

MEDIA BRIEF

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Australia's pollution levels still going up

The Federal Government released its quarterly update of the [National Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) for the December 2015 quarter on Friday 6 May.

In the past year (year to December 2015) Australia's emissions increased by 1.1 per cent. There was an increase of 1.8 per cent in emissions from the electricity sector as a result of an increase in electricity generated by burning black and brown coal.

In contrast emissions declined from 2012 (year to December 2012) to 2014 (year to December 2014) by 3.5 per cent. (Under Australia's now-defunct carbon pricing mechanism, liable entities had to [pay a price for the pollution they produced](#) in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.)

Government's record

Since coming to office in September 2013 the Coalition has made no progress in reducing Australia's overall emissions. In its first quarter of Government (December 2013), emissions were at 133.5 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e). In the most recent quarter (December 2015) emissions were at 134.2 (Mt CO₂-e).

This increase in emissions is a result of an increased use of black and brown coal in the National Electricity Market since December 2013. There has also been a decrease in hydroelectricity. There has been an increase in renewable energy from a small base.

The Turnbull Government has set Australia's 2030 emission target at 441–435 (Mt CO₂-e). Australia's current annual emissions are 535.7 (Mt CO₂-e). This target is not consistent with the Government's commitment at Paris to limit global warming to less than 2°C.

Read ACF's analysis of the [Abbott/Turnbull government's environmental record](#).

For more information:

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The ACF community speaks out for a healthy environment, Australia's special places, climate action and for lasting social and economic change.