
FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2019

Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory – **pollution levels still on the rise**

The Federal Government has released the quarterly update of [the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the March 2019 quarter](#).

In the year to March 2019 Australia's emissions increased 0.6 per cent (including land use, land use change and forestry).

Fugitive emissions from the production, processing, transport, storage, transmission and distribution of fossil fuels such as coal, crude oil and natural gas increased by 5.9 per cent over the year to March 2019, driven by a 15.4 per cent increase in natural gas production.

There was a 2.1 per cent decrease in emissions from the electricity sector over the year to March. According to the Environment and Energy Department, reduced electricity emissions are a result of a strong increase in solar generation in the National Electricity Market and decreases in gas and brown coal generation.

Agricultural emissions have declined by 4.8 per cent due to a decline in the livestock population due to the ongoing drought over the year to March.

Stationary energy emissions – which includes emissions from direct combustion of fuels, predominantly in manufacturing, mining, residential and commercial sectors – increased by 5.1 per cent. This was largely caused by an 18.8 per cent increase in LNG exports, 6.2 per cent in steel production and aluminium production (2.9 per cent) in the year to March 2019.

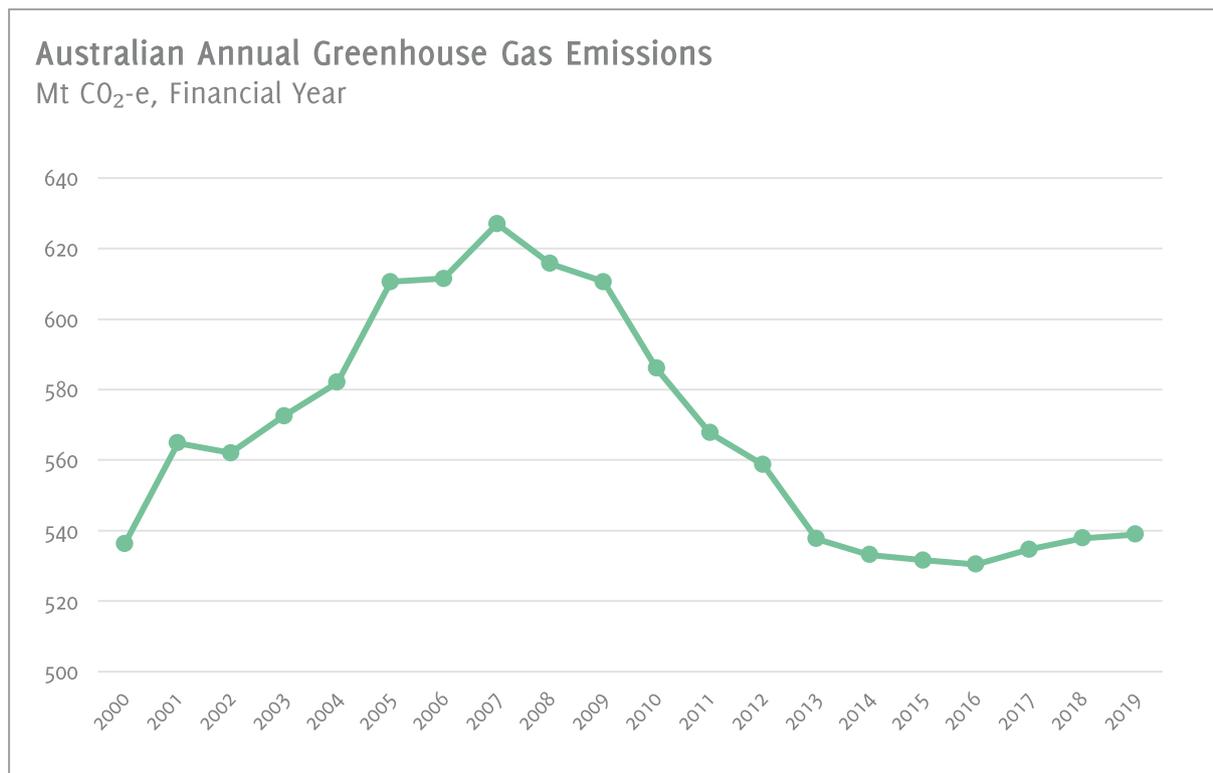
Transport sector emissions increased 1.3 per cent over the year to March 2019. According to the Department, in the past year there was a 4.6 per cent decrease in the consumption of petrol (including ethanol-blended), but a large increase in diesel consumption of 7.5 per cent.

Government's record

Since coming to office in September 2013 the Coalition has made no progress in reducing Australia's overall contribution to the climate crisis. In fact, there is an upward trend. The Government's decision to repeal the national carbon price in June 2014 led to a growth in greenhouse pollution. Since the March quarter of 2014, just before the carbon price was repealed, emissions have increased 1.2 per cent.

Figure 1 – Australian annual greenhouse gas emissions

The Government has set Australia's 2030 annual emission target at 441–435 (Mt CO₂-e). Australia's annual emissions for the year end March 2019 are 538.9 Mt CO₂-e.



In response to the release of the latest greenhouse gas emissions data, the Australian Conservation Foundation’s Economy & Democracy Program Manager, Matt Rose, said:

“This latest data shows another real increase in Australia’s climate pollution, with emissions higher than they were in the March quarter of 2014, before the carbon price was repealed, and the Government still with no plan to reverse this worrying trend.

“Burning coal and gas remains the main driver of the climate crisis and Australia is now the number one exporter of coal and gas, with [quantities projected to increase dramatically in coming years](#).

“Australia’s planned coal and gas expansions contradict international efforts to address climate change and are completely inconsistent with the global energy transition that is needed to meet the targets in the Paris Agreement.

“The Federal Government will need to explain to the world how it intends to meet its Paris targets when the international community meets in New York in September for the UN Secretary General’s summit on climate action.”

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