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Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory - **no progress on cutting pollution**

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

In the year to September 2019 Australia's emissions decreased 0.3 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 6.1 per cent over the year to September 2019, driven by an increase of 22.8 per cent in natural gas production, and partially offset by a decrease of 2.9 per cent in underground coal production.

There was a 2 per cent decrease in emissions from the electricity sector over the year to September. According to the Environment and Energy Department, reduced electricity emissions are a result of a strong increase in renewable energy generation (14.1 per cent increase) in the national Energy Market principally replacing a reduction in coal (2.7 per cent decrease) and natural gas generation (4.3 per cent reduction).

Agricultural emissions have declined by 5.8 per cent over the year to September 2019. The Environment and Energy Department attributes this decline to worsening drought conditions which have impacted the cattle and sheep industries due to poor grazing conditions and the high cost and availability of grain. This has resulted in a reduction in sheep and cattle, which is forecast to reach its lowest level since the early 1990s later in 2020. Drought conditions also caused a decline in crop production similar to levels recorded during the Millennium Drought.

Stationary energy emissions – which include emissions from direct combustion of fuels, predominantly in manufacturing, mining, residential and commercial sectors – increased by 2.5 per cent. This was largely caused by a 17.4 per cent increase in gas exports in the year to September 2019.

Transport sector emissions decreased 0.5 per cent over the year to September 2019. According to the Department, the decline in transport emissions reflects a 3.2 per cent annual decline in petrol consumption.

Government's record

Since coming to office in September 2013 the 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 1.3 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 September 2019 are 530.8 Mt CO₂-e.

