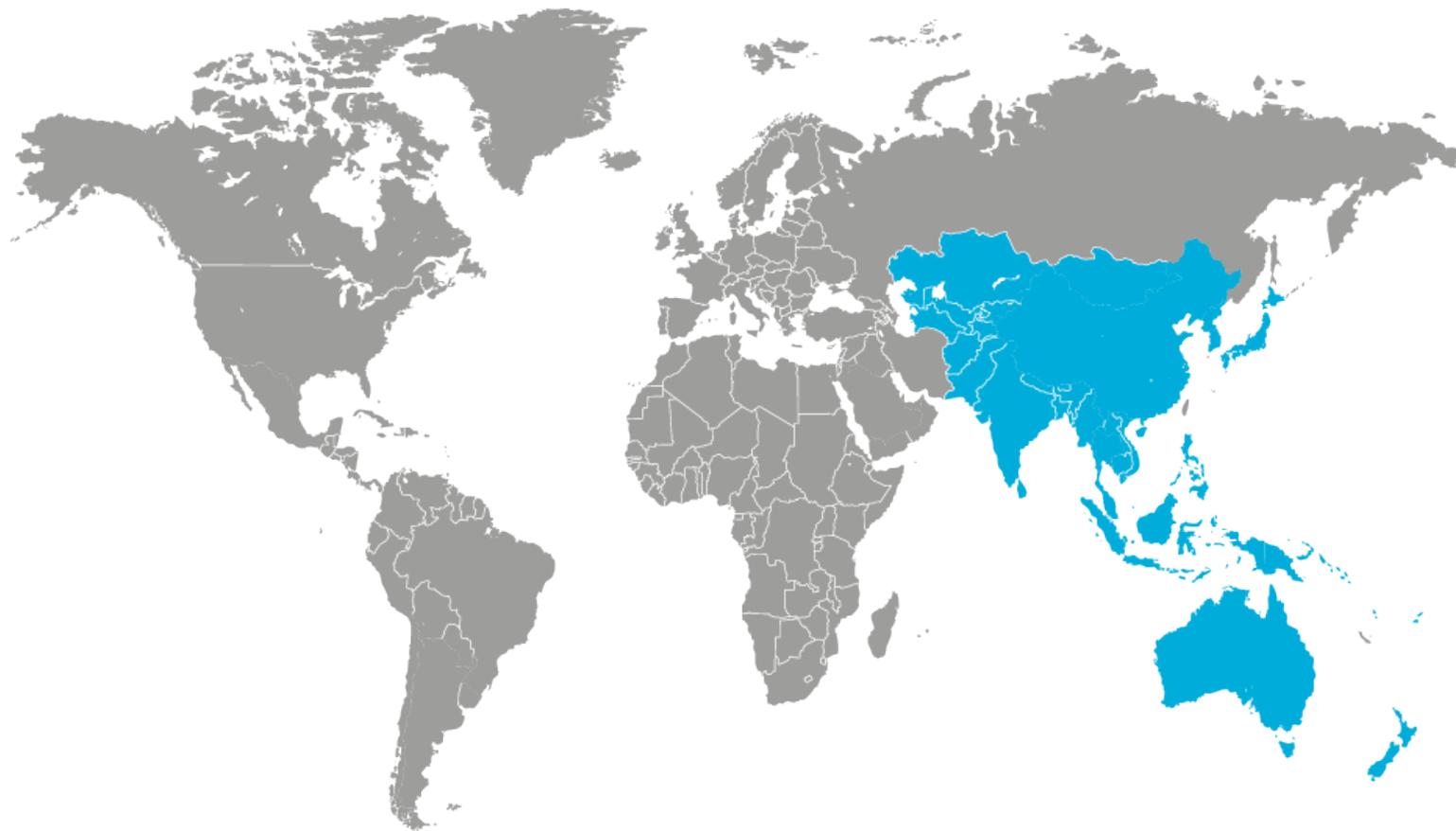


Voices for Justice

2016 Policy Briefing

Australia: A Good Neighbour?

The State of the Neighbourhood: Asia-Pacific Region



The State of the Neighbourhood: Asia-Pacific Region



40%

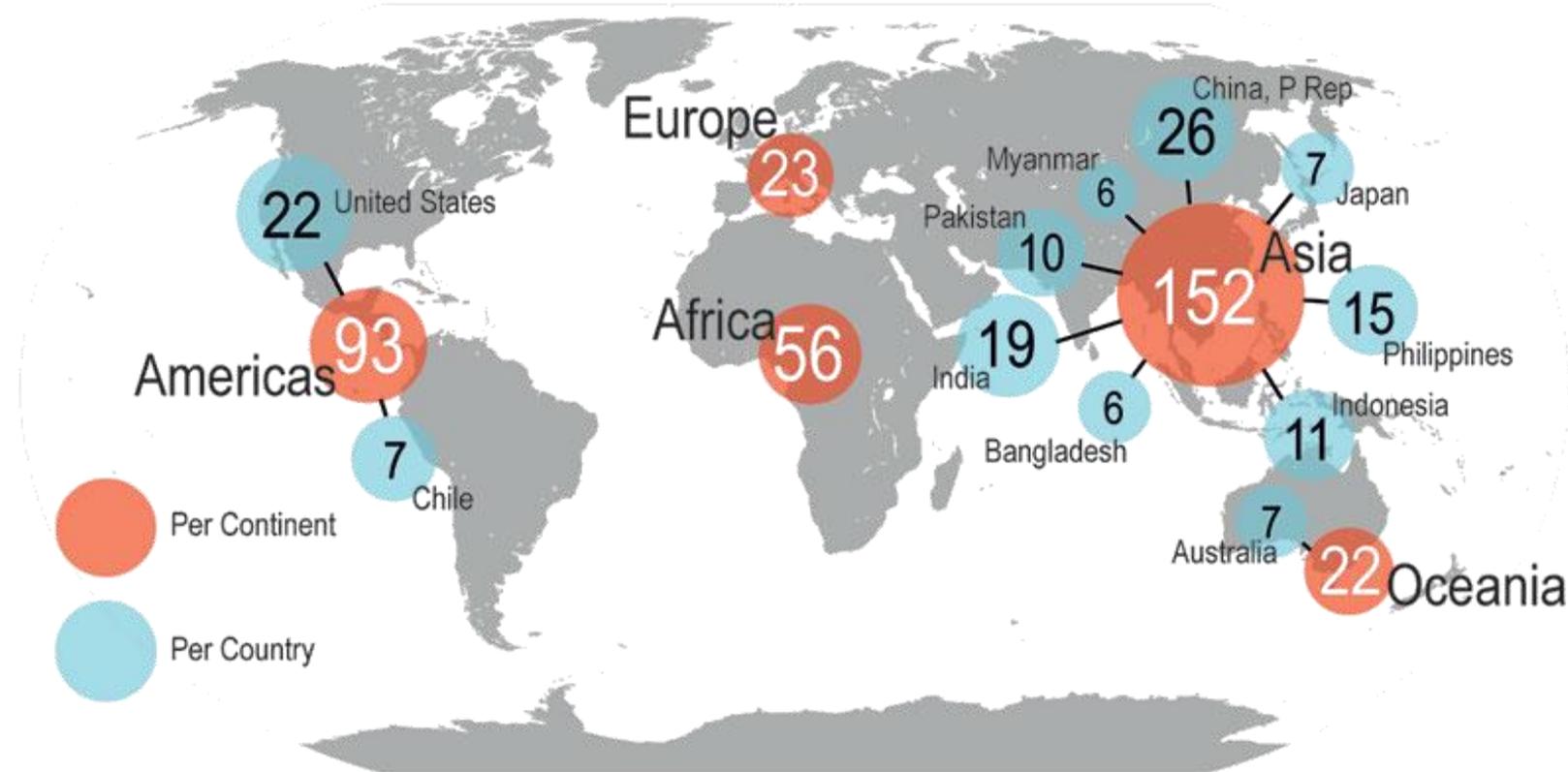
Of world's
poorest
people

47%

Of world's
disasters in
2015

The State of the Neighbourhood

Number of **reported** disasters by country



(1): Natural disasters: Epidemic and insect infestations not included

The State of the Neighbourhood



Tropical Cyclone Pam: Death toll may rise
natural disaster in 'living memory' for Paci

Updated 16 Mar 2015, 3:12pm



Flooding in Asia displaces millions; death toll rises rapidly

By Angad Singh, for CNN

Updated 0708 GMT (1508 HKT) August 6, 2015



Photos:

India - People look at a bridge which was washed away by flood in India on August 1, 2015. At least 178 have been killed in recent months and 100 million affected across India.

Southern India hit by floods after
heaviest rainfall in more than a decade

Rescue operations continue as thousands to flood

INDIA REAL TIME

Indian Heat Wave Break

Average daytime temperatures in Phalodi in Rajasthan

Typhoon threat to Philippines

Updated 19 Dec 2015, 1:00pm



PHOTO: Children use a refrigerator as a boat to cross a flooded alley in Candaba, Pampanga. (AFP/Noel Celis)

Cyclone Winston 'strongest ever' to hit Fiji

WORLD NEWS | Sun May 17, 2015 | 10:50am EDT

Updated: 12:15 am, Sunday, 21 February 2016



KEY MESSAGE 1:
Our region is the **most**
disaster- prone region in the
world



**Is Australia a good
neighbour?**

Winston

\$35m

Humanitarian
Assistance

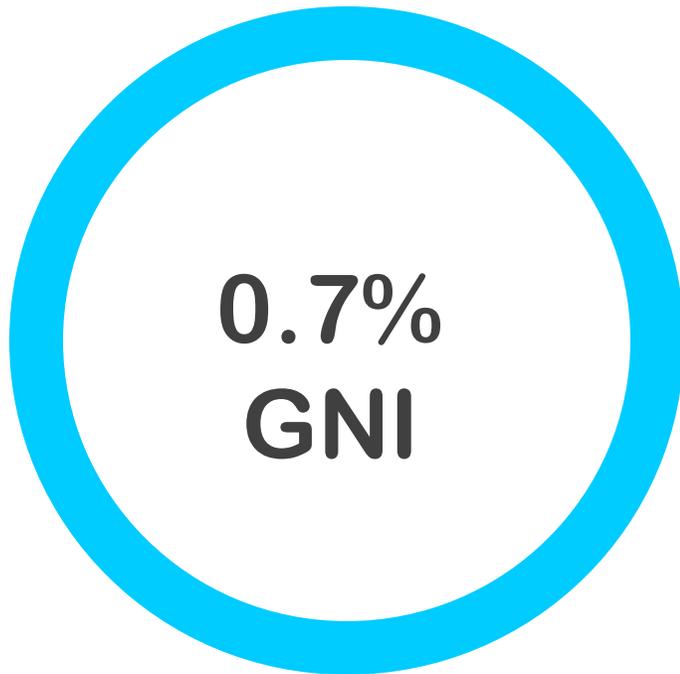
Pam

\$50m

Humanitarian
Assistance



What have we said we'll do?

A large, light blue circular graphic with a thick border. Inside the circle, the text "0.7%" is positioned above "GNI" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

0.7%
GNI

“Australia will continue to be a **generous friend and neighbour**, providing humanitarian assistance in response to emergencies. We know that preventing crises is a good investment, so the **aid program will also work to reduce disaster risks and promote preparedness**”

(Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2014)

KEY MESSAGE 2:

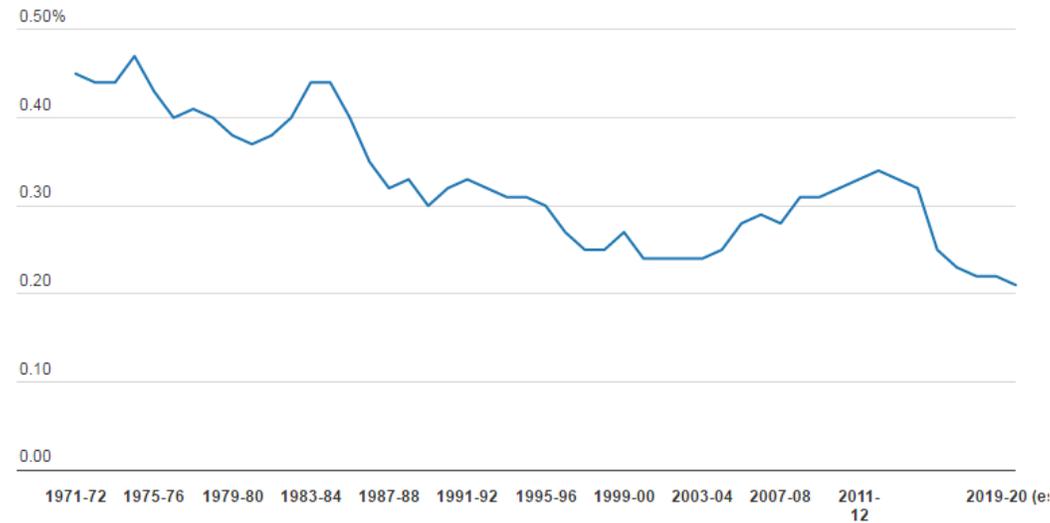
Australia has committed to helping our neighbours **build resilience to, and mitigate the risks of, natural disasters**

How are we going?

**0.7%
GNI?**

Generosity: Australian aid as a percentage of GNI

Official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of gross national income (GNI)

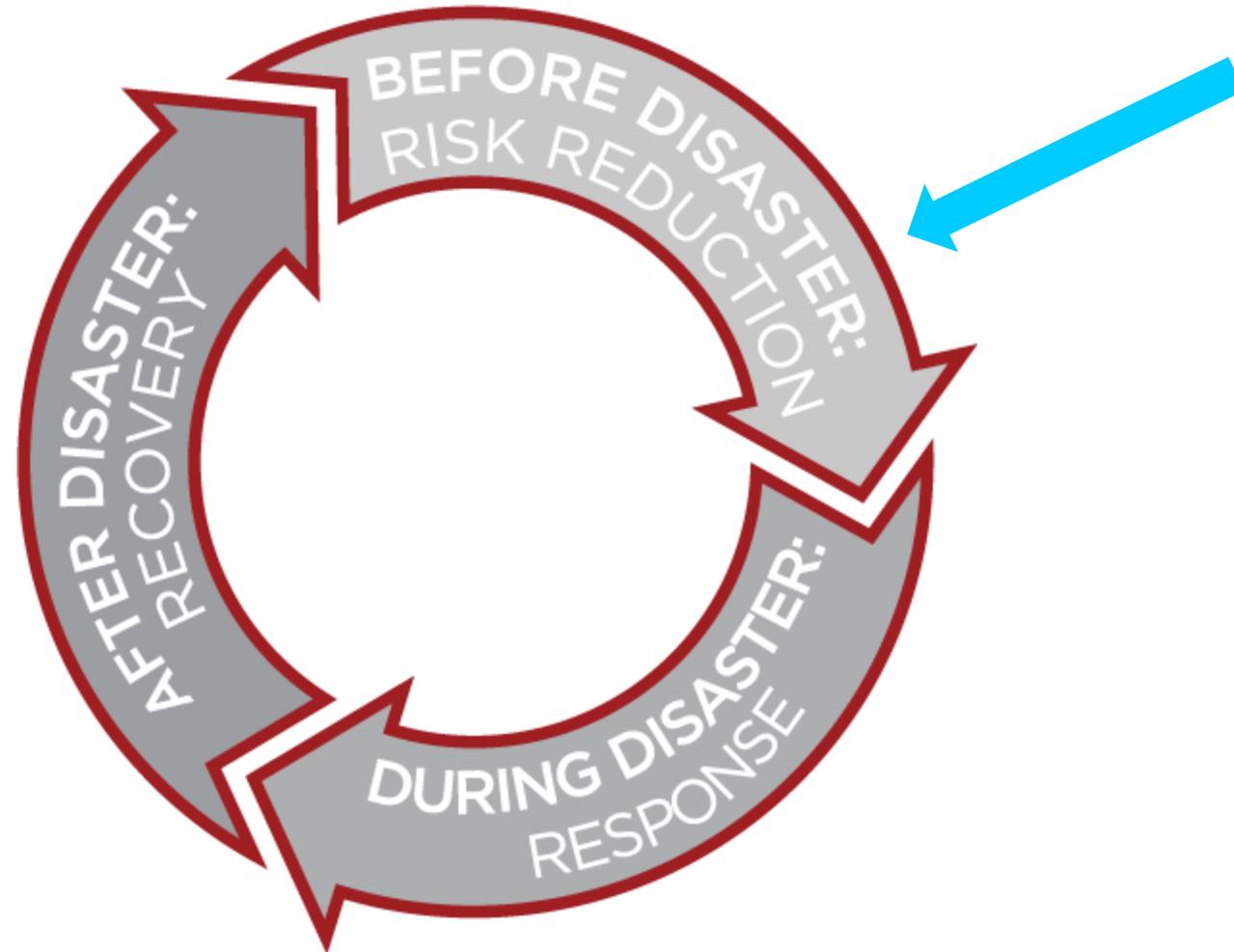


**0.23%
GNI**

**“The aid program will
also work to reduce
disaster risks and
promote preparedness”**

(Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2014)

Disaster Risk Reduction



Disaster Risk Reduction Saves Lives



Typhoon Haiyan, 2013

Disaster Risk Reduction Saves Money



**\$1 in
DRR**

Saves

**\$7 in
recovery
costs**

World Bank, UNDP (2012)



Solomon Islands Flooding, 2014

KEY MESSAGE 3:

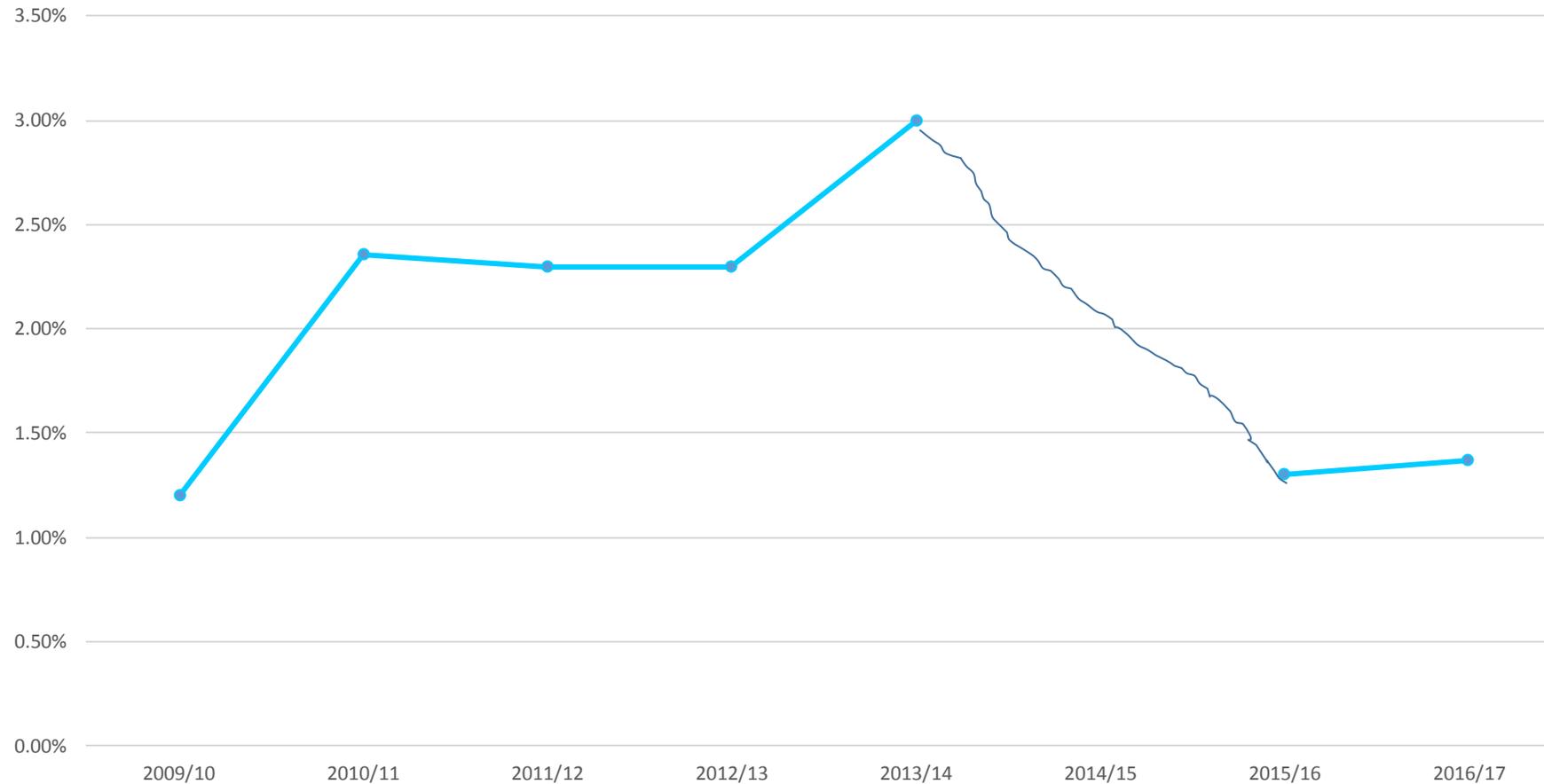
Our investment in **Disaster
Risk Reduction** is
decreasing

Australia as a DRR leader

“Australia is widely acknowledged as a
lead donor and potential role model in
disaster risk reduction”

- OECD, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (April 2013)

DRR Funding as % of ODA



KEY MESSAGE 4:

To help our neighbours build resilience to disaster, we need to restore **DRR funding to 3% of the Aid program.**

Key Messages: Aid Policy



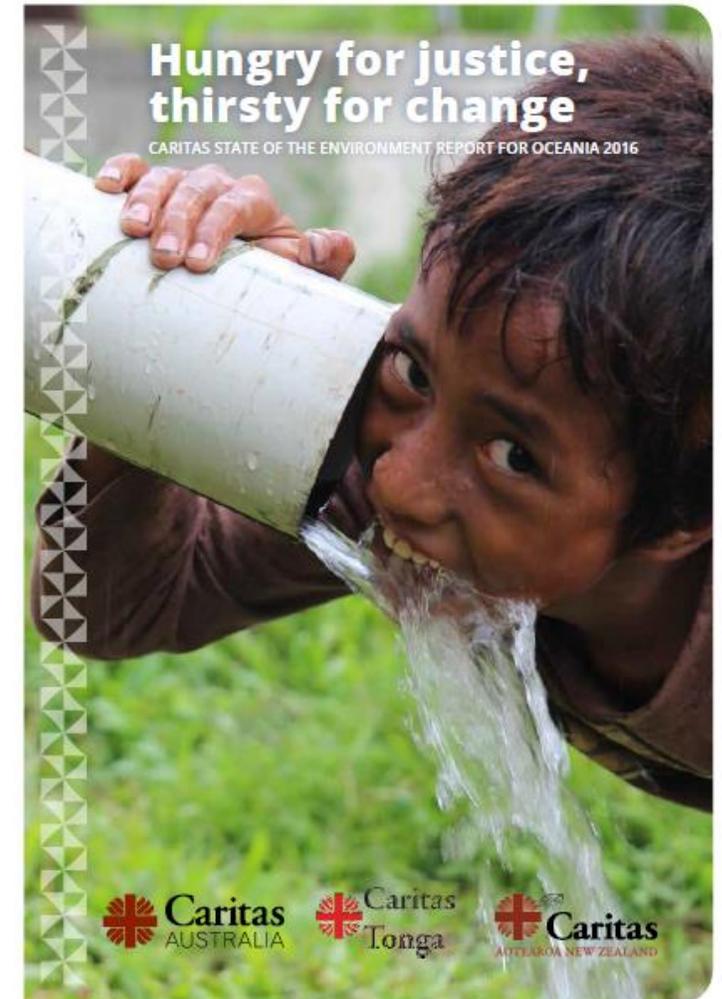
1. Australia lives in the most **disaster-prone region** in the world
2. The Australian Government has committed to helping our neighbours **build resilience, and mitigate the risks of, disasters**
3. But investment in **Disaster Risk Reduction is decreasing**
4. To be a good neighbour, Australia should:
 - **Restore Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) funding to 3% of the aid program.** This restoration should be achieved through new aid funding (i.e. not from reallocated funds)
 - **Set a pathway towards reaching our international commitment of 0.7% of GNI by 2030**

KEY MESSAGE 5:

Climate change is affecting people now, especially by the poorest people in our region.

In the Pacific, climate change is affecting **food and water**, health, livelihoods, homes, infrastructure.

The number of disasters is increasing. The severity of disasters is increasing.



Our neighbours in the Pacific have been leading the way on ratifying and implementing global agreements.

They want Australia, as a member of this region, to join them in acting now.

Print Email Facebook Twitter More

Pacific nations hoping for climate change action at COP in Morocco

Updated 7 Nov 2016, 9:57 am

Delegates from around the world are in Morocco at the start of an 11-day summit to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

To be considered a success, the Marrakech Climate Change Conference or COP22 must make progress across several areas especially the financial aspects of limiting global warming.

A photograph of a meeting room with people seated at tables, overlaid with a white text box containing the article title.

Pacific pariah: how Australia's love of coal has left it out in the diplomatic cold

September 7, 2016 6:11am AEST

Australia has sought to water down climate declarations made through the Pacific Islands Forum. AAP (Image/Mick) Talks

Email Twitter 349 Facebook 1.7k LinkedIn 7 Print

Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will have some explaining to do when he attends the [Pacific Islands Forum](#) leaders' meeting in Pohnpei, Micronesia, this week.

Australia's continued determination to dig up coal, while refusing to dig deep to tackle climate change, has put it increasingly at odds with world opinion. Nowhere is this more evident than when Australian politicians meet with their Pacific island counterparts.

Author
Wesley M
Lecturer in International University

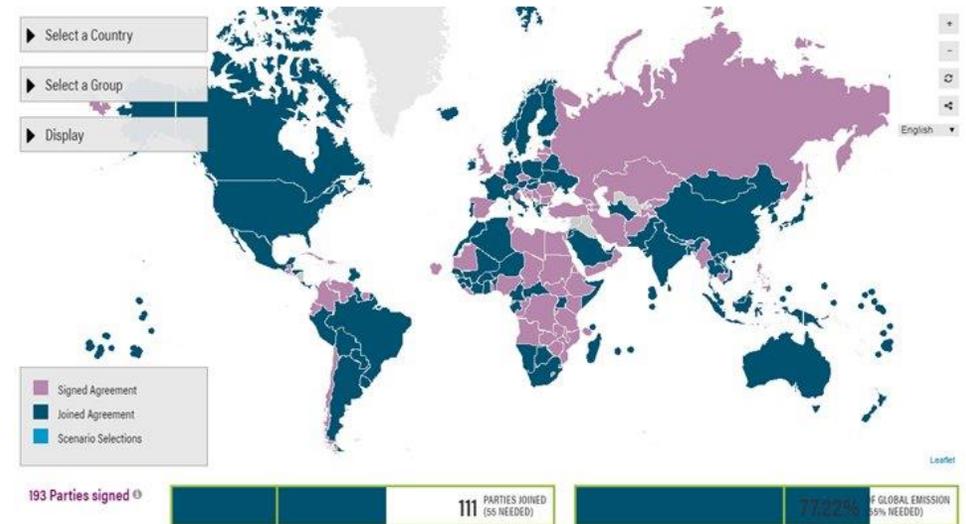
Disclosure
Wesley Mo
consult, ow

KEY MESSAGE 6:

Australia should be part of the climate leaders, not a laggard nor an obstacle to meaningful global action.

The Paris Agreement
is the mechanism
through which
countries agreed on a
shared path to act on
climate change, but its
success depends on
countries increasing
their initial targets.

PARIS AGREEMENT TRACKER



To date, the Paris Climate Agreement has been signed by 193 Parties and ratified or otherwise joined by 111 Parties representing 77% of global emissions.

Australia claims to be bold

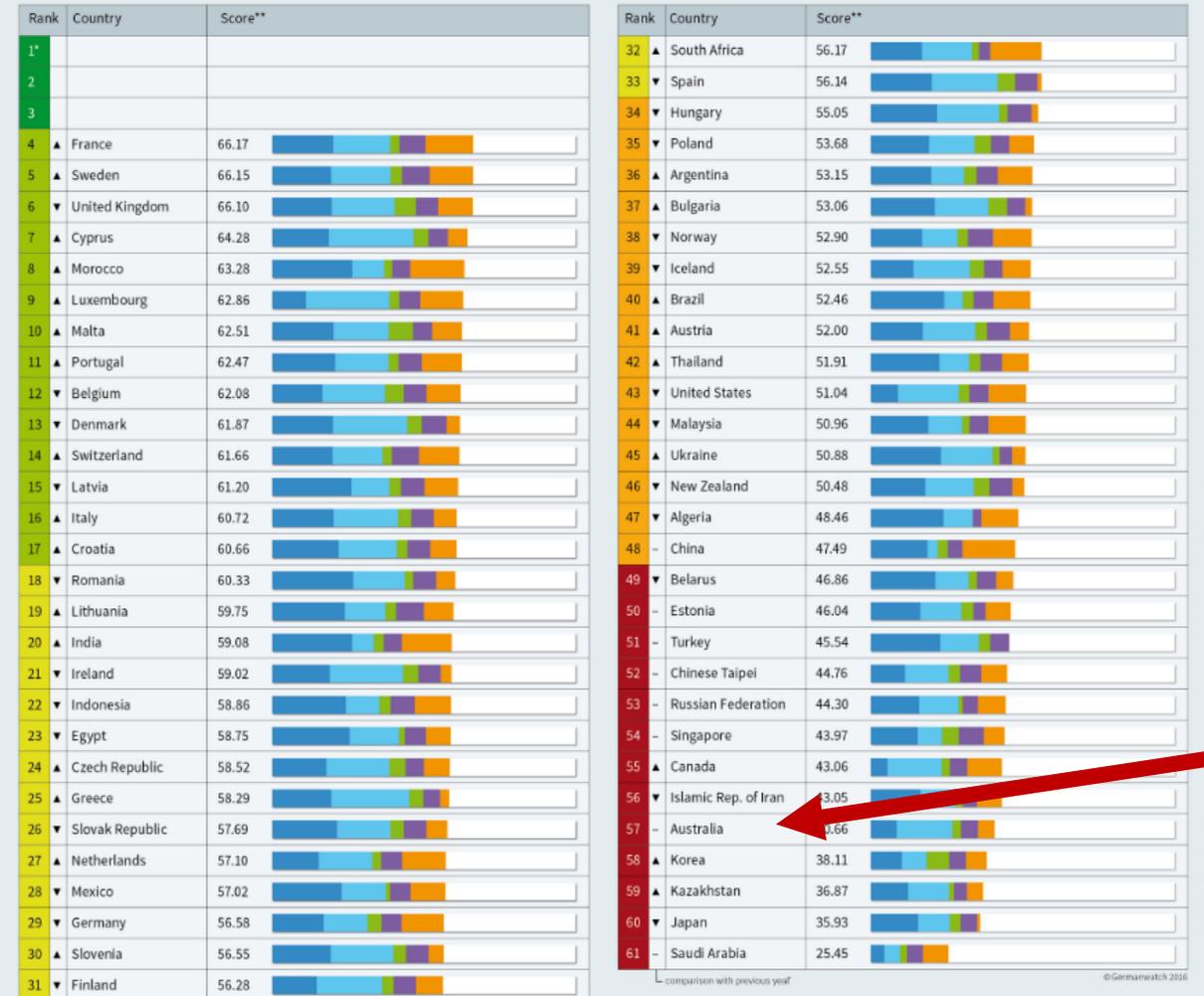
At the Paris Conference, Australia
joined a group called the
'high ambition coalition'.

Our Foreign Minister told the world we
are beating our targets.

Unfortunately Australia is consistently ranked close to the bottom in terms of climate action

- Climate Change Performance Index,
Germanwatch/CAN Europe (Nov 2016)

CCPI 2017 • Overall Results

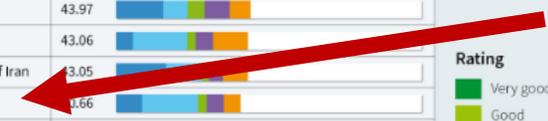


Index Categories

- Emissions Level (30% weighting)
- Development of Emissions (30% weighting)
- Renewable Energies (10% weighting)
- Efficiency (10% weighting)
- Climate Policy (20% weighting)

Rating

- Very good
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Very poor



* None of the countries achieved positions one to three. No country is doing enough to prevent dangerous climate change.
** rounded

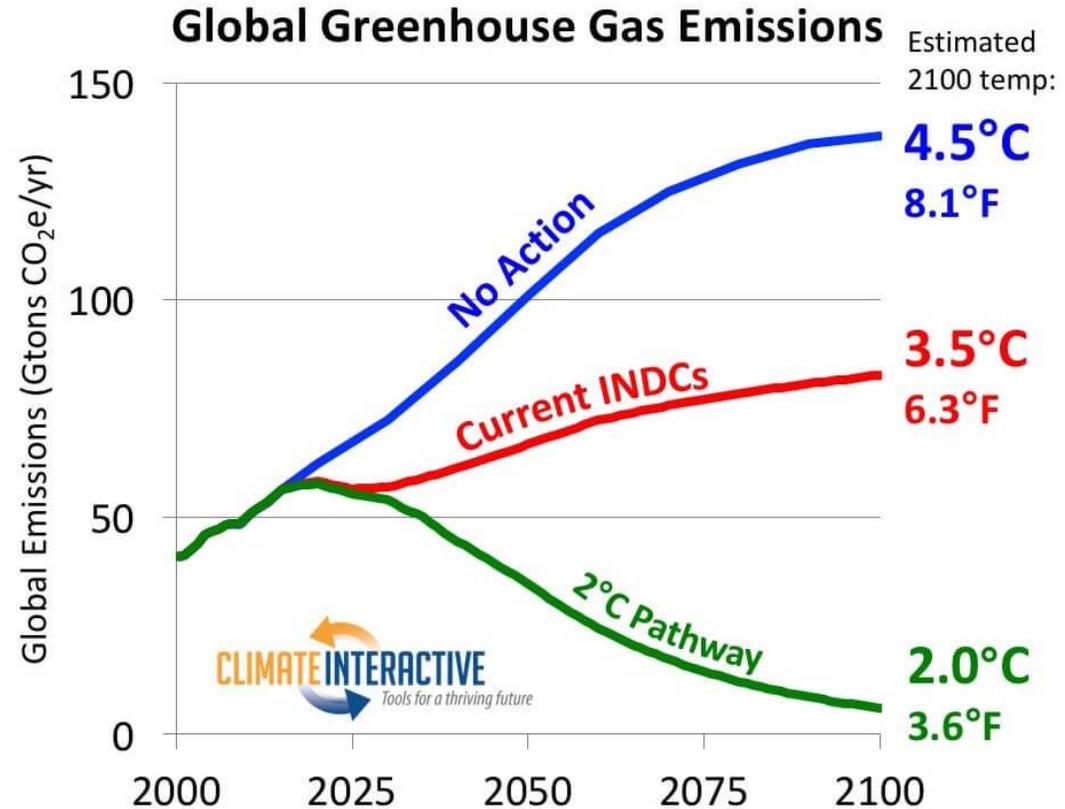
Our plan for action lacks ambition

Country	Stated target	Change from 2005 in 2030
UK	50% below 1990 levels by 2023-2027	-61%
Switzerland	50% below 1990 by 2030	-51%
Germany	55% below 1990 by 2030	-45%
Norway	At least 40% below 1990 by 2030	-44.5%
US	26 to 28% below 2005 by 2025	-35 to -39%
EU	At least 40% below 1990 by 2030	-34%
Canada	30% below 2005 levels by 2030	-30%
New Zealand	30% below 2005 levels by 2030	-30%
Australia	26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030	-26 to -28%
Japan	26% below 2013 levels by 2030	-25%

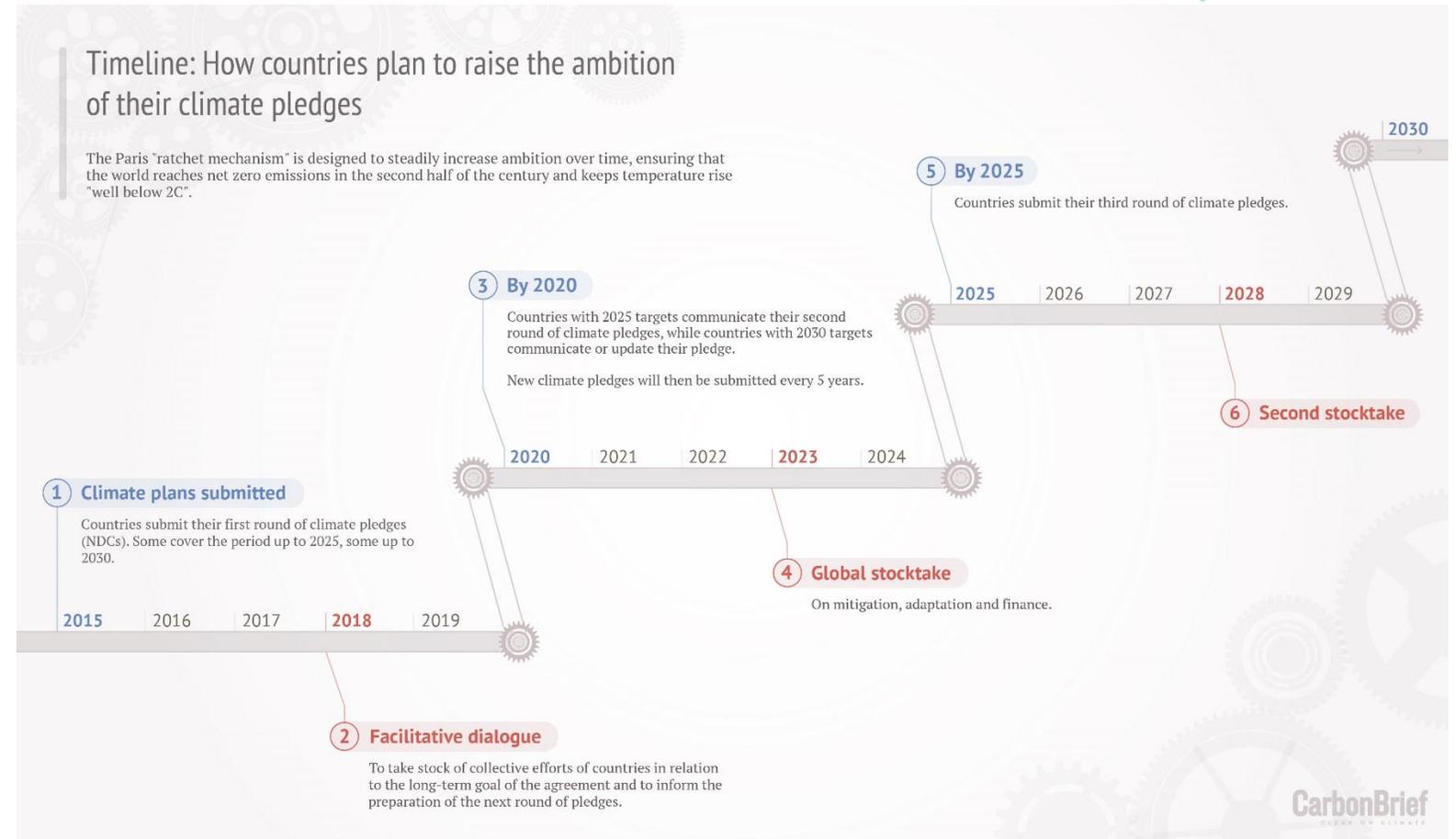
KEY MESSAGE 7:

Australia requires a meaningful national plan to **reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2050,** starting by increasing our 2030 targets.

Current targets
are heading
towards
'catastrophic'
warming



In 2018 the world starts 'ratcheting'



<https://www.carbonbrief.org/timeline-the-paris-agreements-ratchet-mechanism>

KEY MESSAGE 8:

Using 2017-18 as an opportunity to increase investment in **renewables** will help us achieve more ambitious targets.

We need a 'just transition' to renewables, but we need it fast

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/15/opinion/australias-addiction-to-coal.html?_r=0

A screenshot of the top portion of a New York Times article page. At the top right is the "micah" logo. Below it is the "The New York Times" masthead in a serif font, with a "LOG IN" button and a settings gear icon to its right. On the left side of the masthead are icons for a menu, a newspaper, and a search magnifying glass. Below the masthead, the text "The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR" is displayed. The main title of the article, "Australia's Addiction to Coal", is prominently featured in a large serif font. Below the title, the byline "By RICHARD DENNISS NOV. 14, 2016" is shown. To the right of the byline are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, email, and a share icon, along with a bookmark icon.

**We need to
increase our
'climate finance'
contributions to
assist countries
most affected by
climate change**

Climate finance roadmap to US\$100 billion

Australia, with the United Kingdom, led developed countries to deliver a [Roadmap \[PDF 1 MB\]](#) to meeting the collective goal of mobilising US\$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020. The Roadmap aims to provide increased predictability and transparency about how the goal will be reached, and sets out the range of actions developed countries will take to meet it. Drawing on [analysis by the OECD](#) [↗], the Roadmap shows that developed countries are well-placed to meet the US\$100 billion goal, through a combination of public and mobilised private finance.

The US\$100 billion goal was agreed by all countries at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in 2010. As part of the Paris Conference outcome in 2015, developed countries were urged to scale-up their level of support and provide a 'concrete roadmap' to achieve the US\$100 billion goal. Australia is committed to [doing our part](#) to meet the US\$100 billion goal, and to support the broader transformation of finance flows needed to implement the Paris Agreement.

Key Messages: Climate Policy



1. **Climate change is affecting people now, especially by the poorest people in our region.**
2. **Australia should be part of the climate leaders, not a laggard nor an obstacle to meaningful global action.**
3. **Australia requires a meaningful national plan to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.**
4. **Using 2017-18 as an opportunity to increase investment in renewables will help us achieve more ambitious targets.**

What is DRR?

“Disaster Risk Reduction aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. [It] is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters.

Reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction.”

<https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr>

Why is it important to invest in DRR?



Historically, dealing with disasters focussed on emergency response, but towards the end of the 20th century it was increasingly recognised that disasters are not natural (even if the associated hazard is) and that it is only by reducing and managing the conditions of hazard, exposure and vulnerability that we can prevent losses and alleviate the impacts of disasters.

Since we cannot reduce the severity of natural hazards, the main opportunity for reducing risk lies in reducing vulnerability and exposure.

Reducing these two components of risk requires identifying and reducing the underlying drivers of risk, which are particularly related to poor economic and urban development choices and practice, degradation of the environment, poverty and inequality and climate change, which create and exacerbate conditions of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Addressing these underlying risk drivers will reduce disaster risk, lessen the impacts of climate change and, consequently, maintain the sustainability of development

(UNISDR, 2015)

How much are we currently spending on DRR?

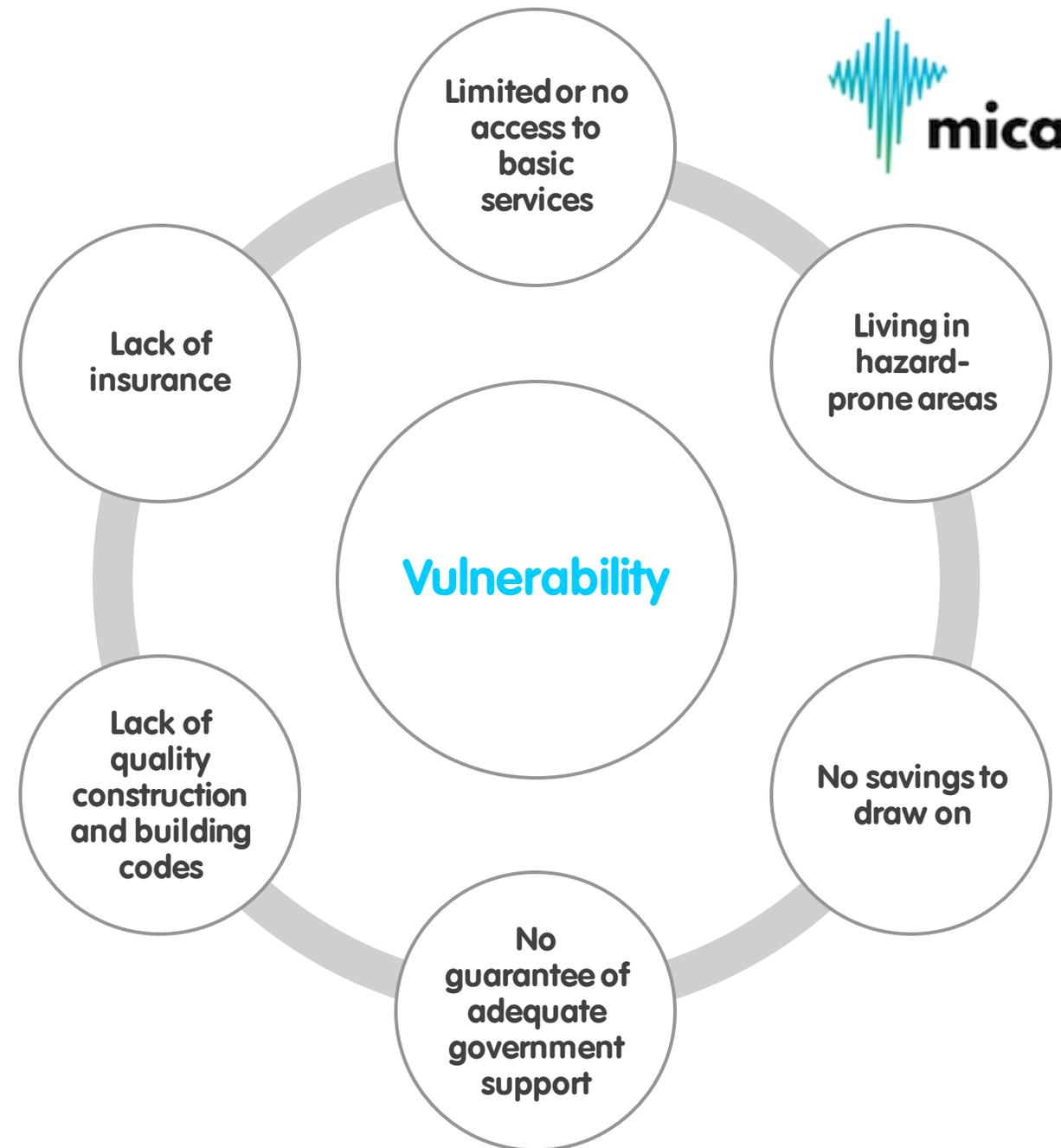
It's really hard to tell. In the 2015 and 2016 budget documents, the funding for Disaster Risk Reduction and Protracted Crises have been reported as one budget line. For the last two years that figure has been \$52.7m, but it is unclear how much of that is DRR funding.

If DRR makes up the full \$52.7m, then an additional \$65m would be needed to bring DRR spending to 3% of the budget.

If that \$52.7m included no DRR spending, then an additional \$119m would be needed to bring DRR spending to 3% of the budget.

The figure needed is between \$64m-\$119m.

Why are poor communities so vulnerable when disasters strike?



But our humanitarian assistance is increasing?

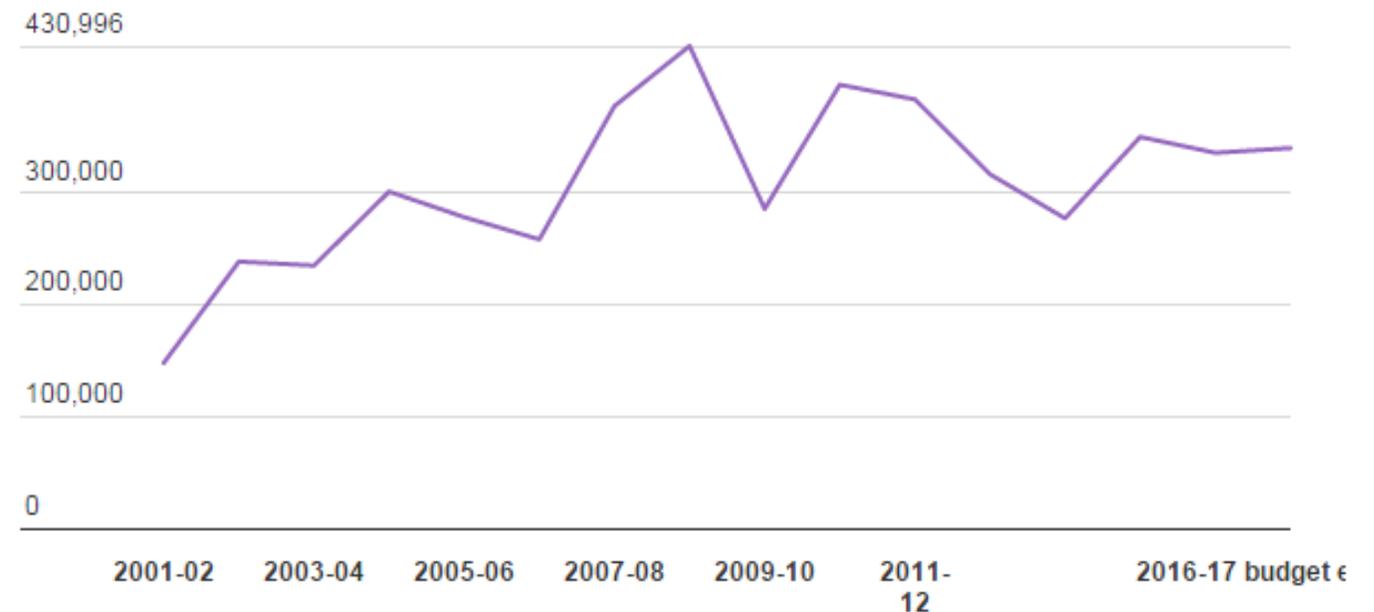


This is true, but only very slightly. Humanitarian funding received a small increase in this year's aid budget, but is still lower than it was in 2014. It would be more accurate to say that humanitarian assistance has flatlined (see graph).

This is in spite of the fact that humanitarian need (in response to both conflict and disasters) across the world is rapidly rising, and more than half of the UN flash appeals in the past year have been underfunded.

Australian aid humanitarian and emergency allocation

\$AU thousands, inflation-adjusted (2016 prices)

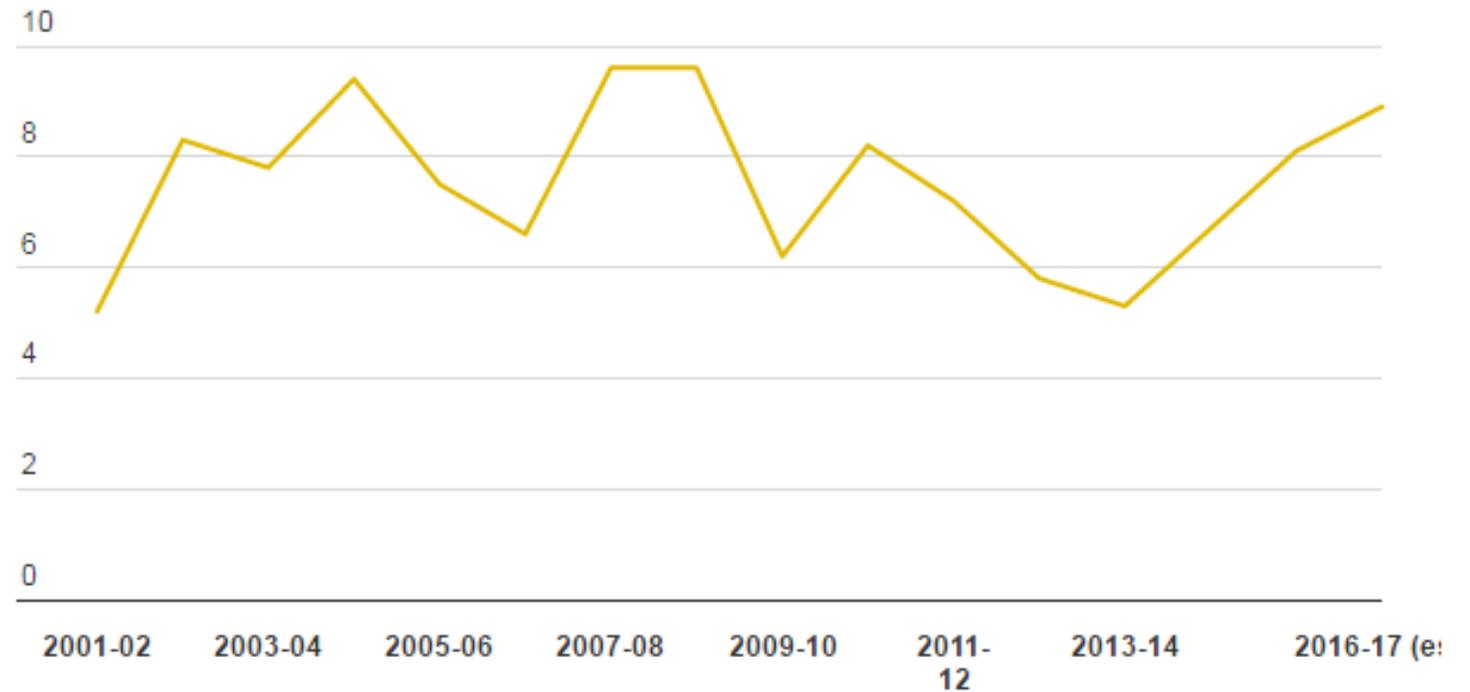


Source: Australian Federal Budget documents

But Humanitarian funding is increasing as a percentage of our overall aid program?

True, but all that needs to happen for that percentage to increase is for other areas of the budget to suffer greater cuts. And this is what we've seen. Humanitarian funding has been relatively protected in the recent rounds of aid cuts.

Humanitarian and emergency allocation as a percentage of total Australian ODA per year



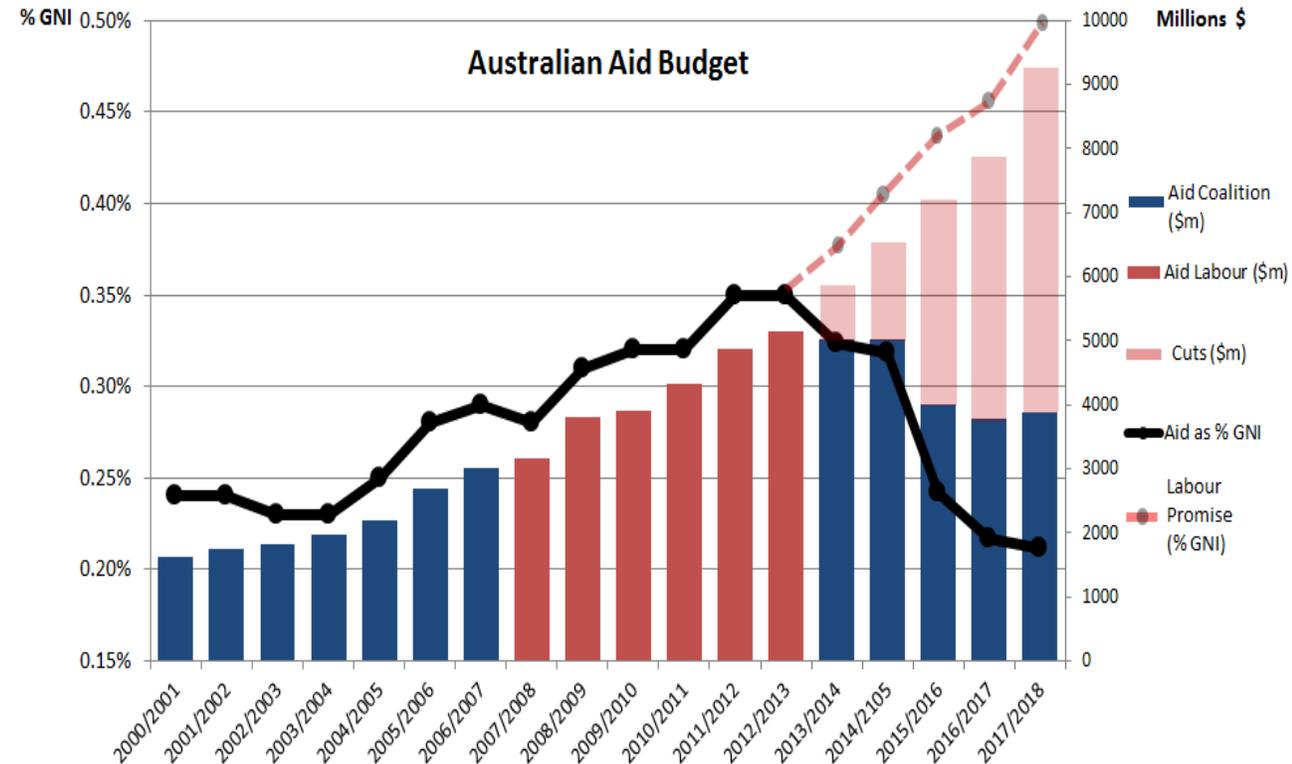
What's our track record on Australian Aid?



When it comes to being generous global citizens, Australia has not been doing its fair share and we are going backwards quickly. Between 2004, when Prime Minister Howard generously injected \$1 billion for East Asian Tsunami relief, and the 2013 federal election, aid was on an upward trajectory. Between 2007 and 2013 there was bipartisan support to increase aid to 0.5% of GNI, short of the 0.7% commitment but moving in the right direction. While in government, Labor pushed the target date to hit the 0.5% target out from 2015 to 2017, which cut billions from forward estimates.

At the end of 2014, however, the Coalition Government announced that it would be implementing the biggest cut to Australian aid in the program's history, slashing \$11 billion across the forward estimates. In May 2016, the final planned cut to aid was implemented, making our nation the least generous we have ever been.

In 2016/17 Australia will give just 0.23% of our GNI in aid. This means that Australia, while being one of the wealthiest nations on the planet will become one of the least generous aid-giving nations on the planet.



What is meant by net zero emissions?

‘Net zero emissions’ means a balance between the amount we pollute and the amount we reabsorb through, for example, restoring forests.

Rapid emission reductions are a vital part of achieving net zero emissions, because there is simply not enough land in the world to restore enough forests to balance our current emissions.

Scientists have calculated that to achieve net zero carbon pollution by 2050, Australia should adopt nearer-term targets of reducing Australia’s emissions by 45-65% by 2025, and by 65-80% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.



If we aim for net zero emissions, what will that mean for jobs and rural communities?

Moving to a clean energy future will result in jobs growth in Australia. Moving to 50% renewables by 2030 would create more than 28,000 jobs nationally - almost 50% more employment than a business as usual scenario, according to a report by Ernst & Young and the Climate Council.

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/renewablesreport>

In another 2016 report, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Council of Trade Unions found that Australia can create a million extra jobs by 2040 by pursuing credible, enduring policies on climate change and energy.

<https://www.acf.org.au/jobs>

Can renewables supply reliable power?



Numerous studies demonstrate that 100% renewable electricity is achievable in Australia, as long as we have appropriate policies to encourage ongoing investment in the renewables industry and technologies. Achieving 100% renewable energy is already becoming a reality in some countries.

The recent blackout in South Australia was the result of the electricity system acting to shut down as a result of a massive storm with over 80,000 lightning strikes and 90km/h winds which toppled and damaged 22 transmission towers. It was not the result of South Australia's 40% renewable energy supply; the system would have responded the same way to such a massive storm even if it had been 100% coal-fired.

Aren't nations like China more to blame?



While China's emissions have increased significantly over the past decade, their CO2 emissions have peaked and are currently falling. The US and Australia have much higher per capita emissions than China.

Australia relies heavily on coal for our own power generation more than the nations where Australian coal is exported. Australia's reliance has comparatively increased from the period of 1990-2014.

Australia's overall total coal consumption is the fourth highest in the world behind China, United States and India.

Despite our smaller population and potential for alternatives, Australia ranks seventh in the world for coal-fired energy production.