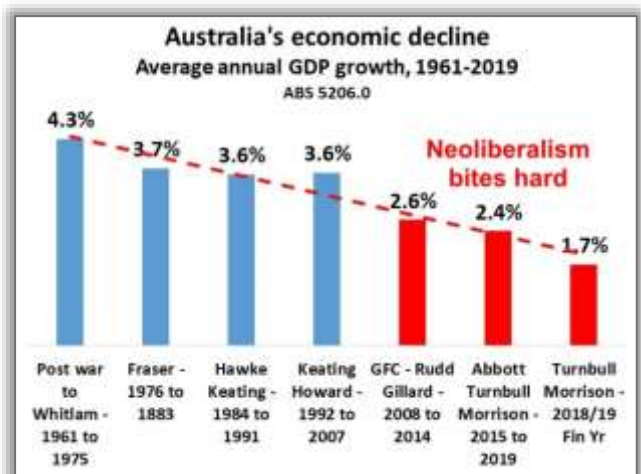
In helping to build a long term plan for Australia's economy, ACFP has taken the position that improved wellbeing in an advanced country like Australia arises not so much from continued growth of GDP but from fair sharing of national wealth and income. Economic growth isn't or shouldn't be an end in itself. It's how we share growth that matters.

But this is not to say that GDP growth isn't important. If an economy *isn't* growing or isn't growing fast enough then there is certainly less wealth to share around, which will of course aggravate our troubles with inequality. So it stands to reason that if an elected government is embedding policies that are causing economic growth to slow down, then they are compounding our problems of inequality.

In Australia today we have a government that is doing exactly that – slowing our economy.

Well before the onset of Covid-19 and the recession brought on by the pandemic, Australia's economic growth was slowly declining. **It is a myth that conservative governments, relying as they have tended to on neoliberal policies of small government and free unregulated markets, are better at managing the economy:**

- **If growth is the measure, they are not.**
- **If equality is the measure, they are not.**
- **If a sustainable environment is the measure, they are not.**



In May 2020 after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic recession, Prime Minister Scott Morrison stated that "we should remember that this event, these difficult times in 2020 were not caused by economic failure, but a global health pandemic. The problem was not the economy," he said. But the fact is that the economy was a problem before Covid-19. And at this point in our economy the last thing Australians need from leaders is denial.

The problem of our economy is not a passing one. It is not a temporary blip. In its current form with its dependency on mining and exports – two sectors that are on the brink of big trouble, if they're not already in big trouble – Australia's economy has come to the end of its course and current policy settings are actually making this worse not better.

To get this in perspective we can look briefly at the history of Australia's economy, which we can describe in phases on a page:

Stages of Australia's Economy		
1880s to 1960s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Mining • Manufacturing 	Supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tariffs protect manufacturing • High commodity prices producing strong export income • Immigration • High wages, set nationally by arbitration • Administratively determined exchange rates and interest rates • Regulated lending levels for banks
1960s to 1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Mining • Manufacturing 	Threatened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling export prices and rising import prices • Cost of tariff protection no longer supported by export income • High wages now unaffordable • Centralised wage fixing stoking inflation • Over-valued exchange makes agriculture and mining exports less competitive
Mid 1980s to 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of the services sector • Corporatisation and then privatisation of GTEs and social services • Arrival of the digital economy & internet 	Re-made by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening the economy to flexibility and competition by removing tariff protection • Floating exchange rate • Removal of politics from decisions on interest rates and exchange rates • A prices and incomes accord (with Medicare and superannuation) • Enterprise bargaining – wage rises in exchange for productivity • Competition policy – level playing field focus • Digitisation makes for sale of services internationally Buoyed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector investment • Rise of China and India and an attendant mining boom • National income from exports rises while the cost of imports falls Threatened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 11 attacks on USA, insurance industry collapses and entry into the Iraq war • Cessation of free tertiary education • Excessive property price escalation
2009 to 2013	Continues amid the GFC	Buoyed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal stimulus • Continued rise of China and India • Information technology and telecommunications Shift to new economy attempted by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a carbon price
2014 to 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of mining boom • Small government • Stalled productivity 	Threatened by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of full blown neoliberalism – reversing fiscal approaches • Austerity for the poorest by “ending the age of entitlement” • Regressive taxation legislation • Loss of productivity based EBAs • Negative new private capital investment • Weakened competitive capacity of the public sector • Corruption of competition policy • Undermining of environmental protection • Repeal of the carbon price • Growth of the fossil fuel subsidy • Failure of climate and energy policy

These policy settings are all running in precisely the opposite direction to that needed for an economy where:

- one of our biggest exports – coal mining – is on the brink of decline,
- demand has fallen for other key exports including education,
- productivity has stalled,
- private sector investment in new capital has stalled,
- poverty is on the rise,
- consumer demand and spending power are in decline,
- environmental resources are being consumed at rates far beyond their capacity for renewal,
- climate and energy policies are non-existent, and
- there is no capacity left to reduce interest rates to help the economy along.

Australians are probably used to hearing from the federal government that our economic fundamentals are strong. But they are not. These are just **some** of the weaknesses that are now afflicting our economy.

The economic policies implemented since 2014 have not been working to expand our economy and they will not work at any time in the foreseeable future. **If Australians want to see a better report card than this one on the state of our economy in the next few years, a complete reversal of policies in multiple areas is required, particularly in taxation, welfare, government investment, government employment, labour relations, carbon emissions and pricing, energy, land use, social housing, and education. In the language of political economists, the reversal that is required is to the prevailing ideological tenets of neoliberalism.** Neoliberalism has done our economy no favours.

Neoliberalism is a political ideology which tells us that our wellbeing arises exclusively from economic growth and that this growth can only arise from:

- less government,
- less taxation (especially for the rich and for corporations),
- less public ownership and operation of assets and services,
- less welfare,
- less regulation of markets, and
- less regulation of use and pollution of the natural environment.

Essentially, neoliberalism is unregulated capitalism. At its theoretical extreme, it gives capitalism a really bad name, especially insofar as it pursues a range of policies which can only result in growth in inequality. It also results in national economies being smaller than they would otherwise be because it withdraws the strength of the biggest single player in growing an economy: it withdraws the government sector from participation.

By cramping public spending, government trading enterprises and taxpayer participation in their own economy, neoliberalism unnecessarily reduces the size of the economy. Instead of freeing up taxpayer funds and giving taxpayers a say in how they would like to spend their own money and invest in themselves, neoliberalism encourages a transfer of the national revenue from the taxes paid by workers over to business owners and multinational corporations. In Australia's case this has resulted in massive taxpayer subsidies to mining companies.

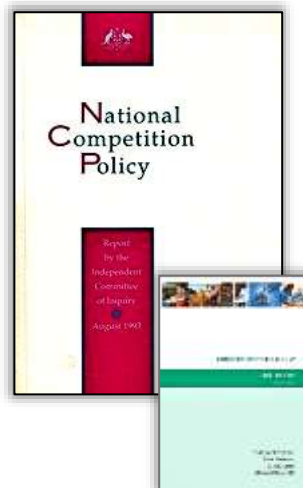
Australians are used to hearing about "transfer payments" to those on unemployment benefits, as though those transfer payments are drag on the economy, not the stimulant that they are. But far bigger transfers are actually made to business owners. In the case of the fossil fuel subsidy, this transfer has grown to a disproportionately large figure. Taxpayers are currently being forced to transfer well over \$10 billion a year to fossil fuel companies in various forms of subsidy. They receive no return for this in the form of:

- enhanced private capital investment – growth in private capital investment has been negative for years;
- increased wages – these have been flat for years;
- tax revenues – corporate tax avoidance has ballooned;
- job creation – subsidised sectors of private industry are not big employers.

Growth in Australia's economy is being seriously hampered by neoliberalism, particularly insofar as it is pushing the government owned sector and taxpayers out of participation in their own economy. A reversal of this sorry economic trend can only be secured by ensuring that **both** the public and private sectors participate to their fullest competitive capacity. This will require an overhaul of our current National Competition Policy. This policy has become the instrument of neoliberal raids on public assets and services. It is operating to reduce the competition that can be established by an active government sector. It is embedding corporate inefficiency and seriously reducing the competitiveness of our exports.

Competition policy was meant to:

- prevent anti-competitive conduct by any business, government or private;
- introduce competitive neutrality principles restricting governments from gaining business advantages;
- prevent mergers and acquisitions that are contrary to the public interest; and
- provide access for businesses to monopoly infrastructure on fair and equitable terms.



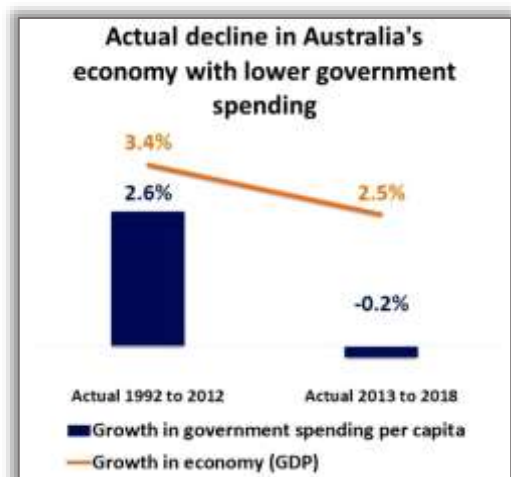
But instead it led to:

- ✗ a rise in anti-competitive behaviour by the private sector;
- ✗ a weakening of the government sector in the economy and its competitive reforms;
- ✗ an increase in private sector monopolies;
- ✗ unsustainable exploitation of resources;
- ✗ sales of public assets for less than their worth; and
- ✗ transfer of public profits into private hands.

Other policies on public sector participation which are now embedding economic decline include:

- artificial capping of government sector participation by adoption of an arbitrary tax-to-GDP cap of 23.9% – a cap which has no basis in economics; and
- significantly slowed spending by government as both a proportion of GDP and on a per capita basis – a spending trend which significantly slows growth.

In the twenty years to 2012, growth in real government spending per capita averaged 2.6% per annum and our economy **grew** in that period. By contrast, from 2013, spending per capita declined on average and our economy **slowed** significantly. Put simply, the government has not been spending enough to grow the economy. And neoliberalism is stomping all over our right to spend our own money on ourselves and sucking our money away to transfer it to a privileged few.



Many Australians who have been taught to think that taxation and government spending are bad things may instinctively support strategies which cap government spending. But **spending by governments pumps spending power for consumers into the economy which is what makes it grow. Spending wisely is desirable – obviously. Efficiency in government is desirable – obviously. But reduced government sector spending in total is not wise at all. Government makes up a quarter of the size of Australia’s economy. It’s the biggest single player. So reducing the size of government can have only one effect – an economy that is smaller and can carry fewer Australians to a decent quality of life.**

Australia is on the cusp of an economic transformation, but it can go either way. The path to good fortune will consist in traveling in the reverse direction to the path of neoliberalism. Put simply, we can choose from two policy menus:

Australians can choose from two different types of policy menus for their next economic transformation	
Neoliberalism Reduces GDP / Increases inequality	Reversing neoliberalism Increases GDP / Reduces inequality
Continue the tax-to-GDP cap	Remove the tax-to-GDP cap
Continue the regressive tax cuts which reduce tax for the rich but make the poor pay it back over the next decade	Repeal the regressive tax cuts which reduce tax for the rich but make the poor pay it back over the next decade
Reduce the tertiary education sector	Rebuild the tertiary education sector
Reduce or cramp welfare payments and stifle demand and consumption	Expand welfare payments to improve spending power of more than a million Australians
Reduce health services relative to demand	Expand health services and grow employment
Stifle investment in renewable power generation, discourage public ownership and resist a price on carbon	Buy into renewable power generation and maintain it in public ownership and jump into pricing carbon
Provide grants to those who can afford renovations above \$150,000 with no focus on buildings efficiency	Provide financial incentives and loans for home and buildings efficiency retrofits
Continue stagnant investment in social housing and pay more in mental health, policing and prison services	Expand public housing to eliminate homelessness and decrease bills in mental health, policing and prisons
Limit the pay of teachers, nurses, aged carers, child carers, cleaners and health support workers	Increase the pay of teachers, nurses, aged carers, child carers, cleaners and health support workers
Continue to allow tax evasion by big business	Introduce a corporate cash flow tax
Continue to subsidise uncompetitive businesses, especially fossil fuels	Abolish all fossil fuel subsidies and introduce a social wage for all adult Australians

The last line of this table, suggesting that Australians introduce a social wage, is an option for a pivotal transformation that can:

- **stimulate economic growth *sustainably*,**
- **steer the nation towards full employment,**
- **reduce inequality, and**
- **free up unused capacity in the labour force to give Australians far more satisfying opportunities for work in their preferred industries.**

A social wage is a wonderful opportunity for everyone if it is introduced in the context of a new **Accord between Australians and their parliaments on Wealth, Welfare and Wellbeing**. For more information see [Episode 2 of Snapshots from Australia Together](#) on YouTube.

Snapshots from Australia Together

Click [here](#) to view Episode 2

Integrated Strategies for a new sustainable economy



acfp

Australian Community Futures Planning

Issue No. 13 – Lost public ownership

Over the last three decades Australians have witnessed a massive sell off of publicly owned assets, services, and government commercial trading enterprises (GTEs).

We have written ourselves out of ownership of ports, airports, an airline, toll roads, buses, electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, a very big bank, a commercial health insurer, commercial laboratories, vital data bases, and too many other vital assets and services to mention. Massive money making businesses for the nation have been sold off. In some cases we've even written ourselves out of this ownership by entering deals detrimental to the assets and services we've retained – such as deals in which the port in Sydney was sold with promises to restrain future competition from the competing ports, such as Newcastle. In other words these things are frequently sold in a manner that reduces competition. And this results in price rises.

Privatisation on such a grand scale has reduced returns to taxpayers from these assets and services. It has reduced their shares of wealth in their own economy. And it has come to this because of the way the privatisations have been administered.

Originally, these privatisations were meant to occur in the context of the introduction of the National **Competition Policy** by the Hawke-Keating government. This was a policy which focussed on ensuring a level playing field for public and private sector competitors in the market, and protecting Australia against the anti-competitive behaviour that occurs when private entities get too much market power. **It was not the intention to unleash unregulated private monopolies onto the economy.** The intention was to create competition and to skill up the public service in efficient and profitable operation of competitive government trading enterprises **alongside** private competitors.



But gradually, Competition Policy was effectively discarded, governments abandoned efficiency programs for public sector enterprises, vacated competitive markets and simply sold off these vital assets and enterprises, very often with little or no regulatory constraints. On the contrary, regulations were often loosened to allow a privileged few to make even more profits from assets and services that taxpayers had spent decades establishing. And remarkably, they were frequently sold off as monopolies, creating immense market power for a few lucky. The sale of NSW Land & Property Information service – the LPI – was an egregious example.

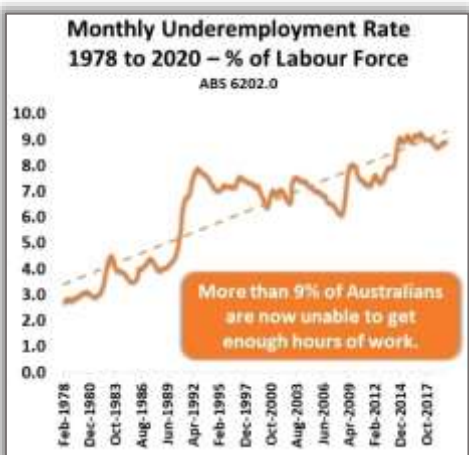
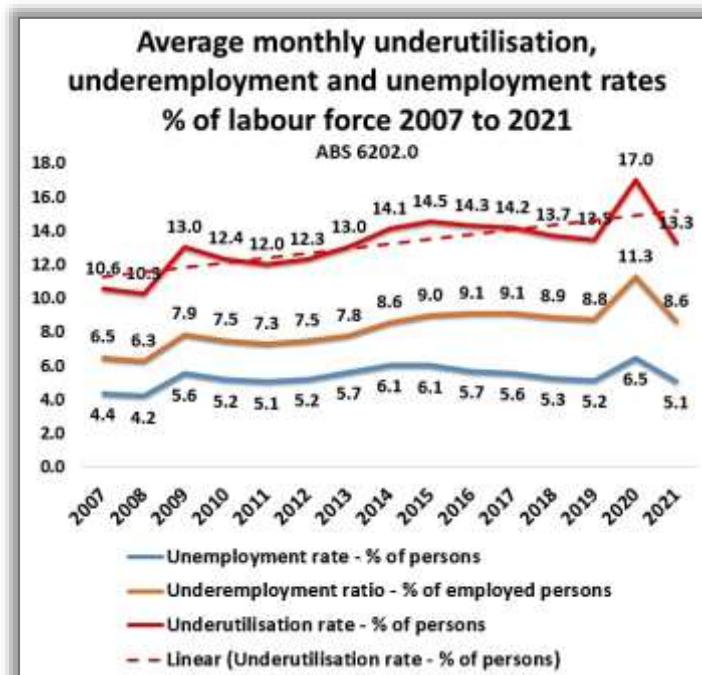
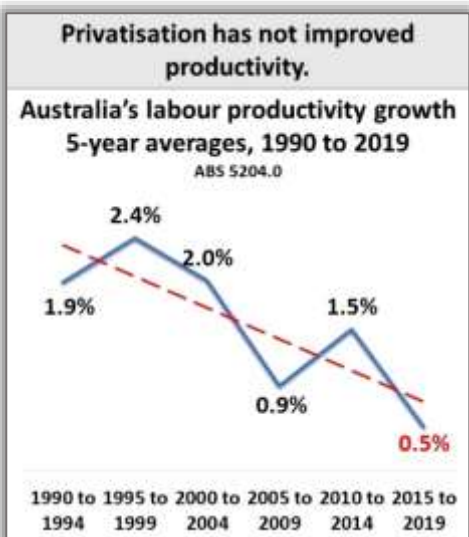
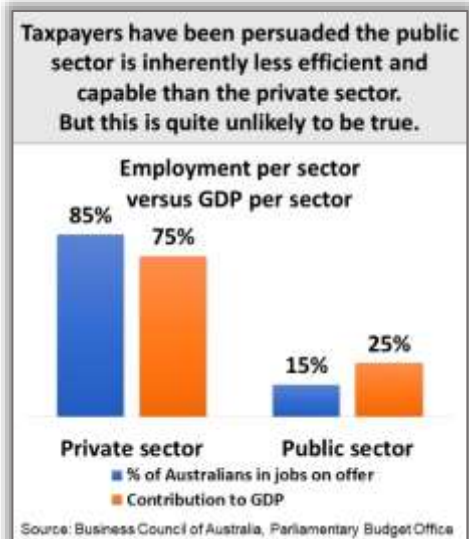
Sale of the LPI by the NSW Government	
Prior to its sale the LPI was earning \$190 million a year selling very cheap property title protection to NSW buyers and owners and making \$130 million in profit. On top of that, NSW property owners were paying next to nothing for transactions on titles and next to nothing on title insurance.	The NSW government sold the LPI for 35 years for a mere \$2.6 billion. It also gave away the growth in business that would have come to taxpayers from the addition of 1.8 million titles predicted to arise from population growth and retained title insurance costs. NSW residents lost a minimum of \$5 billion in earnings from year 19 onwards. The sale of the LPI was a facilitated raid on a public asset, selling it for less than half its value.



Sale of assets for less than they are worth amounts to grand theft. But this has been allowed because we have made assumptions that the public sector is inherently less efficient and less capable than the private sector and that, if the economy is to grow, we must give private interests the public assets we have worked hard to create and let them manage these in an unregulated market. The Business Council of Australia has bolstered this argument by statements like “The actions that will improve our lives ... require ... creating the environment where Australians can succeed because employers are doing well.” But this is very unlikely to be true.

For instance, the Business Council now boasts that the private sector sweeps up 85% of Australia’s workers. Unfortunately, it uses them so inefficiently that they produce only 75% of the GDP. The public sector provides work for the other 15% of employed Australians but they produce 25% of the GDP. None of that attests to the comparative efficiency of the private sector.

Nor has the sell-off led to an increase in productivity. Productivity has declined. This is no testimony to the notion that as we hand over more public assets to the private sector, productivity and efficiency will increase. If they will, we’re still waiting. **We are also still waiting for private sector dominance of the economy to actually improve employment.** Since the pandemic recession, unemployment has dropped to just over 4% but this masks the real unemployment rate because it does not take underemployment into account. Total unemployment, or underutilisation of the willing labour force, was 10.9% in January 2022.



For Australia’s economy, based heavily as it is on services, the big employer with potential to grow employment is the public sector.

After 30 years of sales of valuable public assets it is high time Australia reviewed its National Competition Policy. The policy has become the enabler of neoliberalism and the growth of private monopolies. If we had adhered more closely to the original National Competition Policy and simply used the brains of Australians to make public sector GTEs competitive with the private sector, it might have been a different story. But sell-offs of taxpayer owned assets and services have only resulted in:

- increased prices, costs, risks and liability for taxpayers,
- reduced competition,
- reduced efficiency and productivity,
- increased market concentration,
- reduced accountability,
- diminished national wealth, and
- diminished sharing of national wealth.

It is not a good report card. The situation has been exacerbated by the neoliberal zeal for deregulation which has seen unrestrained corporations willing to exploit Australian citizens in the most unconscionable ways, purely in order to maximise their own profits. Examples abound including the banking sector, the aged care and the private tertiary education sector. With such large scale divestment of assets and services into private unregulated markets it is logical to ask:

Are we better off by backing out of just about every one of our own assets and services and buying in only to private corporations? Are we worse off?

- **If inequality is a measure**, we would have to say **more of us are worse off** than better off.
- **If increased corporate profits but reduced growth in GDP and wages is a measure**, then we would have to say **we are worse off**.
- **And if price increases are the result of sell-offs** of assets like electricity generation, toll roads and property title data, then we would have to say **we are worse off**.

Privatisation of public assets and services has been a failure in Australia and all the evidence is that it is too risky to assume competency in private sector operators of public services. Business competency is not something we can be assured of in those who have bought our energy assets over the years and who are now seeking increased taxpayer subsidies for ventures which have no place in Australia's future – namely the gas and mining corporations who are currently doing their best to drag Australia back to the dark ages of an economy based on fossil fuels.

Australia's economy is on the brink of collapse and needs to be newly made by a rapid shift to decarbonisation

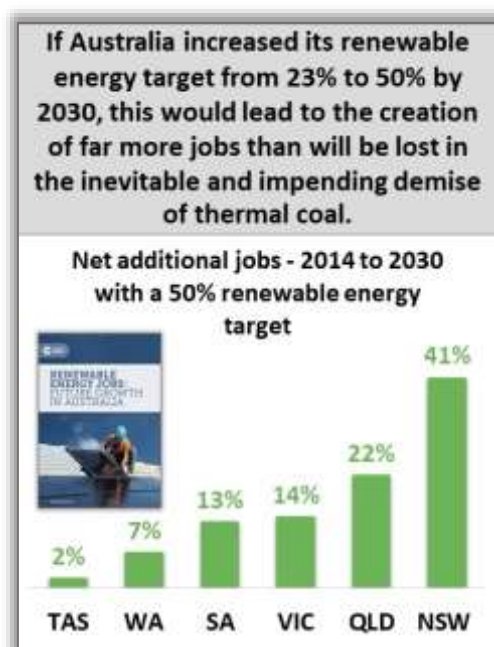
alongside a significant expansion of public sector employment in health, welfare and education, a diversification of our industrial base, and an inclusive industrial relations system. This is the minimum required for a better report card next time around.



Given Australia's abundant resources of sunlight and open land and our need to avert the more disastrous effects of climate change, it is inevitable that the renewable energy industry will expand to become a mainstay of Australia's economy and jobs market. And yet the federal government of Australia has backed what it calls a "gas led recovery" from the Covid-19 recession to the almost complete neglect of the renewable energy sector – the sector that is far more likely to provide secure and safe jobs for Australians.

In 2020, the renewable energy industry employed more than 25,000 people due to the establishment in 2001 of the Renewable Energy Target (RET). This target required energy companies to move towards sourcing 23% of electricity from clean renewable sources. The target resulted in significant investment in large scale renewable energy generation capacity. But when the target was finally reached in 2019, the Australian government refused to raise it beyond 23%. This inaction triggered a sudden 50% drop in large-scale renewable energy investment compared with 2018 – just at the time we should have been increasing such investment, if only due to the fact that the market for fossil fuels is set inevitably to decline and renewables are now a cheaper source of power in Australia than coal and gas.

It is well established that if Australia increased its renewable energy target from 23% to 50% by 2030, this would lead to the creation of far more jobs than will be lost in the inevitable and impending demise of thermal coal. Climate Council studies show that "Job losses in coal fired electricity generation would be more than compensated for by increased employment in the renewable energy sector."⁶⁸ In fact net additional jobs would be created in **all** states. The biggest net increases would be in the states currently supporting the largest number of coal mining jobs – Queensland and NSW. In job terms those states would be substantially net better off. They would have stronger economies with no thermal coal mining and a full shift to renewable energy.



While asserting that its focus is on jobs, the Morrison government has, contrary to Australia's best interests, selected an economy based on expensive carbon emitting fuels which provide far less jobs than clean renewables. Renewable energy will be a major source of jobs in the next few years. Coal and gas will not. **The federal government's policy settings encouraging coal and discouraging renewables are therefore all upside-down from both an economy and a jobs point of view, not just from an environmental point of view. They are a mark of serious incompetence in economic management and downright perversity in relation to job creation.**

Fortunately, for Australia, we have some responsible agencies such as the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the Australian Clean Energy Regulator and some other private sector players who are demonstrating significant capacity to steer the nation towards renewable energy. It may take longer without the assistance of the federal government; and since the world is very short of time to reach net zero emissions before global heating becomes too intense for the planet and humanity, there is still a significant threat to our future.

⁶⁸ Climate Council, [Renewable Energy Jobs, Future Growth in Australia](#), 2016.

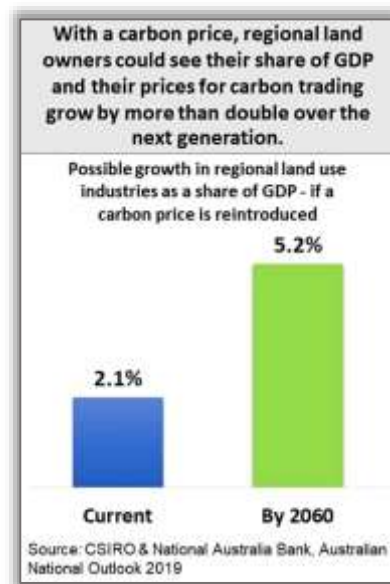
Recognising that threat, in 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that in order to reach net zero global carbon emissions by 2050, consistent with the Paris Agreement, existing unabated fossil fuel production would need to be phased out in developed countries by 2030 and in all countries by 2040. The IEA stated that if the world is to reach net zero emissions before planetary heating exceeds 1.5°C, there must be no more new oil and gas fields approved for development and no new coal mines or mine extension. And yet Australia has approximately 50 more projects in development.

Making matters worse, in 2021, the federal government released its “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way”. The “Plan” included no proposals to phase out coal, oil or gas as sources of energy and made no statement on phasing out combustion vehicles. Instead it proposed to rely on technology developments for abating emissions and on buying (rather than producing) carbon offsets. No data were provided to verify the emissions reductions purported to arise from the plan. In stating that: “Our plan ... will not shut down coal or gas production, or require displacement of productive agricultural land”, **the “Plan” runs directly contrary to IEA conclusions that no further fossil fuel projects are needed or can be permitted if the world is to achieve net zero. It also runs contrary to both AEMO’s 2020 Integrated System Plan for the energy market and their 2022 draft ISP. And it runs counter to the wishes of the Australian people, 82% of whom reported on survey in 2021 that they supported a phase out of coal fired power stations⁶⁹.** If implemented, the federal government’s “Plan to Deliver Net Zero: The Australian Way” will result in total failure on temperature targets in the Paris Agreement.

Recent studies by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney have demonstrated that if policies are set to signal a future for renewables, the renewable energy industry could create 20,000 extra jobs in the next five years, increasing the total jobs from the current 25,000 to 45,000⁷⁰. AEMO’s has developed a “step plan” to help make that a reality.⁷¹

However, the speed of Australia’s shift to an electricity grid powered by renewable energy is likely to be too slow to keep temperature increases within the 1.5oC to 2.0oC required under the Paris Agreement. Two major factors that will slow decarbonisation in Australia include our failure to stop fossil fuel subsidies and our failure to reintroduce a price on carbon.

With a carbon price Australia could look forward to excellent prices and income to be gained for the nation, and particularly for its farmers, merely for planting trees on land not useful for food and fibre production. But instead, everything in Australian federal policy is set against pricing the very thing we could sell domestically and internationally at very good prices – carbon permits. Year after year, Australians are being put upon to subsidise fossil fuels even though the days when subsidies for fossil fuels will produce a better return than investment in renewables are over.



⁶⁹ Australia Institute, [Climate of the Nation 2021](#).

⁷⁰ UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures & Clean Energy Council, [Renewable Energy Jobs in Australia, Stage 1](#), June 2020.

⁷¹ Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), [Integrated System Plan 2020](#).

Issue No. 15 – Environmental decline

Degradation of Australia's magnificent natural environment has accelerated dramatically since the arrival of Europeans in Australia. According to the Australian Museum, ecosystems lost in the last 200 years include:

- 75% of rainforests and nearly 50% of all forests;
- over 60% of coastal wetlands in southern and eastern Australia;
- nearly 90% of temperate woodlands and mallee;
- more than 99% of south-eastern Australia's temperate lowland grasslands;
- over 83% of Tasmania's lowland grasslands and grassy woodlands;
- about 95% of brigalow scrub that originally grew in Queensland; and
- over 90% of Victoria's grasslands.

And the **rate** of decline in our biodiversity is increasing. In the nation's most recent State of the Environment Report in 2016 it was reported that, "Most jurisdictions consider the status of threatened species to be poor and the trend to be declining."

Recent decline of Australia's biodiversity				
	Threatened 2019	Threatened 2021	Extinct 2019	Extinct 2021
Fauna	463	478	54	67
Flora	1336	1362	37	37

This, however, is bound to be an under-representation of the facts, because

- the federal government does not have a good track record in data collection, and
- data collection pre-dates the 2019/20 east coast bushfires.

The bushfires burnt out 97,000 square kilometres of vegetation – habitat for 832 species of native vertebrate fauna. Seventy animal types had more than 30% of their habitat impacted and 21 of these were already listed as threatened with extinction.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has analysed historical data at least up until 2010 and has gleaned enough to state that "Australia has experienced the largest documented decline in biodiversity of any continent over the past 200 years." The finding is all the more alarming, bearing in mind the United Nations Report handed down in 2019 which stated that "The global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years and is accelerating." To be the worst among a really bad lot is surely damning.



State and federal policy responses show no signs of attempts to retrieve the situation. Despite the growth in numbers of listed endangered species, at least three state governments, Queensland, NSW and Victoria have presided over continued land clearing and forest logging which has significantly impacted ecological communities. In NSW alone, where the state government introduced new legislation in 2016, ostensibly "to arrest and ultimately reverse the current decline in the state's biodiversity" specifically by slowing the rate of land clearing, land clearing has accelerated.

In only two years from 2016, the area of land cleared under the Biodiversity Conservation Act in NSW exceeded the area set aside for conservation by a factor of ten. The federal development approval system under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 operates with similarly devastating impacts.

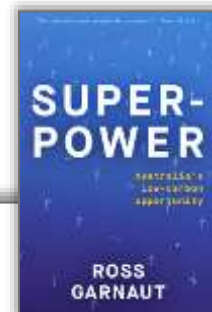
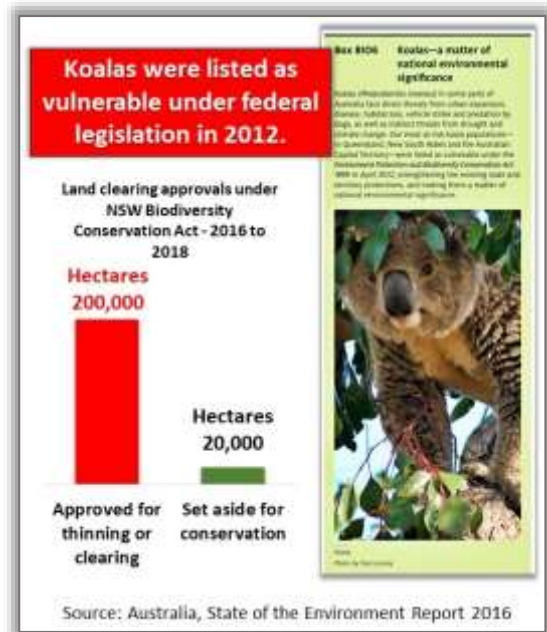
Policy and regulation for biodiversity protection is in tatters. In 2020 the Australian National Audit Office released an audit report on the government's management of approvals of controlled activities under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The report was scathing in its findings on the use of an "offset system" for controlling the impact of development on biodiversity. These "offsets" do not guarantee replacement habitat for threatened species or ecosystems and corruption and profiteering from the system is increasing. Administrators are giving approvals for destruction on a grand scale, and then failing to gather data to monitor impacts or compliance.

Australians are given little opportunity for insight into the entirely unnecessary impact of flora and fauna loss on their economy. Planning for economic development assumes biodiversity must be disregarded. But **environmental renewal is now the biggest enabler of economic growth. Landowners could soon make far more money from planting a tree than cutting one down, but only if we reintroduce a price on carbon, as has been recommended by our most credible economists and business owners.**

By repealing the carbon price in 2014, Australia has pulled itself out of an incredibly lucrative opportunity. But we can take full advantage of that opportunity once again if only we make the right choice between two diametrically opposed paths to the future:

Two choices:

1. We can choose simply to put the trees back on the land that we know is not well suited to agriculture, re-establish ecological communities and watch our natural environment make money for us simply by thriving – simply by storing carbon naturally and selling the product of carbon farming – which is carbon credits.
2. Or we can choose to continue ripping our land to pieces, we can keep extinguishing biodiversity, and we can watch the economy and our natural resources spiral into decline together.



"The Australian emissions trading scheme was due to be integrated into the European one from 1 July 2014. Those arrangements went into hibernation with Australian carbon pricing. If something like them were brought back to life, we could now expect Australia to be a rapidly expanding exporter of goods embodying renewable energy, and to be engaged in close discussion of adjustments in rules to allow large-scale trade in legitimate carbon credits from the land sector. We can make a significant start on developing an important carbon farming industry through domestic markets, and go further when policy change allows large-scale international trade in carbon credits."

Ross Garnaut, Super-power

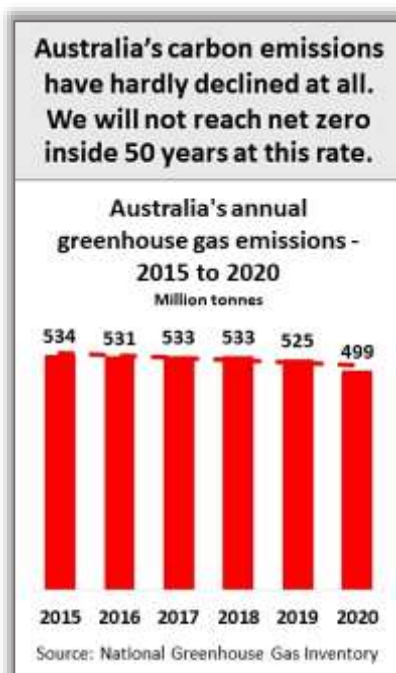
The choice is easy. It is Australia's very great good fortune that we don't have to sacrifice our environment to save our economy. On the contrary, we can only save our economy by saving our environment.

Issue No. 16 – Climate policy failure

Australia, every other country, and the planet are all in serious trouble due to climate change. But we can fix it if Australia plays a fair part with other nations. It is still possible to prevent planetary heating above 1.5° Celsius, just as we agreed to do with every other nation when Australia signed the Paris Agreement in 2015. But this means **Australia and the world will need to achieve net zero carbon emissions not by 2050 but by about the year 2033** – or sooner depending on when we start with strategies necessary to stop the heating.

Australia has made no progress in emissions reduction since signing the Paris Agreement. With the exception of the 2020 year which saw a sizeable drop in Australia's carbon emissions due to the Covid-19 lockdowns, a drop we may expect to disappear when the pandemic is over, our domestic emission trends have remained generally flat, reducing by only 1.7% in total between 2015 and 2019. We won't reach net zero inside 50 years at this rate. And every year we delay shaves a year off our time for dealing with the heating problem.

A second imperative is that **if we are to honour our commitment in Paris, we will need to ensure that Australia does not exceed a total carbon budget of about 3.5 billion tonnes of emissions. In other words we will have to achieve net zero without emitting more than this total tonnage of carbon between 2020 and 2033. In fact we have to emit no more than this ever.** Otherwise, Australia will be emitting far more than its fair share of the remaining global stock of carbon emissions.



The whole object of the exercise of reducing emissions is to get the heating to stop. We won't do that if we insist on emitting more than a fair share of what's left of the world's safe limit of carbon emissions. Australia's fair share is no more than 3.5 billion tonnes of emissions between 2020 and whenever we reach net zero emissions.

For more information on Australia's fair share of the remaining carbon the world can emit before global heating will rise above 1.5° Celsius, view these videos on YouTube:

The State of Australia in 2020 Episode 6, Part 2 – Climate policy failure and how to fix it by global leadership	What's at stake at COP26? Everything!	Snapshots from Australia Together, Episode 1 – A plan for fixing climate change
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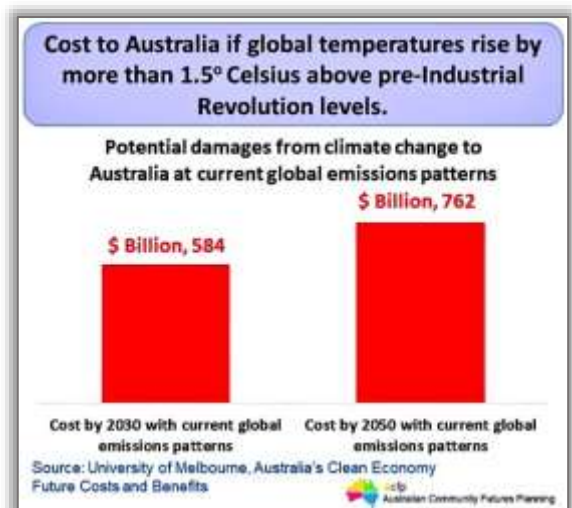
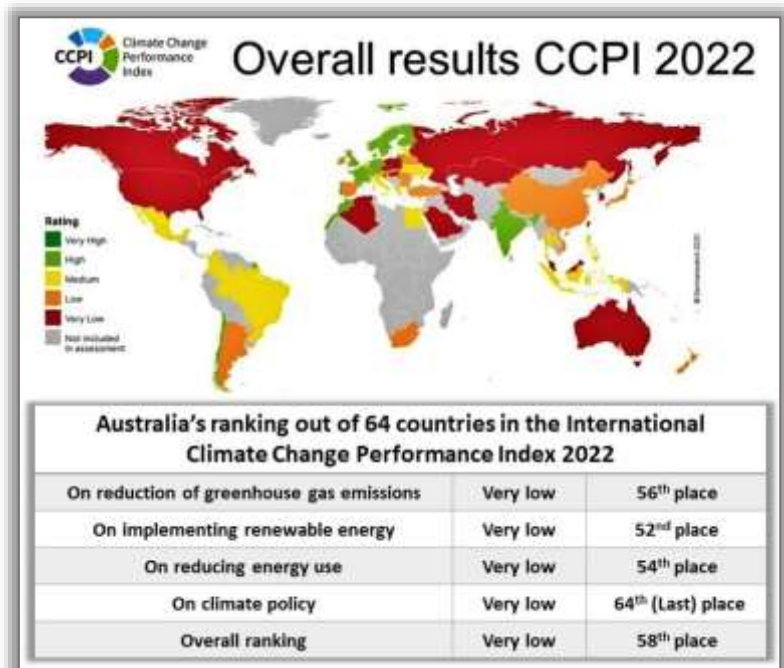


Australia's progress towards becoming a net zero carbon emissions nations and a renewable energy super-power has been abysmal due to the fact that political parties, particularly the Liberal and National parties, have turned the issue of climate change into a weapon to be deployed in the culture wars that have replaced political debate in our national life. But this has effectively become a war against the future of the Australian people and their country, homes, lives and livelihoods. The "climate wars" as they are now called have been prosecuted by fossil fuel companies, their lobbyists and peak business and industry associations in league with the conservative governments of prime ministers Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison. The climate wars started most notably in 2014 with the repeal of the carbon price by the Abbott government purely for political gain. This has robbed Australians of many billions in national income that could have accrued from carbon trading and has possibly robbed us of the chance to reach net zero emissions before global heating exceeds 1.5° Celsius. In short it may have robbed us of a liveable planet.

In 2022 Australia is listed last in the world CCPI for climate change policy and ranks at the very low end of the scale for all areas of performance necessary to prevent climate change and its impacts. Throughout the 46th parliament we have continued to slip to the bottom of the Index.

This uncooperative stance on climate change, combined with a persistent failure to protect Australia's unique biodiversity, are the biggest threats to the nation's future prosperity and economic strength, as the University of Melbourne has made clear in research about the cost of the world's current trajectory of carbon emissions reduction⁷². In 2020, researchers were able to quantify these potential losses to Australia at \$584 billion by 2030 and \$762 billion by 2050. These losses are entirely unnecessary.

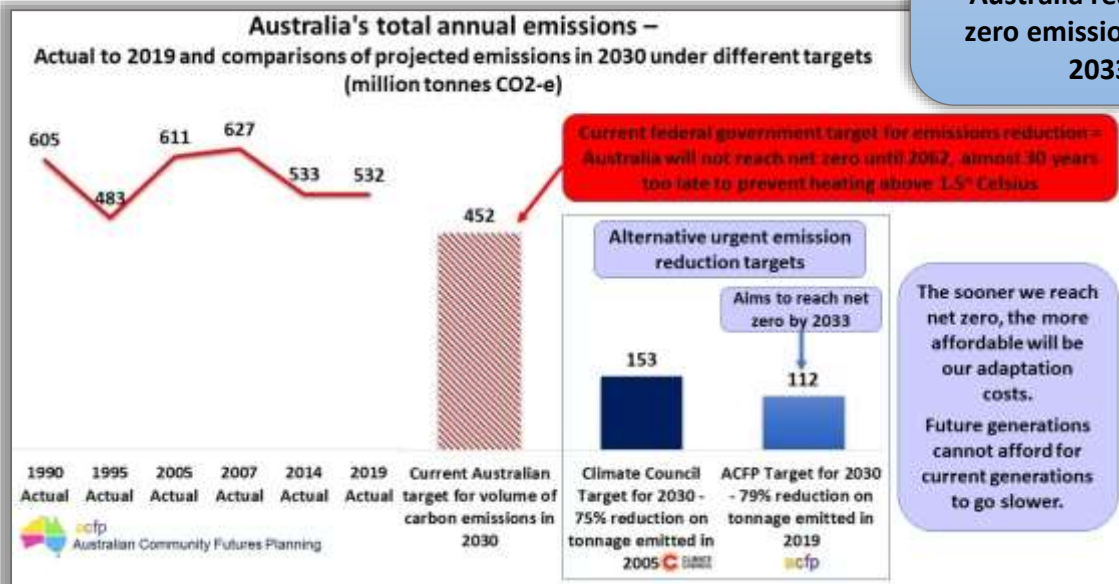
Because Australia has so seriously delayed reducing its emissions, the annual reductions required to ensure that Australia at least does the minimum necessary in cooperation with other countries to cap temperature increases at 1.5° Celsius will now need to be much higher and faster than they would have been if we had started reducing emissions in 2000. However, due to recent large scale bushfires and floods, Australians have by and large turned to governments to reduce emissions urgently.



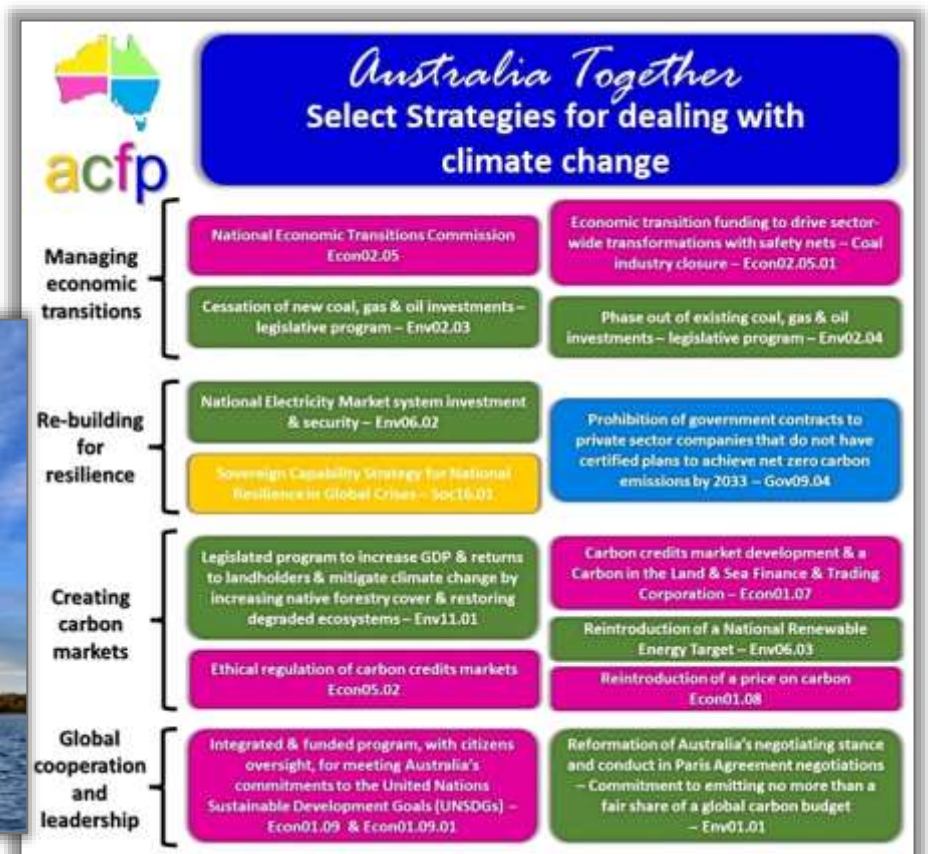
⁷² University of Melbourne, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, "Australia's Clean Economy Future: Costs and Benefits", June 2019, <https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/publications/issues-papers/australias-clean-economy>

There is a growing recognition that Australia has arrived at a point where failure to meet ambitious emissions reduction targets will make climate change adaptation unaffordable for future generations.

But unaffordable bills and lifestyle devastation can still be avoided if Australia reaches net zero emissions before 2033.



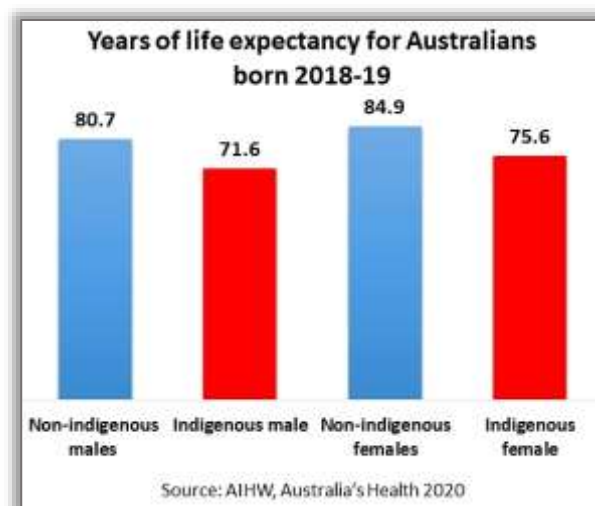
Australia needs major institutional change and economic transition if we are to deal with climate change. For this reason, an **integrated plan** is being mapped out in *Australia Together* for strategies that will help communities and business to manage economic transitions, build resilience and preparedness, create new markets in carbon to replace lost fossil fuel exports, and establish Australia as a global leader in prevention of planetary heating above 1.5°C. [View fact sheets and videos here.](#)



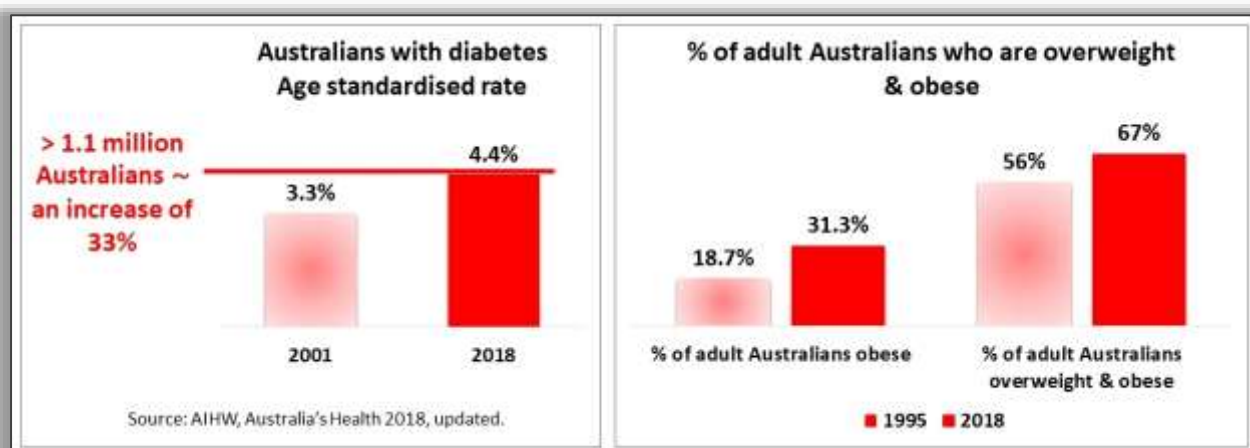
Issue No. 17 – Declining health and safety at home

The life expectancy of Australians is among the best in the world on average, unless you are an Indigenous Australian. Australian men and women live for around nine years longer on average than Indigenous Australians.

And although we have a good public health and hospital system by world standards, we are experiencing increases in the incidence of some critical health problems, such as diabetes and obesity. The incidence of diabetes among Australians has increased by almost 50% since 2001. Over 1.1 million Australians now suffer from diabetes.

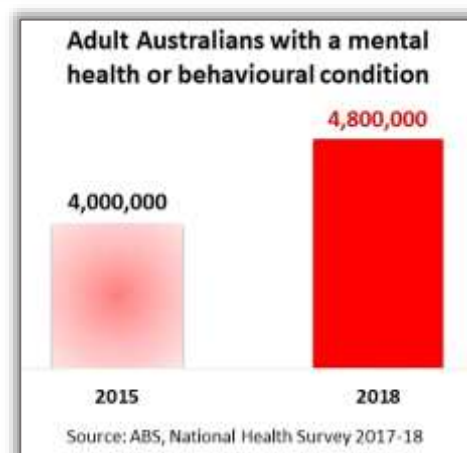


And since 1995, the proportion of adults aged 18 years and over who were overweight or obese increased from 56% to 67%. Most of the increase was from people shifting from being merely overweight to suffering full-on obesity. The rate of obesity in adult Australians increased by 66% between 1995 and 2018.



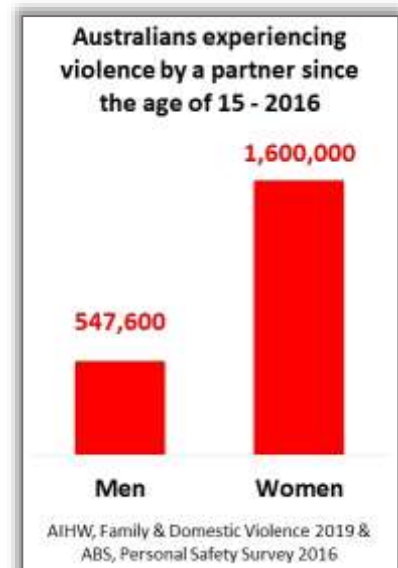
But perhaps one of the most challenging facts about our health and wellbeing is that in 2015, 4 million or 17.5% of Australians had a mental or behavioural condition. This then increased in only three years to 4.8 million. 20% of Australians had a mental or behavioural condition in 2018. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Survey in 2018 showed this increase was due predominantly to a rise in the number of people with anxiety-related conditions or depression.

These sorts of health issues have ramifications throughout the entirety of our lives, particularly on family cohesion, something which shows up nowhere more clearly than it does in trends of domestic abuse.



Trends in domestic abuse in Australia are not easily observable because some states simply don't report on trends, and data gaps are substantial. But what is known is that:

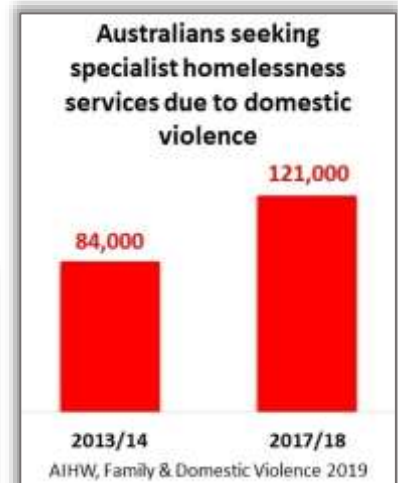
- In 2016/17, 4,600 women and 1,700 men were hospitalised due to family and domestic violence.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the National Homicide Monitoring Program recorded 213 domestic homicide victims. This increased slightly in the next year when 218 victims were reported killed.
- In 2016–17, there were 611 hospitalisations of children aged 0–14 for injuries due to domestic abuse, including 156 Indigenous children.
- In 2016, the ABS reported that 6% of men (547,600) and 17% of women (1.6 million) had experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15.
- 23% or 2.2 million women and 16% or 1.4 million men reported they had experienced emotional abuse by a partner since the age of 15.



Given all this it shouldn't be surprising that nationally, the number of Australians reporting that because of domestic violence they had sought assistance from specialist homelessness services rose from 84,800 people in 2014 to 121,000 in 2018. This has occurred at the same time as there has been a recorded **decrease** in services specific to female domestic violence sufferers and a slow withdrawal of federal funding.

By 2019, “more than 1 in 2 women in Australia were being turned away from crisis accommodation every night.”

Women's Community Shelters homepage 2019



What we are witnessing here is a slow societal breakdown and an embedding of inequality. Australia's Prime Minister proudly stated on New Year's Day in 2020, “that there is no better place to raise kids anywhere on the planet”. But the truth is there are many better places in the developed world to raise children. Some countries, including ones less wealthy than Australia, are doing much better. Data from UNICEF in 2007 (the latest comparative data available), showed clearly that in terms of both the health and safety and material wellbeing of children, Australia scored below the average of 25 economically advanced OECD countries.



Australia also had the second highest percentage of households with children without an employed parent and has since made this worse for families with children, by freezing Newstart/Jobseeker so that it has failed to keep pace with the costs of living and housing, and by transferring single parents from the Parenting Payment to the lower Newstart payment, deepening poverty and exclusion for children from these families.

Child disadvantage in Australia has shown up in the trend of decline in school educational attainment.

Issue No. 18 – Declining educational attainment

In 2018, Australia scored in the bottom third of developed countries for equality of attendance at preschool, and educational attainment in primary and secondary school.

We were ranked 30th out of 38 rich countries, indicating that the disparity of educational attainment across all three levels of pre-school enrolment, primary school reading scores and secondary school reading scores was comparatively and unhealthily wide.

Australia has a greater proportion of our children left at the bottom of the literacy scale than 29 other developed countries.

Australian children attend preschool *less* than 35 other wealthy OECD countries.

Source: UNICEF: Innocenti Report Card 15, 2018

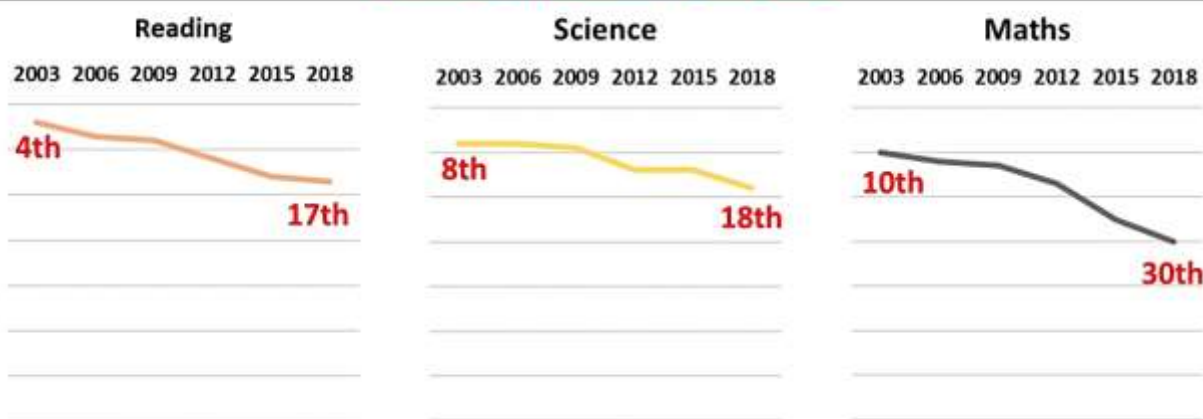


“According to the OECD, 15-year-olds who report having had more than one year of pre-primary education do substantially better at reading than those with no pre-primary education, even after accounting for the child's economic and social position.”

This poor attendance rate for pre-school education translates through life to lower educational attainment, an outcome reflected in Australia's scores in the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment – otherwise known as PISA scores. The scores of students aged 15 years in Australia have been dropping consistently since 2003 in reading, science and maths.

Australia's ranking in PISA scores out of more 70 OECD countries

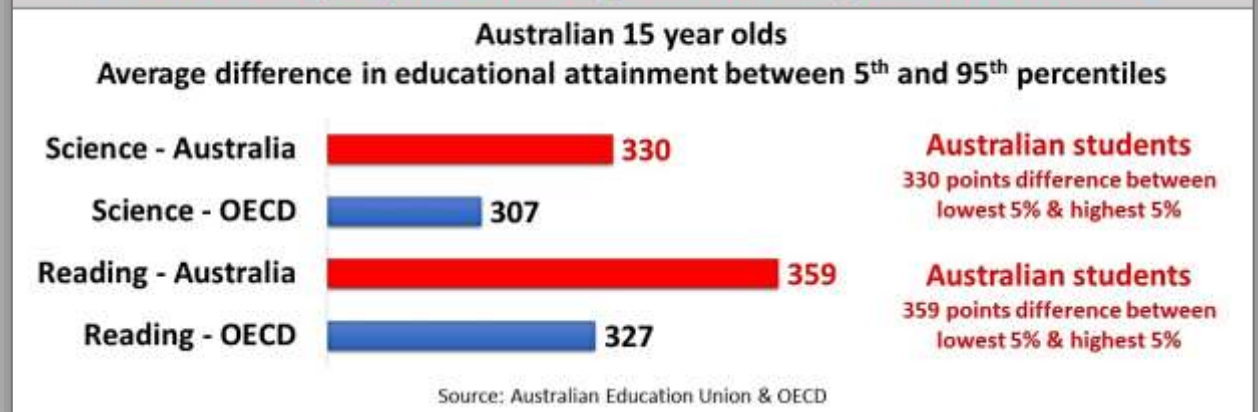
Consistently declining since 2003



Source: OECD & Wikipedia, PISA Program

The OECD's 2018 report on PISA scores also shows that the gap between the highest and lowest achievers in Australian schools is significantly greater than the OECD average. **We are plumbing new depths of inequality in education leaving more and more of our kids at the bottom.** In Australia the average difference between the 5th and 95th percentiles for Scientific Literacy is 330 points, greater than the OECD average which is 307 points. For Reading Literacy the difference between the 5th and 95th percentiles in Australia is 359 points but the OECD average is only 327 points.

Educational inequality in Australia is greater than many other OECD countries.



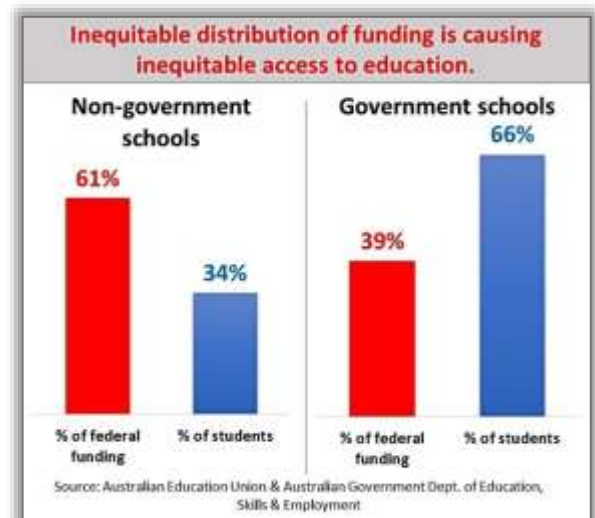
This inequality has coincided and indeed been caused by an excessive focus by some state governments on students already doing well and little or no stated focus on those stuck at the bottom. This is a state and federal government failure, not a teacher failure.

The NSW government is a particular but not singular culprit in this institutional neglect having set “Premier’s Priorities” for education which focus purely on getting more children from the second highest band into the top band of NAPLAN scores to the almost total exclusion of strategies that help those most in need at the bottom. Years of this focus has resulted in no improvement whatsoever in average scores in either PISA or NAPLAN. On several measures, scores have simply got worse. Across Australia average scores have either barely improved or have stagnated.

NAPLAN – Mean scores for Australian children Change from 2008 to 2019				
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	Slight improvement	Slight improvement	No change	No change
Numeracy	No change	No change	Slight improvement	No change

The problem has been unconscionably aggravated by inequitable distribution of federal funding to privileged schools over schools with less privileged students. In the federal government’s distribution of our taxes:

- 61% of funding is going to non-government schools even though they teach only 34% of the students.
- Only 39% of our taxpayer funded support for schools is going to government schools, even though they teach 66% of students.



This leaves the states struggling to fund state schools and supporting private schools as well. And although the totality of state and federal government funding is 70% for government schools, the inequity is still clear in that those attending privileged private schools are being subsidised more than is necessary. Parents who pay exorbitant fees for the private school education of their children (fees which have already reached up to an astonishing \$40,000 per student per annum in NSW) are not taking the burden off the taxpayer or funding their children’s education on their own. They are simply paying for a luxury level of education which others cannot afford and which in fact others are

missing out on because they are subsidising private school education for the already privileged. This is not the fair go for all.

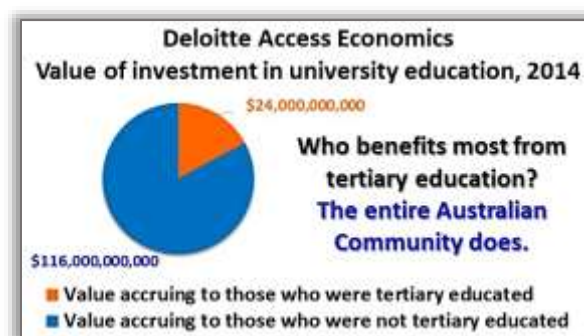
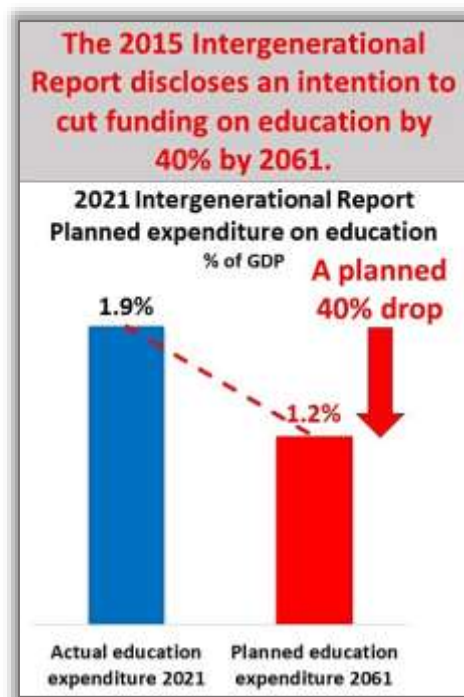
At a certain point, luxury for some in education needs to be funded entirely by the privileged wealthy and not by the taxpayer. At present Australia so obviously does not have this balance worked out well enough to lift those who are less privileged to a level of educational attainment that will enable them to reach their full potential in life. Nor are there plans in place in 2022 to address funding needs for education. Instead, the federal government is planning major funding cuts for education.

Australians are very likely to be expecting that their children and grandchildren will be able to afford an education in 2050. But alas, in the fine print of the most recent “Intergenerational Reports” from federal Treasurers in 2015 and 2021 it is apparent that the longer term planning is being set to cut education funding, as a proportion of GDP, by 40% by 2061.

Budgets since 2014 have been pursuing this trend. It was well underway before the government’s refusal to help universities in the Coronavirus pandemic made the situation instantly much worse. If there is a shred of truth that Australia is the best country to raise a child, by 2050 that will have evaporated if we keep following the “plan” set out in the 2015 and 2021 Intergenerational Reports.

Finally, the federal government’s attacks on the tertiary education sector severely disadvantage Australian students compared to other developed countries. Not only did the attacks result in the loss of an estimated 40,000 jobs in the sector (35,000 in universities and another 5,000 in vocational education⁷³), they will inevitably result in economic loss for Australia and a lower standard of living for everyone. In its 2021/22 budget, the federal government doubled down on its attack by setting the tertiary education budget to decline by 9% over the four years to 2024/25. Over the same period, vocational and other education was set to be cut by 26%.

But from the point of view of economic growth and standards of living, there is absolutely no benefit in cutting expenditure on tertiary education. As Deloitte Access Economics has pointed out, the value accruing to Australia’s total productive capacity in 2014 due to tertiary education was \$140 billion, of which only \$24 billion accrued to the tertiary educated themselves. The “spillover effects”, it found, meant that for every one percentage point increase in the number of workers with a university degree, the wages of those without tertiary qualifications rose 1.6 to 1.9 per cent.⁷⁴ That’s a far bigger contribution to wages growth, per dollar invested, than the current government has managed with its investments in fossil fuels since 2014.



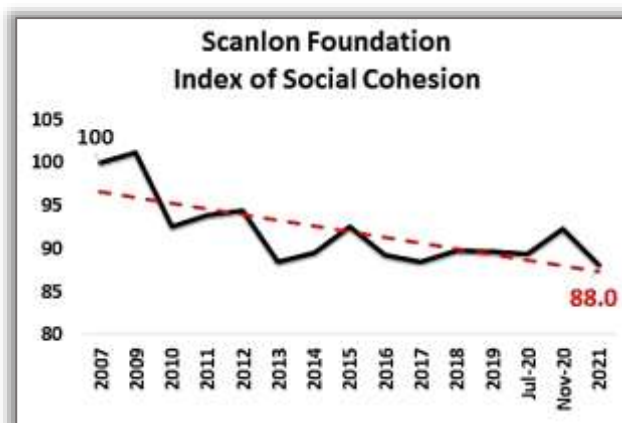
⁷³ The Australia Institute, [An Avoidable Catastrophe: Pandemic Job Losses in Higher Education and their Consequences](#), September 2021.

⁷⁴ Source: Mike Secombe, “Turnbull’s war on universities”, The Saturday Paper, 6-12 May 2017

Issue No. 19 – Declining quality of life and loss of social cohesion

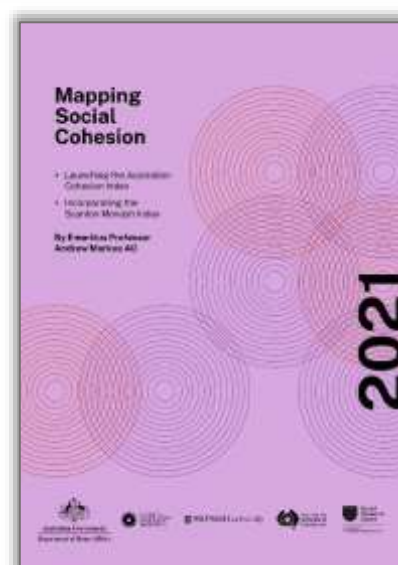
Australia's social cohesion is in decline, having improved only once in the history of surveys undertaken by the Scanlon Foundation – way back in 2009. Thereafter it has been mostly downhill for Australia's sense of social cohesion and has been noticeably downhill in terms of attitudes to immigration, multiculturalism and diversity (see Issue No. 4 above).

The current score for our social cohesion on the Scanlon Index is the lowest in the history of the survey.⁷⁵



In 2021, Australia's federal government attempted, with funding from the Department of Home Affairs, to "redraw the map of social cohesion" by establishing the "Australian Cohesion Index". This new index incorporated the Scanlon Index of Social Cohesion as a set of "subjective" measures of cohesion and added in 24 other "objective" measures of a cohesive society.

It was noted that the new combined Index would measure "more significant things regarding human life than just the market value of commodities bought and sold [GDP]".⁷⁶ This new development is in line with what several other countries including Canada and the UK have been doing in establishing monitoring programs for wellbeing and cohesion. Each takes a different approach to selection of indicators and in "Mapping Social Cohesion 2021" it is noted that:



there is considerable variance in the number of domains and indicators, and the balance of objective and subjective indicators. The simplest indexes comprise only one indicator, such as the World Happiness Report, which uses a self-assessed level of happiness (rated on a scale of 0 to 10) obtained from the Gallup World Poll, which ranks 95 countries by their level of happiness. In contrast the OECD's How's Life? Report comprises 15 domains and over 80 indicators. The Canadian Index comprises 8 domains, with 8 indicators in each, heavily weighted towards objective indicators, comprising 55 objective and 9 subjective indicators. The UK National Wellbeing Dashboard comprises 24 objective and 17 subjective indicators.

In comparison to these, the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index – with 265 Indicators, Targets and Strategies (and growing) – is significantly more complex. It incorporates the same types of Indicators in the above mentioned indexes but it is able to hold and validate many more because it adds the perspective of the future.

⁷⁵ Note that lower scores were registered in the Scanlon Survey in 2018 and 2019, during the period of changeover from (and overlap of) one data collection methodology (RDD) to a new one (Lin A). ACFP has worked with the higher scores for those two years. See Scanlon Foundation, [Mapping Social Cohesion](#).

⁷⁶ Australian Government, Monash University, Scanlon Foundation, Emeritus Professor Andrew Markus, et al., [Mapping Social Cohesion 2021, Part 2](#).

The abovementioned Indexes do not set targets. They are in essence, aimless. By contrast the *Australia Together* National Wellbeing Index comprises indicators that must be monitored if we are to isolate weaknesses in our overall wellbeing – weaknesses which will disable our progress towards a preferred future if they are not attended to soon enough. Using these indicators, it aims to answer these main questions:

1. Are we moving towards or away from our preferred future?
2. Are we moving along the safe routes or are we straying into danger?

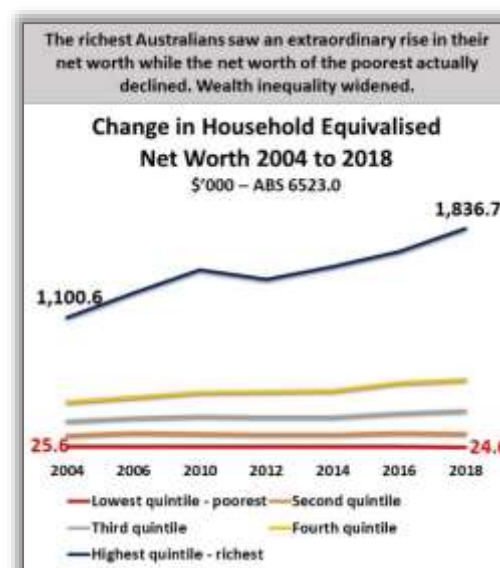
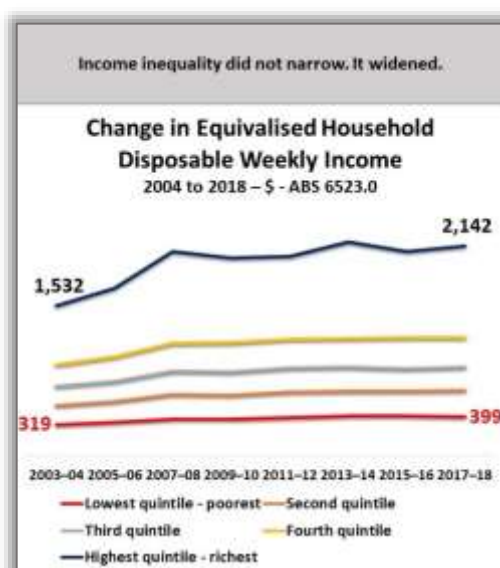
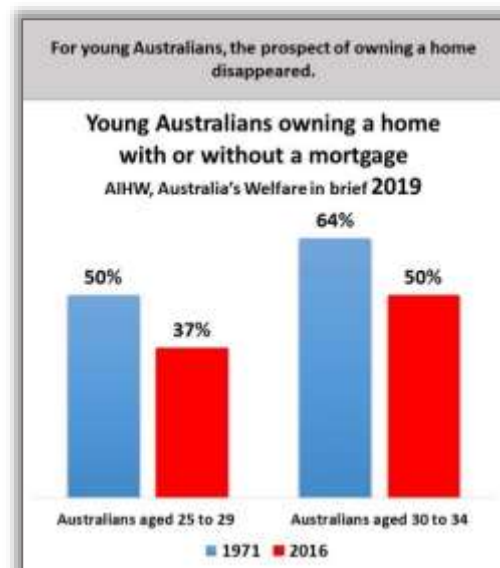
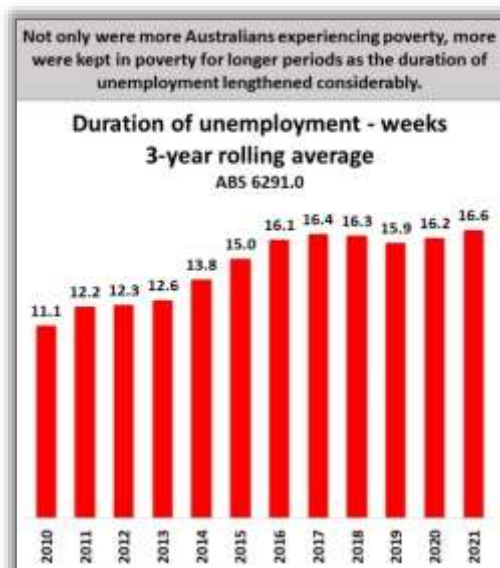
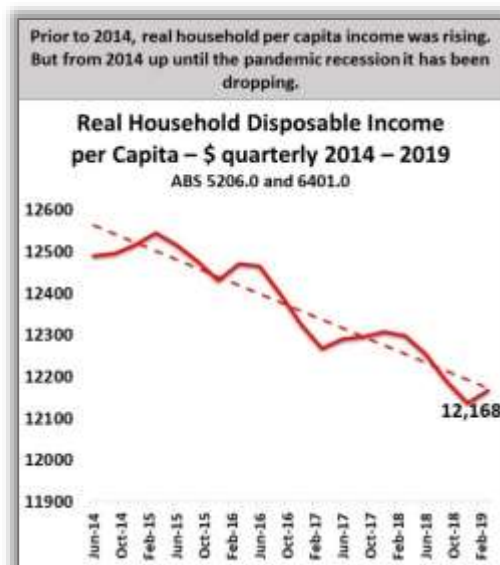
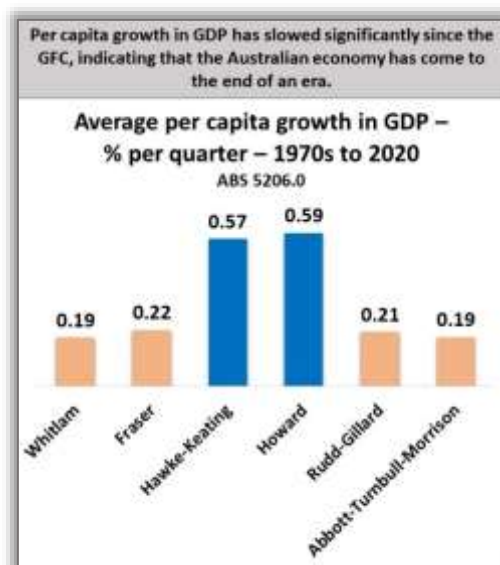


The simpler and more straightforward dashboards of wellbeing are useful for determining whether we are getting better or worse on a relatively small number of parameters. But at the same time they do not reflect complexity. They also tend to stop us from seeing things as soon as we need to if we are to stay on course to a better future. And because of the extreme selectivity of the indicators they can be misused for political purposes with relative ease. Bright pictures of progress can be painted when perhaps they shouldn't. Conversely, pessimistic conclusions can be drawn when they shouldn't, particularly if they prevent identification of the strengths that are actually present in a nation and that should be capitalised on. A good wellbeing index needs to give it to us straight.

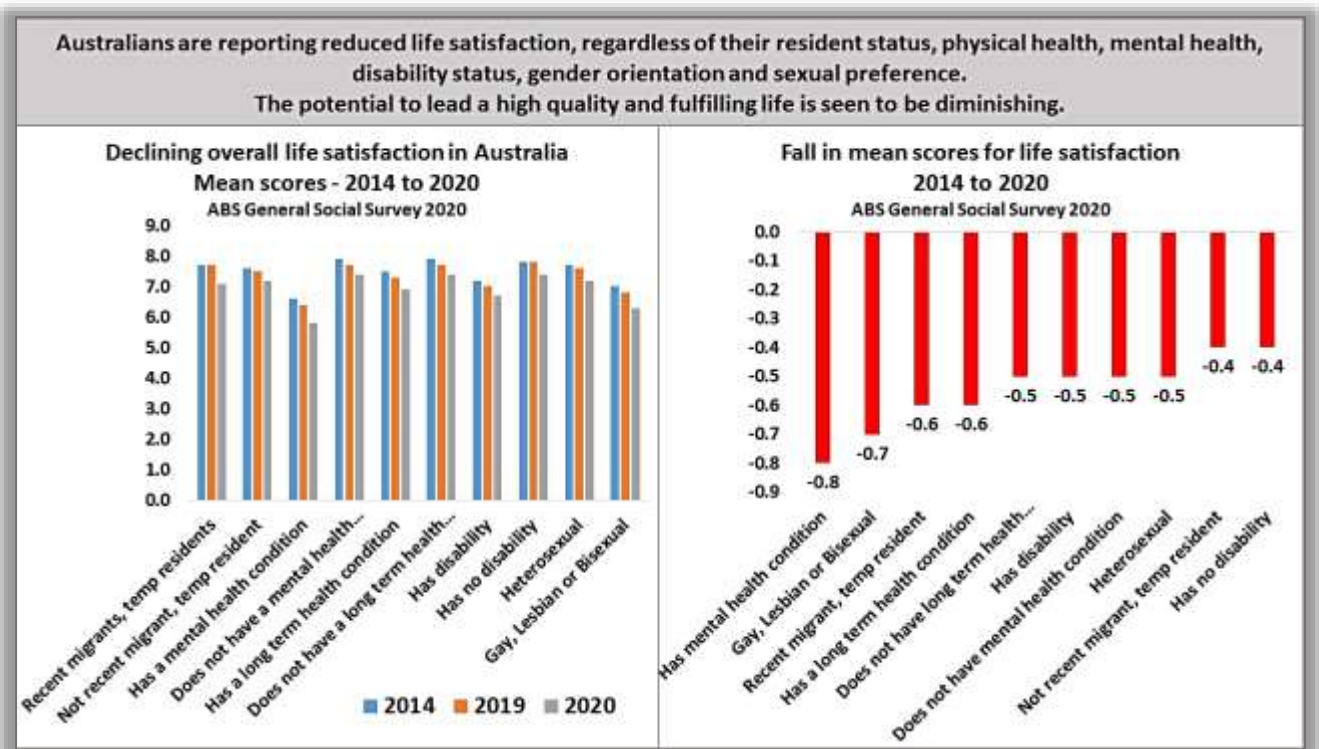
However it has to be said that **when it comes to painting accurate pictures of our quality of life and social cohesion, the inaugural Australian Cohesion Index may obscure somewhat more than it reveals.** For instance, the indicators selected to monitor material conditions relate to income and assets and the ultimate results are published as a positive gain between 2008 and 2018. The implication is:

- that economic growth per capita is improving – when in the broader trend, it is not;
- that household incomes are growing substantially – when in the broader trend they are not;
- that poverty is declining – when in the broader trend it is not; and
- that income inequality is lessening – when in the broader trend it is not.

The fuller picture of our quality of life on these factors can be seen over time:

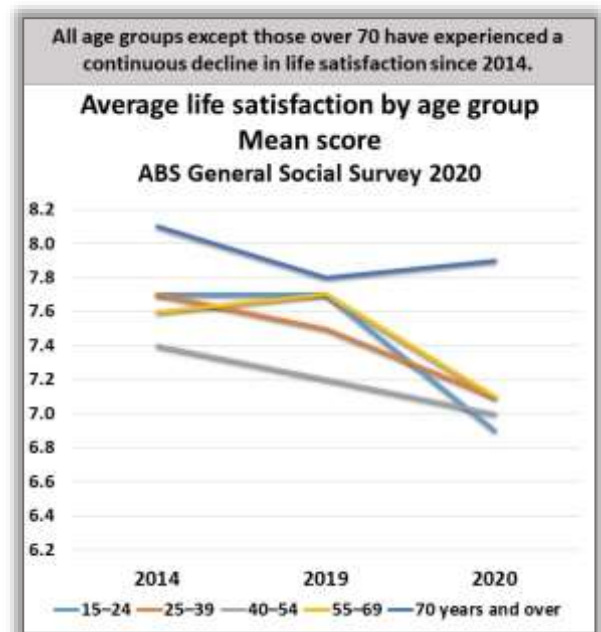


These results and myriad others do not indicate that we are on course to an improving quality of life. Nor does it seem that Australians feel that to be the case. In all ABS General Social Surveys since 2014 all groups of Australians except those aged over 70 years have reported continuous drops in life satisfaction.



What we are witnessing here is not “social cohesion in broadly solid shape, despite COVID-19”, as claimed in the Scanlon Foundation website headline on release of Mapping Social Cohesion 2021⁷⁷. There are distinct and sizeable misgivings across all groups. This should be attended to sooner rather than later.

The Scanlon Index makes a call that social cohesion is solid based on “the high – although declining – level of support for government, the high level of trust in fellow citizens, the level of economic satisfaction, and optimism for the future.” And it is happily true that from the onset of Covid-19 there has been a sudden reversal in trends of distrust of governments and economic pessimism. This may have arisen from our experience of bushfires, floods and a pandemic in which it became more obvious to many that, within our federation structure, our safety at home relies somewhat more on state government capability than it does on federal government services and our economic security relies more heavily on federal government fiscal stimulus. A new appreciation for the structure of our federation has emerged along with a new awareness of the benefits of



⁷⁷ Scanlon Foundation [2021 Mapping Social Cohesion](https://www.scanlonfoundation.org/2021-mapping-social-cohesion) website.

having the government sector participate in the economy much more than would be preferred by adherents of neoliberalism.

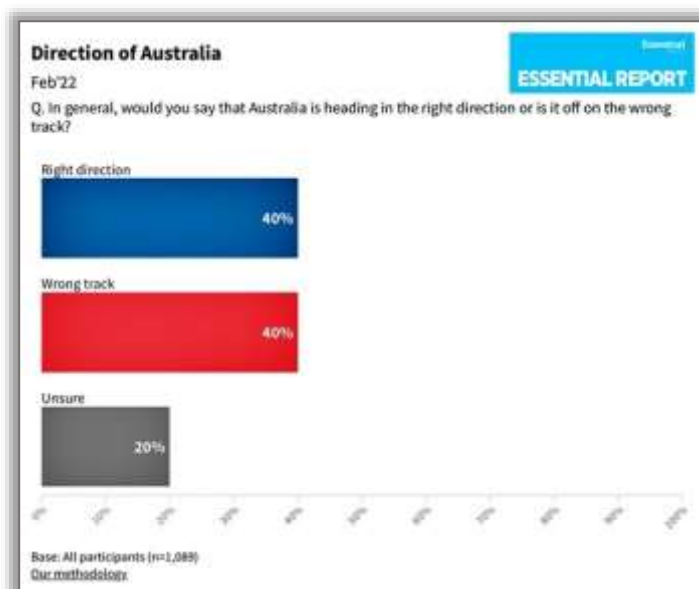
If we are to ensure that this new-found optimism and trust is not simply a one-off, then in 2022, it is evident that the level of government requiring the most reform is the federal level, especially insofar as in policy orientation it has demonstrated:

- distinct unwillingness to recognise the dead weight placed on our economy and our quality of life by thirty years of neoliberalism;
- inaction on stemming corruption;
- stubborn refusal to address climate change; and
- willingness to beat the drums of war.

A society capable of addressing such weaknesses will need to be a more closely aligned across cultures, ages and genders than we are in 2022.

Despite evident new-found trust in each other and glimmers of willingness to work together for a better quality of life for all, it is still of significant concern that, after more than a decade of what are routinely recognised now as “culture wars”, **Australia is now a distinctly divided society on the issue of whether we are headed in the right direction.** This observation must be qualified insofar as there is no agreed articulation either of the direction we are actually headed in or the direction we would prefer to head in. But either way, it does not reflect a cohesive society. It is more an indication of the fragility of our democracy and our capacity to keep it all together.

Willingness to work together is clearly present but our capacity to do so is not yet secured.



In 2022, multiple surveys indicate that fewer Australians are viewing Australia as a land of opportunity with positive prospects for them. There is clear consensus that younger generations will be less well off than their parents. Perceptions about longer term economic prospects vary from year to year but the longer term trend is clearly negative and the speed with which recent optimism may have already turned sour is reflected in the fact that the federal election of 2022 is shaping up to be fought over the issue of the cost of living.

Australians coalesce in a view that the gap between rich and poor is too wide. Inequality is the central breakdown point of our social cohesion. It is reducing the positive effect of everything good that we manage to do together, and this at a time when Australians are not yet confident that our system of democratic governance is strong. The evidence is that our democracy is considered to be fragile and perhaps on the brink of turning towards civil unrest. The prospect that peaceful transfers of power may be disrupted as they were in the 6 January 2021 insurrection in America is not one to be ignored. Populist demonstrations in Canberra in early 2022 involving property destruction do not bode well. There is a need to improve the way we utilise our democracy. This can be done with National Integrated Planning & Reporting. It can help recognise the signs of discontent and prepare us better for the future.

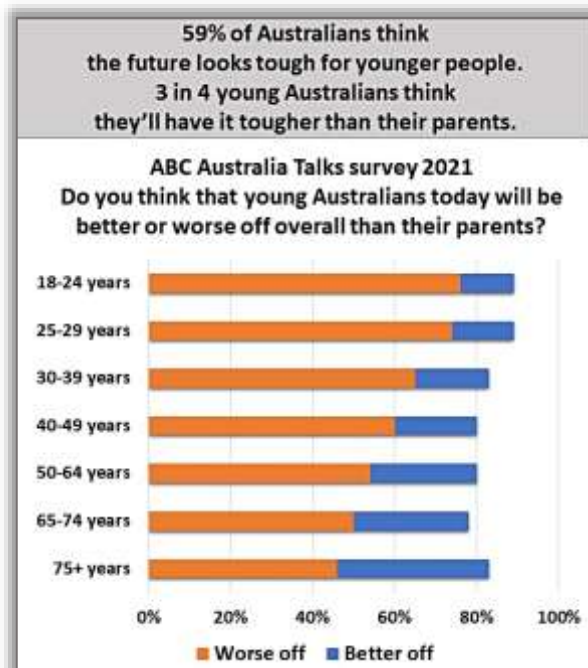
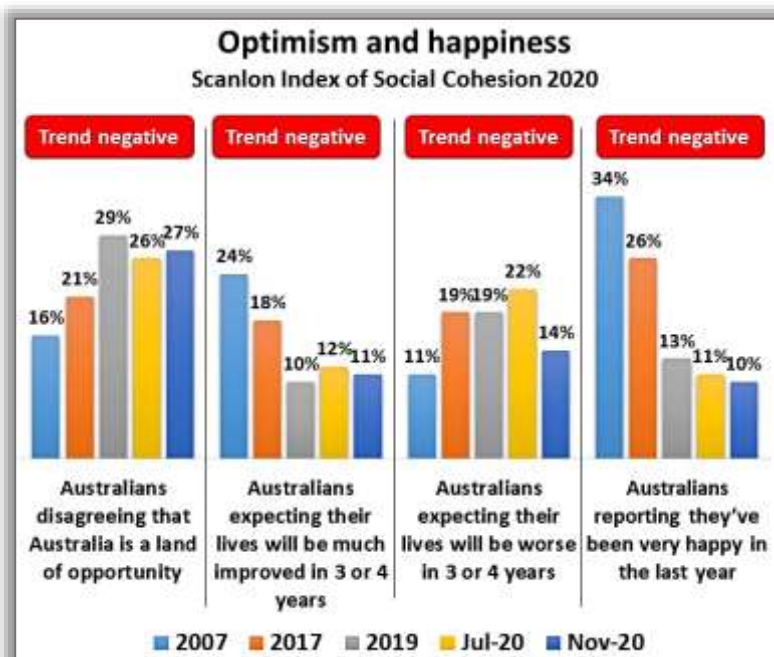
Issue No. 20 – Declining wellbeing and happiness

Wellbeing and happiness seem to be set on a downward slide for Australians. Our optimism and expectations that our lives will get better in the future are diminishing.

For instance, those disagreeing with the proposition that Australia is a land of economic opportunity where hard work is rewarded have nearly doubled since 2007, indicating that more Australians now feel they are being left behind. This applies particularly to the young. **All age groups agree that the future looks tough for younger people.**

Fewer Australians have confidence that their lives will be better in three or four years and overall we do not trust our governments to build a resilient and cohesive Australia. Evidence abounds that, post-Covid, many Australians trust government more than they used to. But while in 2021 we may have briefly trusted that governments will deal well with a crisis in the present, (at least until the recent floods in eastern Australia), there is no evidence that Australians believe their governments can be trusted to deal with future challenges, particularly climate change.

The ABC's giant-sized Australia Talks 2021 Survey of 60,000 Australians, for instance, showed that 63% of us rated climate change as a big problem, but sadly 68% of us thought Australia was "doing poorly" at addressing it. Likewise, the Lowy Institute Poll in 2021 found that 61% of Australians thought climate change would pose a critical threat to our interests in the next decade. But we gave the federal government a very poor score on its management of climate change. We gave it 4.6 out of 10, the worst score for any of the priority reform areas we had identified. We view climate change as our biggest challenge but it is the area of policy where our governments have displayed the worst level of readiness. In Australia, fear of climate change has set in and it is extremely unsettling, adding seriously to a decline in mental health and wellbeing. It is notable that ABS surveys of the impacts of Covid-19 on households registered high or very high levels of psychological distress throughout the first two years of the pandemic – over 20% for all Australians and 30% for young Australians aged 18 to 34 years.⁷⁸ This is significantly higher than in pre-pandemic surveys when it was around 13%.

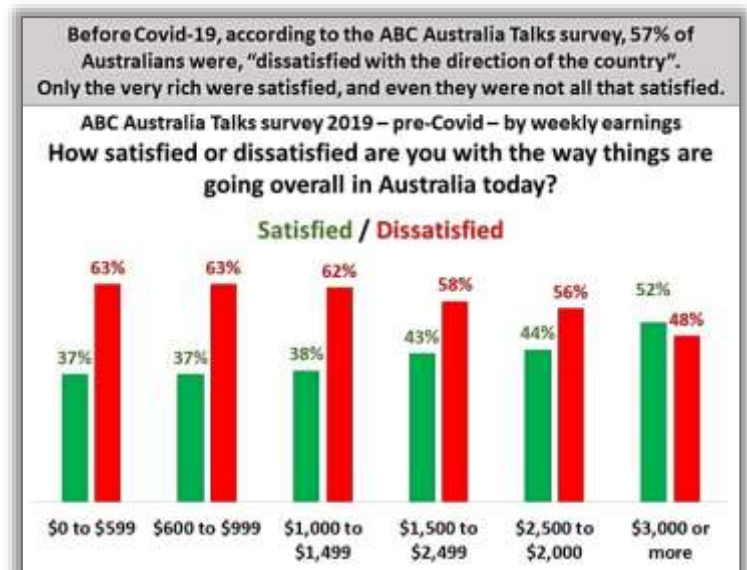


⁷⁸ ABS [Household Impacts of Covid-19 survey](#), June 2021.

Australia is a society not confident of its ability to deal with the future. This does not mean that confidence cannot be built. But there is a long way to go.

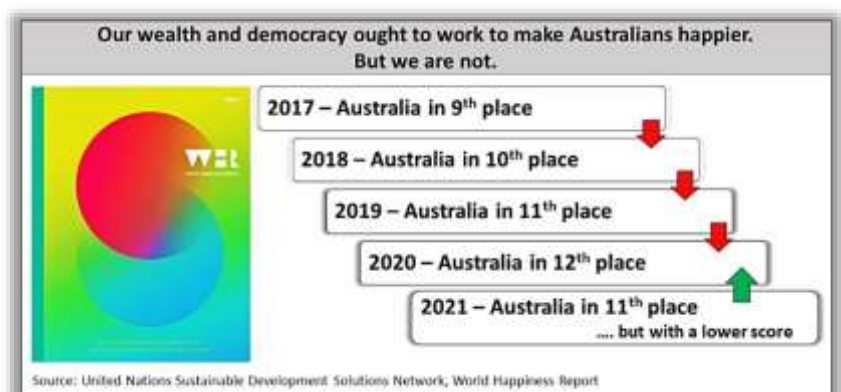
In the early 2020s Australians are not reporting growth in happiness. We live in the 12th wealthiest country in the world but it seems that money does not make Australians very happy and we are not satisfied with our country's direction. According to the ABC's Australia Talks National Survey of 55,000 Australians in 2019, 57% of Australians "are *dissatisfied* with the direction of the country", which lines up fairly closely with the results of the Essential survey mentioned in Issue No. 19 above, although that is a little more optimistic.

Income is the key determining factor here. Only the very rich report that they are satisfied with the direction of Australia, and even they are not all that satisfied. It seems the more we earn, the happier we are with the direction of Australia – or shall we say, the less *unhappy* we are with our national direction and progress. But only about half of those earning above \$3,000 a week or above \$156,000 a year reported satisfaction with the direction of the country. It seems money has not made most Australians feel secure about the direction of Australia. Clearly most of us do not feel we are traveling to a better future or even that we are going well as a nation in the present. This applies regardless of our personal income and wealth.



What seems apparent here is that the adversarial arrangement of our democracy in the last twenty years and our wealth as a nation have not taken us forward to a better life. **A wealthy democracy – with all the freedoms and privileges it implies – ought to work to make us happier. But ours has not.** In the annual "World Happiness Report" published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions

Network since 2016, Australia has steadily slipped from being ranked as the 9th happiest country in 2017 (out of a total of 153 participating countries) to the 12th happiest in the world in the 2020 survey report. We went up one place in 2021 but still scored fewer points for "average life evaluations" – meaning we are happier relative to other countries but not actually happier than we were the year before.



Putting all this into reasonable perspective – so that it is useful for purposes of turning our less than happy circumstances around – requires us to seek out our strengths. Our democracy and wealth can still work for us and we have much to build on. After all, we are still among the happiest of countries

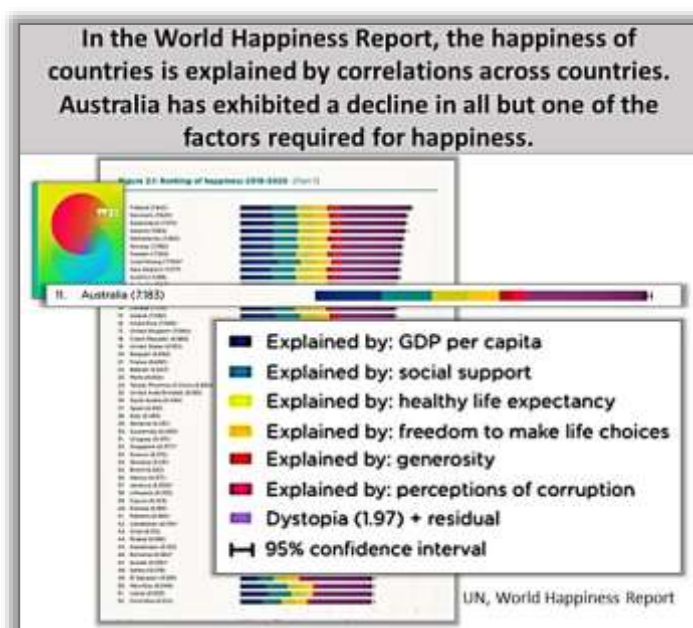
and obviously we are NOT a nation about to abandon all hope. Our social capital may be dwindling (although we have no real measure for that other than that it may have been threatened by recent attacks on Australia's education system), but it should be reckoned that our human capital is nowhere near being depleted to the point where we cannot recover the happiness we apparently have lost over the last decade.

To recover it, however, we would also need to look at what has caused the slip (in addition to looking for our strengths). No doubt there are many factors contributing to the decline in our sense of our wellbeing and happiness. And the World Happiness Survey is quite helpful in that regard because it attempts to explain each nation's reported quantum of happiness. They have tried to explain it by considering correlations between reported happiness for each nation and their:

- GDP per capita,
- access to social support,
- life expectancy,
- the sense of the freedom to make life choices,
- national generosity in terms of the amount of foreign aid we provide, and
- perceptions of corruption within our borders.

The survey also works out each country's scores for this relative to what they call a benchmark "dystopia". In other words, based on our responses in surveys, it calculates how far away each country is from the nation that wretchedly scored the most recent worst case of unhappiness. What this reveals is that Australia's slide down the world happiness rankings does have some rather uncomfortable coincidence with recent:

- reductions in freedoms for Australians (outlined in Issue No. 7 above);
- our reduced access to social support because of the rise of neoliberalism (discussed in Issue Nos. 3, 11, 12, 13 and 19 above);
- our reduced confidence that our leaders in government and business are not corrupt (see Issue Nos. 9, 11, 12, 15 and 19 above);
- our recently reduced GDP per capita (see Issue No. 19 above); and
- our reduced contributions of foreign aid (see Issue No. 10 above).



Australia has exhibited all but one of the socioeconomic features identified by the World Happiness Survey as coincident with a decline in happiness. And into that potentially toxic mix we have added growth in inequality, embedded recently in Australia particularly by:

- our failure to raise and share national wealth fairly,
- unfair funding of school education, and by
- attacks on the tertiary education sector.

All these policy settings have set Australia on a trajectory to unhappiness.

Of course, what would make us happier needs to be articulated before we can reverse the trend of growing unhappiness. It is not enough just to know what is making us unhappy. It is not enough to know that simple reversals of things like neoliberalism will fix it. A national conversation about exactly what would make us happier – one where everyone can have a say if they so choose – is long overdue. Its time has come. Why wait for any further breakdown in our social fabric before we arrest the trend of our increasing unhappiness with the direction of Australia?

We can fix the things that we know are causing the breakdowns in our wellbeing and happiness. But finding out what would make more of us happier – in addition to the fixes – is a prerequisite to our ability to set ourselves up as a nation to achieve a higher degree of satisfaction with its direction. If that can be understood it will be possible to isolate the strengths we should capitalise on to shift into top gear towards a better future.

Australia has a marvellous set of strengths including but not limited to:

- enough wealth to share around,
- brilliant diversity of cultures,
- one of the widest biodiversities on the planet,
- arguably the most remarkable Indigenous nations in human history, holding millennia of wisdom within their heritage, culture and deep connection to all things in and of the land,
- clever workers, communities and business owners,
- renewable resources that provide opportunities to establish new economies that will be globally competitive in the coming century,
- a willingness to work together as a community to overcome the divisions that have been driven into our society since the start of the 21st century.

Australians also have one more strength that they may use, if they choose, to build their preferred better future. With the development of National Integrated Planning & Reporting they now have the tools they need to build a picture of their preferred future and the safe paths towards it. National IP&R offers Australians something new to strengthen their cohesion and their democracy. It offers them a way to build the nation they want and secure a future for their children – together. Anyone and everyone can become involved in building *Australia Together*. Find out how at

www.austcfp.com.au



Chapter 13 – Acknowledgements

Australia Together is growing into a strong long term plan consolidating in one place, for the first time, baseline Indicators of our current wellbeing as a nation and the Targets and Strategies we will need if we are to follow the safest routes to make the Vision and Directions for *Australia Together* a reality by 2050 or sooner. Hundreds of thoughtful agencies and individuals, through the research they have made freely available, have made it possible to establish this assembly of community intelligence. ACFP especially wishes to thank the following for the work they have done. It's now up to we the people to engage with this research and work together to refine the plan.

Australian governments

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Parliamentary Budget Office
Australian Public Service Commission
Australian Government Treasury
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare
Library of the Parliament of Australia
National Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator
Australian Government Department of Agriculture,
Water & the Environment
Australian Government, State of the Environment
Reports
Australian Electoral Commission
State Library of NSW
Australian Government Attorney General's Department
Australian Senate Committees
Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional
Economics - BITRE
Closing the Gap in Partnership
Australian Early Development Census
Australian Government Workplace Gender Equality
Agency
Australian Institute of Criminology

Australian Government Department of Social Services
Commonwealth Government Department of Defence
Australian Government Department of Health
NSW Government Centre for Economic & Regional
Development
Audit Office of NSW
Australian National Audit Office
Council of Australian Governments
Australian Human Rights Commission
Queensland Government (State Plan)
Waverley Council
Council of the City of Sydney
Australian Government Productivity Commission
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Australian Museum
Australian Government Department of the Environment
& Energy
Australian Government Department of Education, Skills
& Employment
Aged Care Royal Commission
CSIRO
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Global institutions

International Monetary Fund
Wikipedia
Transparency International
Edelman Trust Barometer
United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions
Network
Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development
- OECD

World Economic Forum
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
International Energy Agency
United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Climate Change Performance Index

Independent research & policy analysts & institutes

Australian National Outlook 2019
Centre for Policy Development
Essential Research
McCrindle
Scanlon Foundation
Per Capita
Next 25
Australia Institute
Lowy Institute

Grattan Institute
Institute for Integrated Economic Research - Australia
Australia reMADE
Climate Council
Network for Greening the Financial System
New Democracy
Citizens for Democratic Renewal
Market Forces

Media

Australian Broadcasting Commission
Guardian Australia
The Saturday Paper & the Monthly
The Conversation
Inside Story
Michael West Media
Sydney Morning Herald
John Menadue - Pearls & Irritations
RenewEconomy

Brian Toohey
Ross Gittins
Greg Jericho
Luke Henriques-Gomes
Katharine Murphy
Kim Wingerei
IdeaSpies
Gareth Hutchens

Peak social support organisations

Coalition of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations
Australian First Nations - Uluru Statement from the Heart
Australian Council of Social Service - ACOSS

Foodbank
Homelessness NSW
Save Our Schools, Trevor Cobbold
Australian Education Union

Private sector sources

Business Council of Australia
DIGI - Digital Industry Group Inc.
Deloitte Access Economics

National Australia Bank
Google

Public corporates & independent regulators

AEMO - Australian Energy Market Operator

Reserve Bank of Australia

Universities

Australian National University Crawford School of Public Policy
Australian National University Centre for Social Research Methods
La Trobe University
University of Canberra & Museum of Australian Democracy
University of Canberra News & Media Research Centre
University of Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

University of New South Wales (with ACOSS)
University of Queensland - Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh
University of Sydney United States Studies Centre
University of Technology Sydney Institute for Public Policy & Governance
University of Technology Sydney Institute for Sustainable Futures
University of Victoria Mitchell Institute
University of Western Australia Perth USAsia Centre
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Many of the above sources of information will not realise that their work has been vital to *Australia Together*. ACFP sincerely thanks them for their work.

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