
FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory - **climate change hitting agriculture**

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

In the year to June 2019 Australia's emissions decreased 0.1 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 gas, increased by 4.4 per cent over the year to June, driven by an increase of 20.7 per cent in gas production, and partially offset by a decrease of 6.8 per cent in underground coal production.

There was a 1.2 per cent decrease in emissions from the electricity sector over the year to June. According to the Environment and Energy Department, reduced electricity emissions are a result of a strong increase in renewable energy generation in the National Electricity Market, principally replacing a reduction in coal and gas generation.

Agricultural emissions have declined by 5.9 per cent over the year to June. The Environment and Energy Department attributes this decline to worsening drought conditions, which have affected the livestock industries due to poor grazing conditions and the high cost and availability of grain. This has resulted in a reduction in sheep and cattle. Floods in Queensland in early 2019 also led to a significant loss of cattle (approximately 600,000). Drought conditions have also affected crop yields throughout Australia as planting decisions are primarily driven by water availability and market demand.

Stationary energy emissions – emissions from the direct combustion of fuels, predominantly in manufacturing, mining, residential and commercial sectors – increased by 3.6 per cent. This was largely driven by a 21.3 per cent increase in LNG exports in the year to June.

Transport sector emissions decreased 0.5 per cent over the year to June. According to the Department, the decline in transport emissions reflects a 4.3 per cent annual decline in petrol consumption.

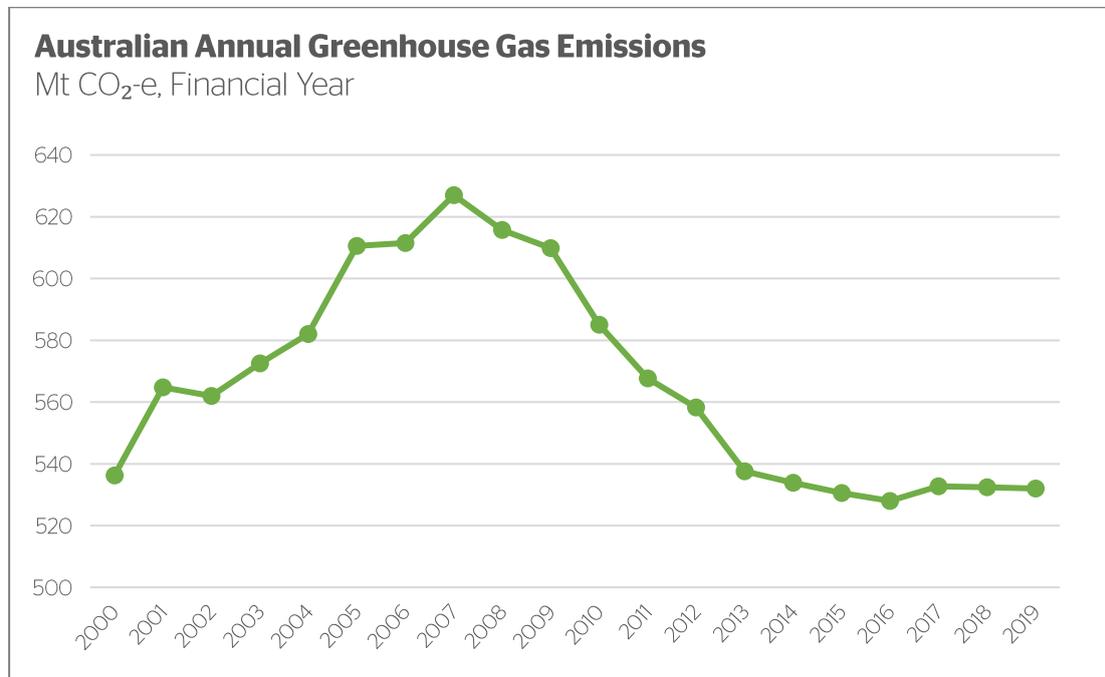
The Federal Coalition Government's record

Since taking office in September 2013 the Federal Coalition has made almost no progress in reducing Australia's overall contribution to the climate crisis. Since September 2013, national greenhouse gas emissions have remained virtually the same, decreasing just 0.4 per cent.

Much of this minor decrease is attributable to the period before the Federal Government's decision to repeal Australia's national carbon price in June 2014. Since the March quarter of 2014, just before the carbon price was repealed, emissions have increased 0.5 per cent.

Figure 1 – Australian annual greenhouse gas emissions

The Coalition Government has set Australia’s 2030 annual emission target at 441–435 (Mt CO₂-e). Australia’s annual emissions for the year end June 2019 are 532.0 Mt CO₂-e.



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

“This latest data shows a slight drop in emissions between the June 2018 and June 2019 quarters, due to the impact of drought and flood on Australia’s agricultural industry.

“Climate change is accelerating, and this is dramatically affecting agricultural production. Without the decline in agricultural emissions driven by the effects of worsening climate change, Australia’s emissions for the year to June 2019 would be increasing.

“The Morrison Government still has no effective climate policy and continues to promote the expansion of coal and gas production.

“The Morrison Government has no clear plan to reduce emissions from industry, transport or the wider domestic economy, nor a plan for how Australia should respond to a world economy that is reducing its need for our coal and gas exports.

“As a major exporter of coal and gas, with abundant renewable energy resources, Australia has an important role to work with other countries to reduce global emissions and an opportunity to build a world-leading renewable energy industry.

“An important first step would be to join the rest of the world in refusing to use Kyoto carryover credits – which would effectively halve Australia’s 2030 targets.”

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