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## COOLmob response to the Northern Territory Government Climate Change Response: Towards 2050

COOLmob welcomes the development of the *NT Government Climate Change Response: Towards 2050*, although we maintain the urgency and details of our initial submission to the NT Government Climate Change Discussion Paper in that the NT Government has a responsibility to act quickly by developing and enacting climate change legislation with targets for 100 per cent renewables by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

We urgently need the Northern Territory Government to commit to a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce emissions and avoid the worst climate impacts, support people to adapt, build community resilience, and ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the transition to a clean energy future.

COOLmob makes the following recommendations to the NT Government:

1. Within the next six months, legislate targets of 100 per cent renewables by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, supported by interim targets and clear action plans for each Ministerial portfolio, with strong accountability mechanisms to achieve rapid decarbonisation across all industries and sectors.
  - a. There are no clear and measurable targets, actions, goals or timelines provided in the Response from Government resulting in no responsibilities being allocated to various players and stakeholders.
2. No new fossil fuel developments, including a permanent ban on oil and gas fracking, recognising that the industry's emissions profile is incompatible with a safe climate future and undermines the Government's positive steps towards clean energy transition.

- a. No fracking should occur in the NT due to the emissions produced and support for this industry undermines credibility of the NT as a jurisdiction that is serious about renewable energy. Credibility is an important prerequisite for attracting investment to go solar.
3. Immediately lead the way with the reduction in emissions from Government operations, embedding legislative commitment to mitigate climate change impacts into government decision-making, including all policy, budget, procurement and capital works decisions.
4. Supporting communities to lead their own solutions. This requires listening to communities to understand how they are experiencing climate change, recognising traditional and local knowledge, ensuring the climate change response is informed by the experience and expertise of local communities, and resourcing locally driven solutions.
5. Adaptation planning to address the impacts of climate change already affecting our communities, including extreme heat, drought and more extreme weather events like cyclones and bushfires, prioritizing planning with First Nations and low-income communities who are experiencing the impacts first and worst.
6. Building the climate resilience of our communities by addressing the existing vulnerabilities that exacerbate climate change impacts, including providing climate resilient housing, access to health services that are equipped to respond to climate risks, guaranteed access to adequate and potable water, energy and food security, disaster resilient infrastructure and sustainable economic opportunities for people to live and work on country, helping restore and revitalize land, water and climate.
7. Ongoing engagement with the community and across all sectors – including across all levels of government, with business and industry, and with the non-government sector – throughout the development and implementation of the Government’s Climate Change Response.
8. Recognize the invaluable contributions of energy efficient building design to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and as the least-cost pathway to zero carbon emissions target. In Australia, buildings account for 55% of total electrical use and 23% of current carbon emissions (2018).

The task of enhancing the energy efficiency of existing buildings presents complex challenges beyond the control of building regulations. Education as to the cost benefits to owners of retrofitting insulation, sealability and high-performance glazing, government grant funding options for building owners and landlords and schemes to provide on-site renewable power at lower rates to tenants are all options being developed in other jurisdictions and could be included in the NT Climate Change Response as short-term options to reduce emissions and negate the impacts of heat stress on low-income residents.



There are four different types of buildings, existing commercial, new commercial, existing residential and new residential buildings to be considered. COOLmob fully supports the detailed submission to be received to this Climate Change Response by the Property Council NT – Sustainability Committee and its recommendations for these four types of buildings.

COOLmob recommends the NT Government use the already developed reports and guides by the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), Green Building Council of Australia and the Property Council of Australia to guide a transition to a legislative framework striving for zero carbon buildings, both commercial and residential.

The new report by these three Councils, *Every Building Counts: A practical plan for emissions reduction*, released in October 2019, contains 75 recommendations, in a comprehensive assessment of what measures are required to improve energy performance for specific types of building, including commercial, residential and government, as well as what works across all building types. Key recommendations in the report include:

- Set out a long-term vision for net zero buildings and extend the [‘Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings’](#) to 2050
- Deliver a Zero Carbon Ready building code and improve enforcement and compliance
- Empower buyers and renters with a single national rating scheme for home energy performance

It is imperative that the Northern Territory Government develops a detailed plan to achieve rapid emissions reductions to avoid the worst climate impacts, support people and businesses to adapt, build community resilience, and ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the transition to a zero emissions economy. This plan should include robust adaptation strategies to address the changes already impacting the NT and legislated targets to ensure the climate action needed continues outside of political cycles.