

## Information Sheet for Business

### Paris Agreement - Transition to Zero Carbon brings Change

The Paris climate change summit reached agreement in December 2015 to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050. 187 countries representing 99% of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) have submitted action plans. Australia is part of this process. Action plans need reviewing by 2020.

#### Paris Agreement Long Term Policy certainty

- Peak GHG to be reached as soon as possible with rapid reductions thereafter;
- Global temperature goal to limit warming well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- Governments have to communicate national climate action plans and will be subject to an assessment process from 2020.
- Successive plans/targets will progress beyond previous ones and reflect each country's "highest possible ambition".

#### Impact for Australia

- The agreement affects all sectors, all businesses, NGO organisations, government, associations, business bodies, franchises etc
- Transparency will be needed in measurement of transition.
- Environmental Profit and Loss to society will need measuring.
- Political long-term planning and bipartisanship over decades to improve reduction targets post 2020 and for zero emissions by 2050.
- Need to change language and attitudes to climate change and environmental issues across the nation. Language to be positive about the sustainability of zero carbon.
- Move into clean energy to replace existing coal mines; no new coal mines approved.
- Support developing nations with climate funding.

#### Impact for Business and Organisations

##### Goals

- Set long term ambitious goals of 15 to 35 years with outcome of zero carbon emissions.
- Paris Agreement provides 'permission' to set long term goals regardless of changes to Board of Directors, CEOs, business owners.
- Ensure measurements align with objectives.

##### Actions for Sustainability

- Focus on any kind of pollution generated in the business including (but not limited to) waste, soil, energy, water, and air pollution, emissions used to trade.
- Process review across the full business including activities and supply chain.
- Supply chain management becomes more important as part of the sustainability measure. Focus on safety record, emissions record, energy efficiency, and localisation.
- Increased expectation to work with suppliers, providers, peers, competitors etc.
- Measure environmental profit and loss.

- Innovate or tap into innovation to support objectives.
- Develop an adaptive workplace culture.
- Promote low carbon emission output levels as a business advantage.

## Impact on People

### In Business and Private Life

- The change is currently still voluntary. Over time pressure will build to change.
- The change requires adaptive skills i.e. mindset change about the environment, grappling with complex decisions outside of convention, learning beyond the norm, technology uptake, consider interconnected issues at every stage of the change.
- Gain leadership skills that can build an adaptive culture and learn to experiment and live with the uncertainty this shift brings.
- People will need to balance financial implications, environmental and society aspects.
- Stay abreast of low emission products that support business model and life choices.

### As Consumers

- Consumers will have the power to bring about the change by shopping
  - with carbon emissions in mind;
  - locally with local producers;
- Remember that online shopping also requires emissions for transportation, shopping device production, Internet e.g. electricity, maintenance, towers, cables etc.

## Resources

[Webinar: The Road through Paris](#) - David Crane, Business for Social Responsibility 22 Jan 16  
[Paris Climate Deal: What will the historic Agreement mean for Australia?](#) ABC News 14 Dec 15  
 Business Insider Australia 13 Dec 15  
[The Paris Agreement and implications for Australia](#), The Climate Institute 14 Dec 15

## Manifesto Cultural Inspirations

At Cultural Inspirations we believe in helping organisations think through interconnections to overcome today's complexities and fears in a changing society. We believe that by facilitating deep collaboration and tapping into the collective wisdom organisational stakeholders can find pathways to future possibilities. We use cutting edge research to develop our products and services in practical ways. We believe in the principles of peace business which support people, planet and profit and address structural, cultural and relationship inequities. We support your collaboration in an engaging way with open communication, compassion, creativity, curiosity and courage. We support your aspirations by co-creating the change. We have the self-honesty to admit when it is not working for you and us. We practice what we teach with everything we do and everyone we work with and hold ourselves accountable to it.

## Disclaimer

This information sheet provides an overview of the Paris Agreement and the impact of zero emissions expected. It is not intended as legal, environmental or business advice. It is recommended that businesses and privateers seek relevant professional advice to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement within their context.