



# Australian Community Futures Planning

## Futures Planning

### The State of Australia 2022

*Are we progressing towards a better Australia?*

### Transcript of Part 2

For more information view the full report on The State of Australia 2022 at <https://www.austcfp.com.au/state-of-australia>

This is a transcript of the live presentation of this material available in video form with graphics on YouTube:

**The State of Australia 2022:**

*Are we progressing towards a better Australia?*

Graphics for this transcript are only available in full in the YouTube version.



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# The State of Australia 2022

*Are we progressing towards a better Australia?*

## Transcript of Part 2

### Introduction & Episode Outline

Welcome to this report on the State of Australia in 2022. I'm Bronwyn Kelly, the Founder of Australian Community Futures Planning or ACFP and in this two-part video series I'm summarising the findings of a major report we've produced which provides Australians with their first comprehensive picture of our wellbeing and security as a nation and our preparedness for the future.

**This is Part 2 of the series.**

In Part 1, I covered:

- findings about Australia's economic performance in the decade to 2022 and the capacity of our current economic policies to deliver a better standard of living.

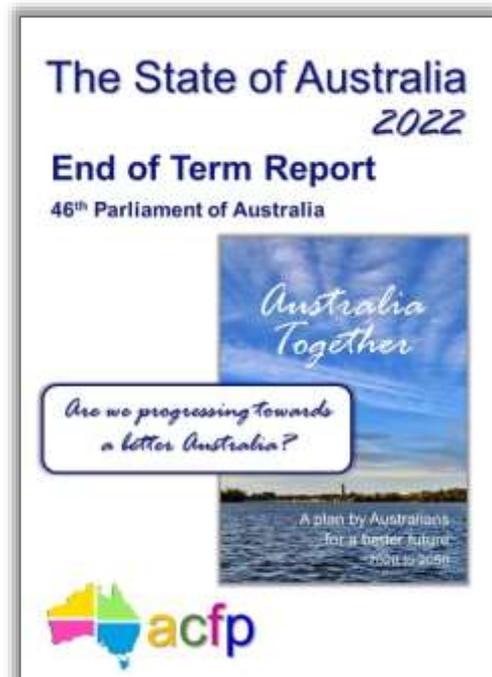
This second and final part covers:

- key findings about our society, environment, governance and foreign relations policies over the last decade and their impact on our wellbeing, security and economic strength.

In Part 1, I also explained how ACFP has built a national planning and performance monitoring framework called **National Integrated Planning & Reporting**. We've built it to help Australians begin to plan the sort of future they want and develop safe strategies to help them make a better Australia. I explained how we are using that framework to help Australians keep tabs on the answer to an important question:

*Are we progressing towards a better Australia?*

[In Part 1, I outlined the results of our report on The State of Australia 2022 on the economy](#) and showed that on balance we are not progressing towards a better Australia. Over the last decade or more we have not been travelling towards the sort of economy we have said we want and the main reason for that is the neoliberal economic policies prevailing throughout that period. These policies



Click [here](#) to read  
**The State of Australia 2022**



have not delivered the growth, jobs, productivity, better wages, security or the housing we need. They have delivered inequality, growing poverty, hunger and homelessness.

In this episode I'm going to look at other policies that have contributed to this sorry set of results because, even with all the evidence in this report of the damage that neoliberalism has done, it is not the only policy that has dragged the economy and our standard of living backwards.

Australia has a range of policies that have prevailed over the last two decades and longer, each of which has left our standard of living behind where it might have otherwise been. These include:

- structured systems of discrimination against women and gender diverse Australians;
- disregard of the natural environment and biodiversity;
- climate policy intransigence and support of fossil fuels;
- disregard by politicians of their accountability to us and growing corruption within our political system; and
- hawkish, increasingly aggressive, war mongering in our foreign policy.

It's worth having a brief look at each these because we are being made to pay a heavy price for them.

## Structured discrimination against women and LGBTIQ+

Australia has increased the extent to which it routinely excludes women from participation in the economy and consigns them to the lowest paid jobs.

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 by women.

But this picture tells you that the educational opportunities we provide for women, and their outstanding achievements there, do not translate to a job for women at the same rate as they do for men. Everyone would probably know that intuitively. But what they might not know is that other countries have found a way to improve all that. By contrast, we've gone backwards, big time, falling 58 places in world rankings on economic participation and opportunity for women. That's 58 countries who figured out how to fix this better and faster than us.

You'll be told by our governments that the gender pay gap is closing. But if it is, which is doubtful, it is closing at best at a snail's pace. In 2021, the Australian Government Workplace Gender Equality Agency reported that in seven years "the gender pay gap had fallen from 24.7 per cent to 20.1 per cent" but, candidly, they also said that "at this rate of change it would take another 26 years for the full-time gender pay gap for total remuneration to close".

**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 <sup>th</sup>	70 <sup>th</sup>	↓ Fall of 58 places
On health and survival	57 <sup>th</sup>	99 <sup>th</sup>	↓ Fall of 42 places
On political empowerment	32 <sup>nd</sup>	70 <sup>th</sup>	↓ Fall of 38 places
<b>Overall ranking</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>↓ Fall of 35 places</b>

Source: World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2021



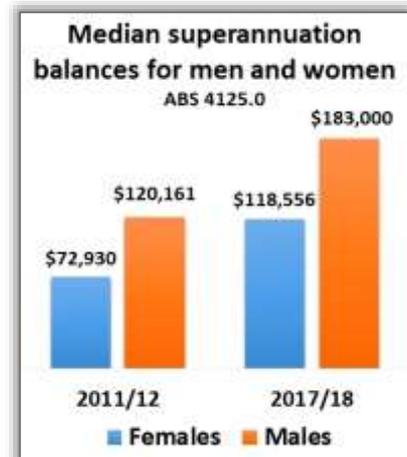
Later on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency became a little less candid and tried to claim that the gap was only half that size by focussing only on full time pay rates, ignoring low earnings of the 44% of women who work part time. When you put them into the picture and look at the full data set from the Australia Bureau of Statistics, it doesn't provide confidence that the pay gap is closing at all. Indeed it shows the gap is widening.

**In 2010, the median of women's total annual remuneration was 73% of men's. By 2018 it was reduced down to 70% of men's pay. That's a widening gap, not a closing one.**



The picture might be a little better on superannuation at least until 2018. Between 2010 and 2018 the median superannuation balance for women rose from 53% of men's to 65%. But men still had half as much again in their balances as women. The women's balances hadn't even got above where men's were six years before.

**Since** Covid-19, given that so many women and men were forced to withdraw from their superannuation balances just to survive, it's likely that when new data are eventually released by the ABS they will show a decline in balances for men and women and probably a worsening of the gap.



All manner of stalling tactics have been in play over the last decade that have prevented closure of the gender gap. Despite a legislative framework which prohibits gender discrimination, no effective action has been taken to lift the prospects and circumstances of women and gender diverse Australians. 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. But since the reform, campaigns have been led by the Morrison government to wind back that hard-won equality.

Attempts to *remove* access to institutional benefits for gender diverse Australians, have emerged anew during the 46<sup>th</sup> parliament in the form of the Morrison government's religious discrimination bill, although this has recently been withdrawn. Still the aim of the religious discrimination bill was to reduce job prospects for gay, lesbian and other Australians of diverse gender and sexual orientation. It has been divisive and plainly counter-productive, since the only effect we get from persisting with this type of inequality and exclusion from participation in the workforce and in education is a smaller economy.



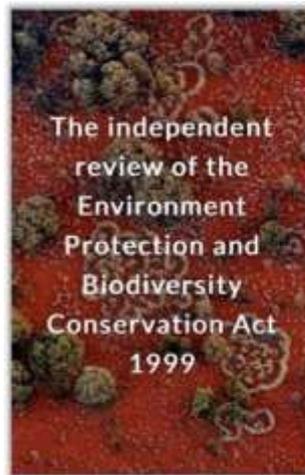
**A shameless attempt to legalise discrimination against gender diverse Australians**

## Disregard of the natural environment and biodiversity

A smaller and more unstable economy is also the only result we could have expected from national policies on the environment, biodiversity and climate change.

Over the last 20 years we have witnessed the decimation of much of our natural environment and biodiversity. Stewardship of ecology has not been a priority policy.

An independent review of our custodianship of the environment and our policies for conservation finalised during the 46<sup>th</sup> parliament says it all. We have the worst track record for species loss in the world.



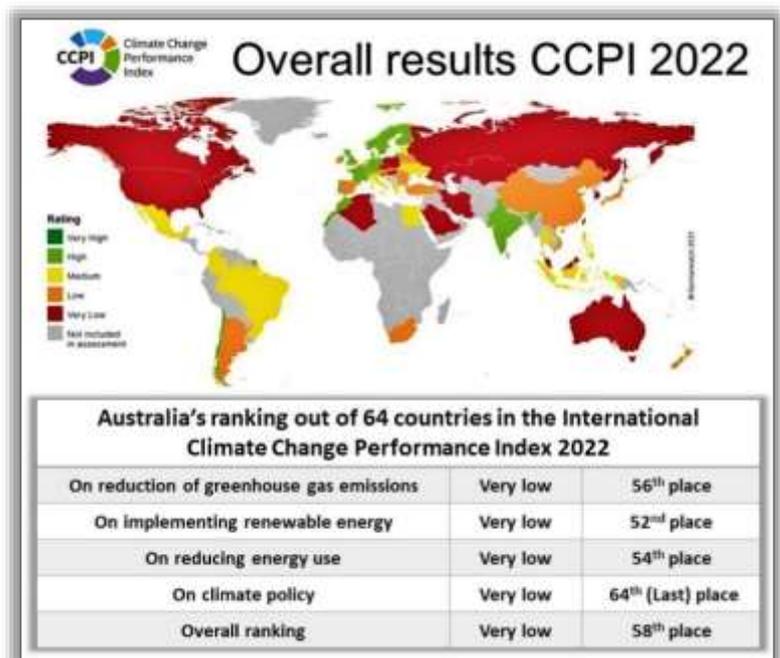
**“Australia’s natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing threat. The current environmental trajectory is unsustainable.”**  
 Graeme Samuel, Review of EPBC Act, July 2020

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 economic sustainability of regions – and these occurred before the bushfires and floods from 2020 onwards. Australian policy makers seem to think the natural environment, biodiversity and water are inexhaustible resources that can somehow be endlessly plundered or destroyed outright for economic gain, when the reality is that our economic prosperity and fundamental survival as a species depends on how well we act as stewards of all other species and their habitats.

## Climate policy intransigence and support of fossil fuels

And of course, nowhere have we threatened the survival of all life on earth, including our own, more than in our climate policy over the last twenty years.

It should have been easy for a wealthy nation like Australia to lead the world in transition to a new economy based on renewable energy and cessation of fossil fuel use. But **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.**



According to Melbourne University, our 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.

The cost will rise to more than \$5 trillion by the end of the century if we don't reverse those policies right now.

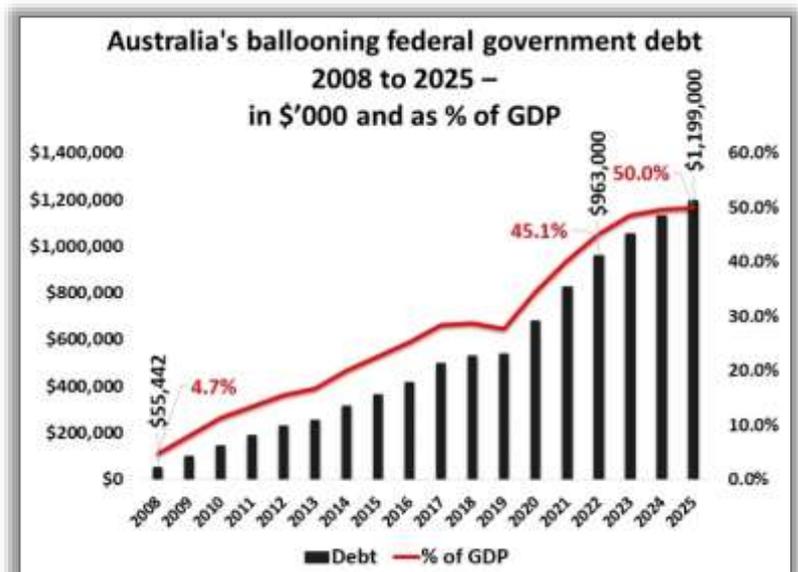


**By contrast it would cost us only about \$35 billion in damages if we worked with the world to do all things necessary to keep global heating below 1.5 degrees Celsius.** It should be pretty easy to work out which one of those bills we might prefer to add to our national debt for our kids to pay.

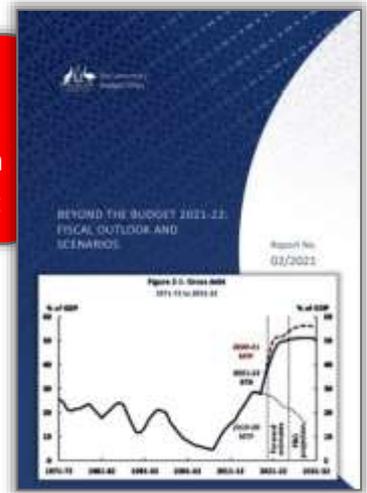
National debt has ballooned since the Global Financial Crisis from \$55 billion or a mere 4.7% of GDP in 2008 to \$963 billion or 45.1% of GDP in 2022. The federal government has predicted the debt will grow to almost \$1,200 billion or 50% of GDP by 2025.

We are being told that we can expect this debt to be paid off over the coming decades because we have an economy that is set to grow strongly. This is not a plausible claim since we are proposing to do nothing different in management of the economy than we have been doing over the last decade and that did not result in strong growth.

But even if we achieve the optimistically expected growth, it's unlikely that our debt will do anything other than balloon again between now and 2030 due to that little matter of \$584 billion in economic losses we will rack up because of our climate policies. **The Parliamentary Budget Office has foreshadowed that federal government debt will still be above 50% of GDP by 2030. But unless we change our climate policies – radically – we should assume that our federal government debt will be at least \$584 billion or around 50% higher in dollar terms by 2030 than either Treasury or the Parliamentary Budget Office have yet predicted.** Without a change in climate policies we're looking at debt being above 60% of GDP by 2030. So we're not prepared for the future.



**If we do not change our climate policies, we will see at least another \$584 billion added to our expected debt**



## But there is a possible up-side.

Almost all of the losses foreshadowed by Melbourne Uni here are still avoidable *if* we reverse our policy direction on climate change and commit to reaching net zero carbon emissions without emitting more than our fair share of the remaining emissions that the whole world may still release to the atmosphere before we reach irreversible tipping points of heating.

Australia's fair share of those remaining emissions is probably no more than 3.5 billion tonnes of carbon equivalents between 2020 and whenever we reach net zero emissions. That's as much as we should ever expect to release in total if we are make up for climate intransigence and save our country and livelihoods. However, no Australian government has yet acknowledged this reality and the necessity of stopping emissions before we reach the tipping point. That can only be done if each country accepts a carbon budget.

At the rate we are going at the moment, it might be expected that Australia will make some progress towards switching to renewable energy before 2035 but it is very unlikely to be enough to stop the heating if we do not at the same time commit to limiting our remaining emissions so that they never exceed 3.5 billion more tonnes and if we do not at the same time help the rest of the world do the same in fair proportions. For Australia's part we should aim to reduce our emissions by about 50 million tonnes a year. It might sound like a lot but it's actually still feasible. And if we start straight away we can be carbon neutral by about 2035 and restore our economic prosperity in the process.

It would make it easier if we reintroduced a price on carbon and switched all transport and vehicles to renewable energy. If you'd like more information on this you can watch any of ACFP's videos on climate change solutions on YouTube.



It would also make it easier to stop global heating if we rebuilt our reputation as an ethical carbon trader. This is unfortunately something which we lost recently. Australia used to have a good reputation as a fair trader of legitimate carbon credits – credits which if bought would genuinely help the buyers offset their greenhouse gas emissions.

The [recent news that our certification standards for credits amount to a fraud on both taxpayers and the environment](#), is the latest example of Australia's slide into a cesspit of government sponsored corruption and unethical conduct, all of which in turn is adversely affecting the national economy. There is environmental benefit and economic expansion ready for the

These massive economic losses are still avoidable.

Find out more about how.



Click on the images to watch on YouTube.

taking if Australia makes a genuine effort to behave ethically in this emerging market of carbon trading. But our reputation there has just taken a big hit, as has our reputation for ethical conduct in general.

## Corruption in Australian politics

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. New Zealand and Denmark currently occupy 1<sup>st</sup> place with 88 points each. We were never that good but now we are 15 points behind them. Australia used to be ranked in the "very clean" category on this Index; not any more.



In fact it's hard to find an international ranking table that Australia hasn't sunk down in during the Abbott, Turnbull and

Morrison governments. On some we have sunk to the absolute bottom. Corruption is everywhere in Australia and people see it in levels they could never see before. It flourishes in:

- water allocation and trading;
- pollution control;
- development approvals;
- sale of public assets for far less than they are worth – that one in particular amounts to a grand theft of the public's assets;
- the growth of the market irregularities that are being permitted by the government;
- interference with public servants in the course of their duty – something that especially applies to the ABC, auditors of government conduct and state and federal police – and there is the sort of interference that led to illegal conduct by public servants in the Robodebt scandal;
- lobbyists who have parliament house passes – something you and I don't have;
- electoral funding distortions;
- pork barrelling; and in
- employment of ministers on their retirement by companies and lobbying firms in the area of their ministerial responsibility. That one is the equivalent of ministers accepting bribes – big bribes.

Corruption is flourishing at the federal level of government because both major parties have refused to support the introduction of even a basic binding code of conduct – yes, that's both major parties. And the Morrison government has failed to deliver on its promise to establish a federal corruption watchdog. The Labor Party is promising to turn that around but we should watch that the standards that may be enforced by such a body are tightened. There's not much point in having a federal integrity commission, even one with teeth, if the standard they can hold politicians to account for isn't itself the highest ethical standard. That sort of watchdog would have no teeth.

The impact of all this corruption on our economy is clear.

**For the last twenty years, Australians have been forced to support an economy based on fossil fuels at the expense of far more productive structures for a modern economy.**

Corruption has driven the economy into a system of favours for industries like mining that are currently providing few if any new jobs and away from industries that already provide vastly higher numbers of jobs than mining and can easily provide more.

Those industries are:

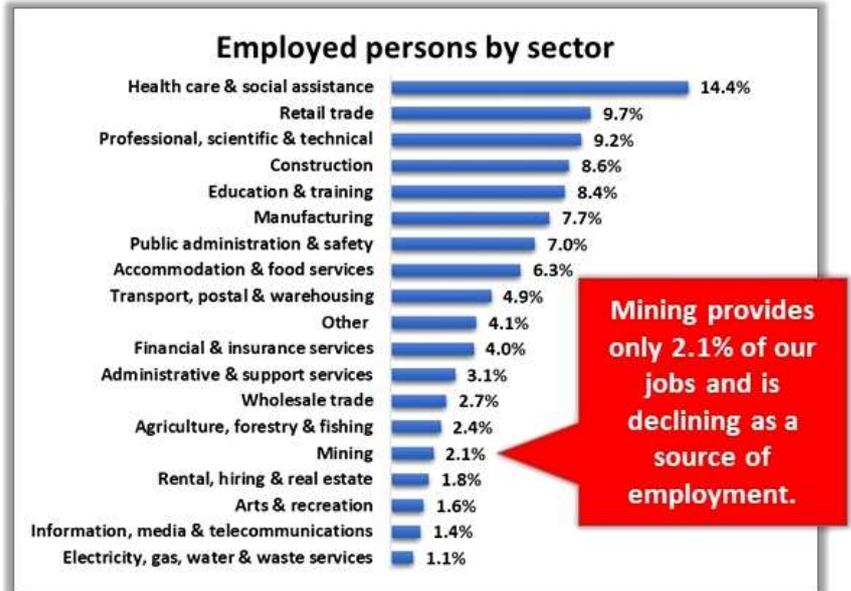
- health,
- education,
- welfare,
- renewable energy,
- re-booted manufacturing,
- conservation,
- land care,
- aged care,
- childcare,
- disability care, and
- housing.

They, and not mining, are the job creation colossus; so cutting funds for them makes no sense, especially at a time when we will need all the growth in national revenue that we can get from productive labour in these sectors if we are to fund our defence in an increasingly unstable and fractious international situation.

## Hawkish foreign policy

Australia's bills for defence are about to rise and this is not because our region of the world – the Asia Pacific – has become more dangerous. It hasn't. But if it is beginning to get more dangerous, it's we who are making it that way with our current aggressive foreign policy and provocative defence postures.

Our defence bills are about to rise because hawks in Australia's defence sector, funded by foreign arms dealers – people who make extraordinary profits by beating the drums of war – have done their best to assert that China has suddenly become an aggressor, as opposed to merely assertive and protective of its interests as any sovereign nation would be. And the news media have fallen in with this theme that China is a military aggressor. It might be persuasive were it not for the fact that, unlike western colonising powers, particularly the British empire, China over hundreds of years has next to no record of aggression beyond its borders.



The industries with jobs growth are:  
 health,  
 education,  
 welfare,  
 renewable energy,  
 re-booted manufacturing,  
 conservation,  
 land care,  
 aged care,  
 child care,  
 disability care, and  
 housing.

Australia needs growth in these sectors to fund its rising defence costs.



Aside from a very short incursion into Vietnam in the 1970s for less than a month, China has no history of invasion of other sovereign powers anywhere beyond its immediate region.

China's history is instead one of being locked in tightly by their geography – by the Himalayas, the steppes of central Asia and fourteen other countries on the land side and later by American containment on their only coast. Their history is one, not of invading, but of being invaded over more than two centuries or appallingly exploited within their borders by powers like the UK, Japan, the United States and yes, even by Australia during the Boxer rebellion.

China's assertiveness pales in comparison to that of western powers. If it is becoming more assertive of its interests, then based on its history it is more likely to be the natural reaction for its own defence and China is doing nothing more than we would reasonably seek to do to protect our interests and peace in our homeland.



But instead of seeking to build a relationship with China, we are over-reacting to their inevitable rise. We ourselves are making the region more dangerous by escalating armaments and shifting to submarines powered by nuclear reactors. We are webbing ourselves tightly to the US alliance instead of seeking to develop an independent defence capability befitting the 13<sup>th</sup> biggest economy in the world – which we are. We are ceding sovereignty in our decisions about war and peace to the US.

More than that, we are setting ourselves up as the site of a proxy war. **If what the hawks say about China being aggressive – as opposed to proportionally defensive – is true then the last thing Australia should do is set itself up as target No. 1.**

But that is exactly what we are doing by a front-foot strategy of nuclear submarines designed specifically for intrusion into regions beyond our own to attack and kill. Making ports in Australia for submarines powered by nuclear reactors, is a senseless strategy for a second or third order power like Australia. It's like planting a nuclear bomb in our front yard. And we're proposing to do that at inordinate expense.



Everyone – except the arms dealers – would benefit if we reversed **our** aggression, left the US to their own devices and stopped providing funds for their arms escalation, since all it does is help the US prosecute war in our hitherto comparatively stable region of the world. American attempts to contain China's rise are destined to be prohibitively expensive for Australia. We have more to lose than we will gain. **If anything is certain about the future of our region, it is that we will regret**

participation in containment efforts against China much more than we would regret cooperative participation in regional development that lifts the Asia Pacific region to a similar level of prosperity to our own.

If Australia is hell bent on expensive arms escalation and our intelligence agencies have some sort of secret information that squarely suggests that such an escalation is necessary, then increased defence spending should at least not occur without establishing a strategy to help us avoid as much of those bills as possible.

At the moment, just as we have no strategy in place to avoid future costs of climate change, we also have no strategy in place to help us avoid future costs of war.

**When it comes to these two foreseeable existential threats – climate change and nuclear war – Australia’s governments are plunging headlong in the wrong direction. They have failed to rise to a leadership role in building a peaceful region.**



Still, we do have the option of setting an example for the rest of the world about genuine respect for the sovereignty of other nations. In plain sight at the moment we have an example of what can happen when we don't respect the sovereignty of other nations. We have a war in Ukraine in 2022 which would have been far less likely if the US had not led a 30-year long push by NATO up to the Russian border. Now that we've seen what can happen, surely we should not be letting the US repeat that strategy in our part of the world. We should not be aiding their aggressive pivot to Asia and their obsessive attempts to contain China's rise if we don't want the sort of conflict we can see in the Ukraine on our doorstep in 10 or 20 years' time. This is plain common sense.

The last line of the Vision for *Australia Together* says that:

*by 2050 we will be living a fulfilling life where we take pride in Australia as a responsible international citizen, active in building a safer, more peaceful and united world.*

And the Direction in the Vision for peace and security is a signpost that says:

*Australia will become a nation assured of enduring peace.*

But the prevailing strategies in our defence establishment at the moment are setting us up to become **a nation assured of enduring war**. We are going precisely the wrong way. Fortunately, there are alternative strategies still available for the choosing. And the data in the report on **The State of Australia 2022** shows that Australians are ready and willing to choose them.

One way we can best protect our security in our region is by shaping up as an ethical country living the values of a free and open democracy. If we want other countries like China to respect human rights and freedoms, then a good place to start would be to respect them ourselves. Unfortunately the report on the State of Australia 2022 shows that we are losing our rights and freedoms, not at the hand of China, but at the hand of our own government.

## Destruction of Australia’s democracy from within

More than 80 pieces of legislation since 2002 have effectively removed several of the freedoms Australians have enjoyed as an open society, particularly the rights we might have assumed to free speech, peaceful protest, and a free press. Credible commentators now designate Australia as “arguably the most secretive democracy in the Western world”.

Secrecy, criminalisation of journalism, and raids on journalists’ homes and files are having a chilling effect on our free press. And it is notable that **Australia is now the only democracy in the western world without a bill of rights or a human rights framework. We have nothing in our Constitution that says our rights can’t be taken away. And they are being taken away.**

They’ve been steadily extinguished by a program of national security legislation which has promoted secrecy and ostensible security over an open and free society. Anyone wishing the blow the whistle on corruption and crimes in our security establishment, and even in some areas like taxation, now can’t do so without facing the prospect of a jail term.

We are witnessing the rise of the secret state in Australia and that can’t be represented as progress towards the Vision for *Australia Together*. It is so lacking in imagination about the sort of open democratic country that we could be building that it has reached a point where if we do not release ourselves from the prohibitions and secrecy we are experiencing now, due to this incessant program of legislation, we will soon no longer be able to protest for freedom and campaign for the society we want at all. **We won’t be able to use our democracy to save our democracy because it’s been weakened from within.**

Fortunately, Australia has not sunk so low yet that we can’t swing this around. We haven’t yet arrived at serious danger points for a total breakdown of our democracy. We haven’t for instance sunk down like the United States, which saw its democracy seriously threatened in the attacks on the Capitol in January 2021, although judging by these pictures we’re getting uncomfortably closer to that sort of violent civil unrest.

**China is not a threat to our democracy, freedoms and rights. The bigger threat to is coming from within our own governments.**

Credible commentators now designate Australia as “arguably the most secretive democracy in the Western world”.



**The secret state is killing press freedom and our open society.**



How does Australia measure up on Human Rights protections?  
*Australia is the only western democracy without a Charter or Bill of Human Rights.*



**USA  
6 January  
2021**



**Australia  
2022**

**Uncomfortable similarities**

The data in The State of Australia 2022 show we are, on some measures, heading the way of America but we're not quite there yet and this type of breakdown is therefore something we can still prevent. There's a positive possibility there.

And to end this sorry story on a positive note, it has to be said that the data in the report also show that there is a will among Australians to restore their democracy by making it one that more Australians can participate in. That's one of those glimmers of hope I spoke of in Part 1 of this video series.

## The glimmers of hope

Despite it all – or perhaps because of all the rotten things that are going on – Australians are calling for a better Australia. We have to look hard into the data to find this, but it's there. There are lots of Australians who sense how bad things have become and they don't want to come any closer to the sort of social breakdown we can see in America.

There is a sense in the data that the will of the nation is for the opposite of that and this is showing up in the rise of things like the *Voices Of* movement – something that has been driven by the disappointment of Australians with the Coalition government's inaction on climate change and the growth of government corruption.

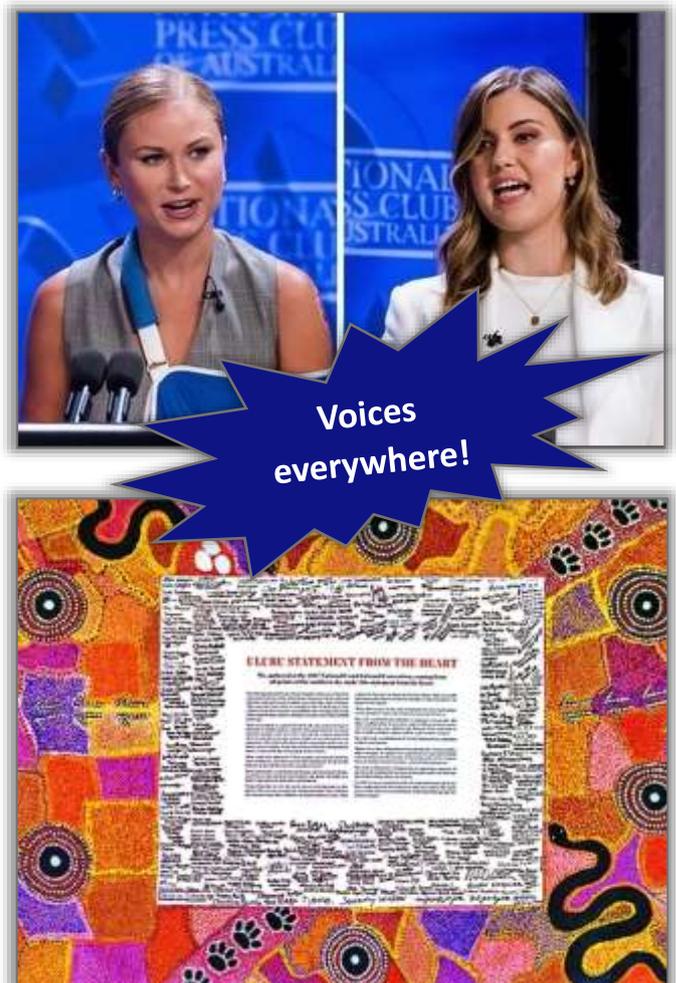
In fact voices are rising everywhere. The Me Too movement has helped more women find their voice and, at last, the voice is too loud now to be easily ignored. "Hear me now" said Grace Tame. And it seems they are beginning at last to hear.

And of course the most joyous and harmonious rise of voices has emerged from First Nations peoples in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

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.

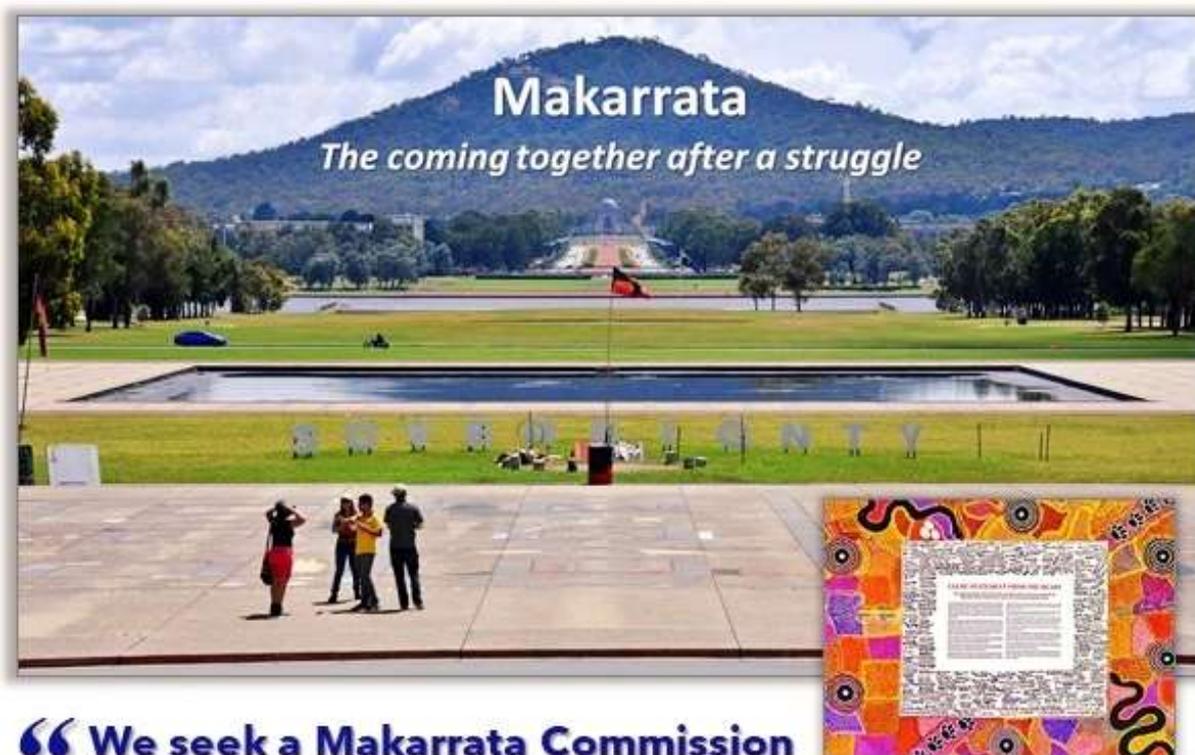
There is also evidence of a willingness to affirm our connection to each other and to this land, and in the process make Australia anew. Australians may not necessarily see that this is evident in the detail of our responses to surveys on our attitudes; but if we put the pieces of this report together, it indicates that there is a desire to make a new start.

Every time we hear yet another non-Indigenous Australian acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded by First Nations, we can see the time is coming for creation of a new and better Australia by walking together with Indigenous Australians.



Non-Indigenous Australians have been given a most gracious invitation to come together after these struggles and establish a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history. It's a magnificent opportunity to make the most wonderful country peaceably, without civil war.

We would need to guard against the evident current of rising racism in Australia – a negative current which can be seen in the results about our social cohesion and our attitudes to multiculturalism. But evidence of the readiness for reconciliation is in the results in roughly equal measure to that rise in racism. And that can be built on.



**“ We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history. ”**  
*Uluru Statement from the Heart, 2017*

Otherwise, the most promising and hopeful set of results in the State of Australia 2022 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;
- the evidence of 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's clear that **the positive results all relate to our attitudes**, rather than our physical, economic and environmental circumstances – which at this moment are not good.

There is a recognition that we have fallen in our circumstances to what we should hope is the bottom. And there is awareness that we are at a turning point as a nation and longing to build a better, safer life and home.

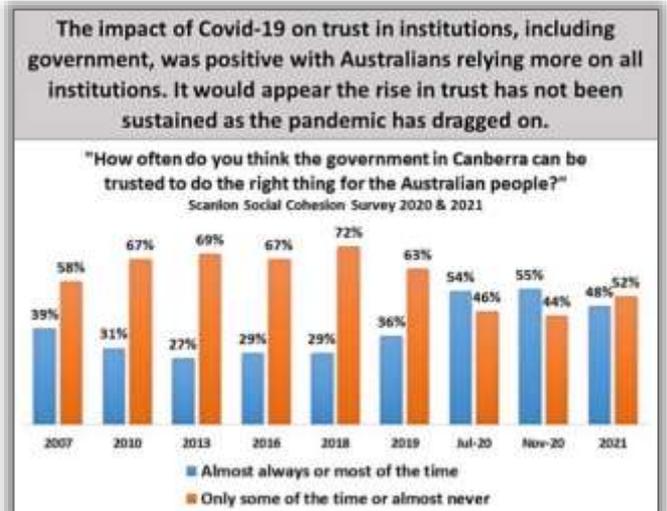
And we're interested in safer paths of travel for our kids. This seems to be an emergent strength of the nation that we should not let slip away again – kind of like a re-grouping after a shock.

Australians are now 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 if we organise ourselves well.

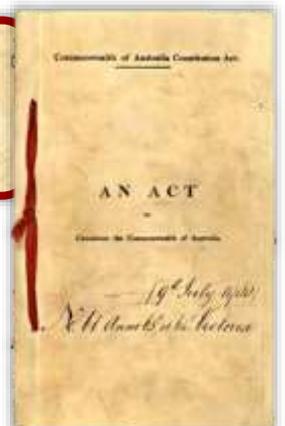
Distrust of governments and politics ballooned over the decade to 2019, as only it might when corruption of governments is so shamelessly on open display and ideological rigidity has been so deeply embedded in the party political system. But since the pandemic, Australians are a little more inclined to trust governments. They want to be able to rely on them and they want them to undertake reforms for the purpose of cementing both that trust and the future itself. In other words, they want reforms that will make governments ethical once again.

And although the rise in trust during the pandemic hasn't really been sustained – it's fragile – there is still a new readiness to reinvigorate Australia's democracy for everyday Australians so that they can 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.** The one we have at the moment is over 120 years old and while it's suited to a representative democracy where voters give up power



**Our 19th century Constitution is not fit for 21st century Australia.**



totally to governments to let them do what they like, it's not suited to the power-sharing arrangements needed for an educated society seeking to reap the benefits of living in a decent, mature democracy with checks and balances on power. So **stay tuned for more on The People's Constitution from ACFP in the next parliamentary term.**

**Australia needs a new Constitution to restore trust, protect our rights and enable us to take more control of our own future.**  
We need  
**The People's Constitution**

## The need to plan

Finally, if Australians are to take the bigger shares of power that they need, they will need skills that enable them to rise above short-term party political agendas. They will need skills and a process by which they can collaborate to plan a better future.

This will require us to use the new process of **National Integrated Planning & Reporting**.

**Helping Australians achieve  
a bigger share of power in their democracy**

**Creates a live space of planning, monitoring and open reporting**

**We can check whether we are moving towards our preferred future**



**Australians can easily check a government's overall performance and fitness for office**

**Australians can plan how they will fund their future.**

- It's there to help us engage with each other within our democracy in an orderly fashion.
- It's there to help us build an efficient participatory democracy.
- It creates a live space of planning, monitoring and open reporting that anyone can use to inject safe and effective strategies for national progress and check whether we're moving along those lines.
- It can help us check a government's performance and fitness for office. And it can help us plan how we prefer to fund it all.

National IP&R has now been made freely available to Australians. And one of the first things we've be able to use it for is to identify twenty critical areas of national failure that must be fixed by 2030 if we are to arrive safely in 2050 with an acceptable degree of wellbeing and security for everyone.

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 twenty critical issues in an integrated way.

National IP&R gives Australians the means of achieving this together. It gives us the

**Top priorities for safe arrival in 2050:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Growing inequality</li> <li>2. Growing poverty, homelessness and hunger</li> <li>3. Loss of the fair go for all</li> <li>4. Growth in racial and religious conflict</li> <li>5. Indigenous exclusion</li> <li>6. An outmoded and falling Constitution</li> <li>7. Loss of rights, open governance and transparency</li> <li>8. Declining participation in democracy</li> <li>9. Unethical governance</li> <li>10. Fractious international relations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Corporate irresponsibility</li> <li>12. Economic decline</li> <li>13. Lost public ownership</li> <li>14. Inertia in transition to decarbonisation</li> <li>15. Environmental decline</li> <li>16. Climate policy failure</li> <li>17. Declining health and safety at home</li> <li>18. Declining educational attainment</li> <li>19. Declining quality of life and loss of social cohesion</li> <li>20. Declining wellbeing and happiness</li> </ol>
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**We can solve every one of these within a decade with National IP&R**



means of reversing the decline of our 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 47<sup>th</sup> parliament – The State of Australia 2025.

You can become involved in planning a better Australia by visiting ACFP's website at [www.austcfp.com.au](http://www.austcfp.com.au). There are some exciting things in [the starting draft of \*Australia Together\*](#) that benefit everyone – rich and poor alike. So **everyone** is welcome to participate.

## End of Part 2

For the full video series on The State of Australia 2022 click here or on the images below:



Read the full report on [The State of Australia 2022 here](#).

For summary results view the extracts below.

## Extracts from The State of Australia 2022 – Summary Tables

<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	←

See Chapter 11 of The State of Australia 2022 for more detailed information on results for the Vision.

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

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

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

<b>Consolidated results by quadrant – Our Environment</b>			
<b>Topic Area</b>		<b>Direction Australia becomes ...</b>	<b>Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?</b>
Environment 1	Environmental advocacy	A leading global advocate for action on climate change.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
Environment 2	Climate change prevention	A net zero emissions nation.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
Environment 3	Climate change adaptation	A proactive planner of climate change adaptation.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
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.	<b>On balance, we are not travelling clearly yet either toward or away from the destination.</b>
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.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
Environment 11	Vegetation	A replanted and reforested land.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
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.	<b>No data are available to determine the direction of travel since 2016.</b>
Environment 15	Marine protection	A marine wildlife haven.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
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 47<sup>th</sup> parliament.

<b>Consolidated results by quadrant – Our Economy</b>			
<b>Topic Area</b>		<b>Direction Australia becomes ...</b>	<b>Are we travelling towards the preferred destination?</b>
<b>Economy 1</b>	<b>Economic planning, growth &amp; transition</b>	A model of transition from excessive consumption to sustainability.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 2</b>	<b>Employment planning &amp; industry transition</b>	A model of employment planning & justice in industry transition.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 3</b>	<b>Equitable improvement in living standards</b>	A country where economic opportunity, growth & prosperity are equitably shared & living standards improve continuously for all.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 4</b>	<b>National wealth generation &amp; sharing</b>	A nation fairly raising & sharing its wealth.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 5</b>	<b>Market regulation &amp; competition policy</b>	A strong regulator of fairness in markets creating confidence for investors.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 6</b>	<b>Government competitive business participation</b>	An economy with competitive & profitable public sector participation.	<b>On balance, no.</b>
<b>Economy 7</b>	<b>Science, research, innovation &amp; collaboration</b>	A collaborative intelligent nation.	No baseline data established yet.
<b>Economy 8</b>	<b>Technology development &amp; digitisation</b>	Enabled in meeting the communication & information demands of the future.	No baseline data established yet.
<b>Economy 9</b>	<b>International economic engagement &amp; trade</b>	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 47<sup>th</sup> parliament.

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